

My name is Meaghan.

I am a teacher, local
photographer, and a
mother.



About me

Spotswood was once known as “Sheoak Sheoak Many” to its local indigenous inhabitants. The wind shivered through the Sheoaks causing it to seem like the forest was singing.



Her first people died of disease and were moved to Coranderrk. The plentiful Myrniong grasses were then rapidly consumed by dairy cows leaving a waste land deemed fit only for industry.



Spotswood is now thriving.
It is home to Scienceworks,
which has embraced,
transformed and iconized
Melbourne's industrial past,
with a backdrop consisting of
the 100 year old Pumping
station and the Westgate
Bridge.

Hudsons Road and the Spotswood grid hosts a growing number of vibrant cafes and boutique stores, along with schools and childcare centres that service the growing number of young families.



I live in
Spotswood
with my 6
year old
daughter.
We live 150
meters from
the Westgate
Freeway.

My daughter
also attends
school in
Spotswood.

My biggest concern about the Westgate Tunnel Project is the increased levels of air pollution and its impact on human health.

It is well documented that diesel emissions are a class 1 carcinogenic, as well as having ongoing effects on human DNA and organs.

Diesel emissions
also affects the
sensitive
developing brain
of children as well
as the respiratory
system.

“Lung cancer comprises 21 per cent of the health burden attributable to urban air pollution, and there is evidence that the DNA damage and mutations caused by diesel pollution also occurs in sperm cells thereby extending the harmful effects of ambient air pollution onto future generations of Australians.”

https://lungfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/150424_Submission-National-Clean-Air-Agreement_FINAL.pdf

In a 2015 submission by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to the Clean Air Agreement it was cautioned that air quality standards in Australia do not protect public health.

“An OECD report published in 2014, noted that of the 34 countries in the OECD, 20 saw their pollution related deaths decline between 2005-2010. Australia was in the minority of 14 countries that saw their death rates increase with a 68 per cent increase in air pollution related deaths reported for the period 2005–2010.”

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Of great concern is
particulate matter
(PM).

Typical
measurements of
PM in Australia
focus on PM10
(coarse matter).

Fine matter
particles under 2.5
are under-
reported.

However,

*“An increase of
10 μ g/m³ in PM_{2.5}
correlates to a 40
per cent increase
in the life time risk
of developing lung
cancer.”*

(Ibid)

The Clean Air report uses the inner-west of Melbourne as an example of high truck volumes using residential streets and idling in front of schools.

“Metropolitan school children are exposed to a particularly high amount of particles during their commute to school and outdoor school activities.” (ibid)

The report also predicted that...

As traffic...increase(s), long road tunnels are likely to become increasingly utilised. Such tunnels have the capacity to significantly increase the concentration... There are proven examples of successful use of filters to reduce health impacts from pollution created and retained in long road tunnels internationally, (for example... Madrid); however with the exception of the M5 East tunnel in Sydney, tunnels in Australia are not fitted with filtration systems, and filtration is not currently considered in the planning for future road tunnels.

In their discussions on sustainable cities, the World Health Organisation states that,

“Smart design and investment in sustainable public transport, including rapid transit and safe walking and cycling networks, can help increase physical activity levels and reduce traffic injuries as well as urban air pollution emissions...”

“Sustainable transport also can enhance health equity by improving access to services, food markets, education and social and recreational outlets for the broad public, and particularly older people, children, women and people without cars.” WHO

For the purposes for this presentation, I filmed my child and I making our way home from her primary school at 3:30pm which is a seven minute walk.

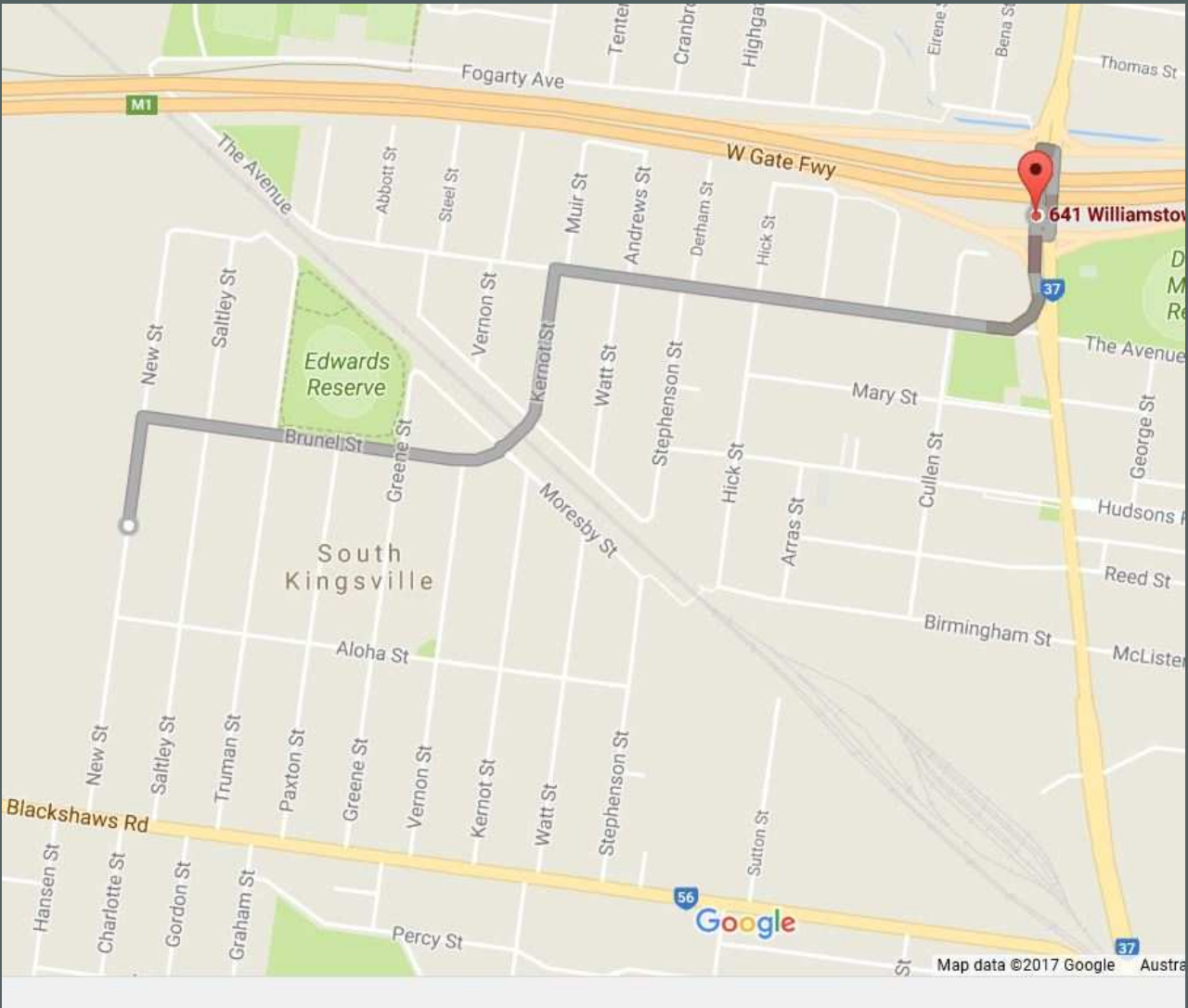
We are situated between two primary schools which are divided by the freeway. At the end of our street is the Walk Over for the freeway. There is no crossing on The Avenue and children cross unaccompanied.



Our streets are not designed for pedestrian traffic and are therefore not part of a sustainable future.

Most significantly, The Avenue is being used as a thoroughfare from Altona North to the freeway entrance on Melbourne Road Spotswood.

Traffic movement from Blackshaws Road to Melbourne Road.



Throughout the tunnel/freeway construction New Street will be utilised heavily by construction trucks. It is predictable that trucks will also use The Avenue to access Melbourne Road.

A truck ban must be imposed on The Avenue during construction to protect the children making their way to and from school.

In conclusion

It is abundantly clear that the Westgate Tunnel Project is heavily flawed. It does not compare with best practices world-wide. Nor does it fit with the National Clean Air Agreement. It puts human health in the inner-west at real and increased risk.

The children, elderly, disabled, and entire Spotswood community will bear the brunt of poor planning, and an archaic reliance on road transport, in regards to health, cognition, physical safety and wellbeing.

Evidence demonstrates that more roads do not solve the problems of traffic. Any solution ought to be a part of a whole plan for a sustainable future and place human health as a number one priority.

Should this flawed project push ahead the following criteria must be met to account for the wellbeing of the community.

- PM2.5 levels on the Freeway must not exceed the annual average PM2.5 level of $8.0\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- Emission reducing walls and dense matured trees to provide a buffer for emissions (Sheoaks will honour Spotswood heritage).
- Trucks off residential roads and school and childcare routes.
- World standard tunnel filtration.