

Dear Secretary and Senators,

Once again, I thank the Senators and Committee Secretariat for the opportunity to speak at today's hearing on behalf of the Public Transport Users Association and the Public Transport Not Traffic campaign.

I wish to submit one small factual correction to my verbal evidence at the hearing today. In passing, I remarked in relation to the 2013 Federal election that the two-party preferred vote for the Coalition in Victoria had dropped.

This remark was an error: the intended remark was that the two-party preferred vote for the Coalition in Victoria was short of a 50 per cent majority. It is correct to say there was a swing against the incumbent Labor government (as there was across the nation generally) but in this state it was not sufficient to deliver a majority.

In regard to Senator Macdonald's question on this matter, we note that the largest swings toward the Coalition were recorded in strongly Labor-held Melbourne seats and in rural Victoria where, we submit, the East West Link was unlikely to be a major issue of concern to the electorate, as compared for example with the recent ALP leadership change. In most divisions in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne that might be expected to support the link (Kooyong, Deakin, Chisholm), the swing to the Coalition was actually below the state average.

I would be happy to be contacted with any further questions or queries from the Committee in relation to any matters before the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Morton
President, Public Transport Users Association