

# David Koch

## Member for Western Victoria Opposition Whip (Council)

46 Brown Street, Hamilton 3300  
Tel: 5572 3377 · Fax: 5572 4945

### MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Portarlington Road roundabout chokes traffic**

Choking traffic at the roundabout on the Portarlington, Jetty, Grubb and Anderson roads intersection near Drysdale can only be relieved by constructing the long-overdue Drysdale bypass says David Koch, Member for Western Victoria.

Speaking in Parliament this week, David Koch said that due to an ever-increasing volume of traffic using the Geelong-Portarlington Road every day, the roundabout is choked between 8 and 9am with cars, trucks, and school buses, often banked up for several kilometres.

Daily commuters from Clifton Springs, Drysdale, Indented Head, Portarlington and St Leonards must negotiate this roundabout to get to Geelong.

"Frustrated motorists have long called for action to address the morning peak hour chaos, describing this intersection as the worst bottleneck on the Peninsula," said David Koch.

The fear is that the congestion will become worse when new housing subdivisions are developed for hundreds of homes at Clifton Springs and Portarlington.

"Congestion at this major roundabout is already a disgrace but even before traffic reaches the intersection, motorists are reduced to a crawl as they have to pass through a school zone then give way at the Murradoc Road roundabout, get through the congested main street of Drysdale before giving way to traffic joining the mayhem at the Eversley Street roundabout and then wait as they queue to pass through the Portarlington, Jetty, Grubb and Anderson road roundabout.

"It often takes up to 20 minutes to negotiate this short stretch of road, a feat endured daily by many residents making their way to work or to drop off their kids at one of several schools in the area.

"The only way to get to Geelong from Drysdale or Clifton Springs is through this roundabout and on school days, motorists have to suffer unrelenting traffic chaos.

"There is very limited and poorly timetabled public transport serving Portarlington, Drysdale or Clifton Springs so residents have no alternative but to take on the morning traffic snarl.

"Although Cabinet Minister and local Bellarine MP, Lisa Neville, says she is 'very aware' of problems with the roundabout and has been working with VicRoads and local councillors on instigating options for improving the intersection, locals are telling me that the Minister has achieved nothing to date.

"Locals are calling for the construction of a bypass planned by VicRoads more than 20 years ago.

"Taking commuting traffic out of Drysdale is the only way to ease the congestion and must be resolved before new subdivisions are developed.

"I have called on the Minister for Roads, Tim Pallas, to urgently relieve congestion at this choked roundabout by bringing forward the construction of the long-overdue and earlier planned Drysdale bypass," said David Koch.

**Media inquiries: David Koch 0418 723 031**