



Rail travel a key issue

CANDIDATES SUPPORT DONCASTER PROJECT

Andrew Rogers

PUBLIC transport is shaping as a key issue for Menzies as voters prepare to cast their ballot on July 2.

While an Infrastructure Victoria report appeared to sideline the Doncaster rail project at a state level by questioning the demand for the service, the project has support at federal level among candidates for the seat of Menzies.

But while four candidates openly supported pursuing the rail link between Doncaster and the city, Liberal incumbent MP Kevin Andrews was more measured in his approval.

Mr Andrews said he believed Doncaster rail was a worthwhile project but others were a higher priority.

“While I support Doncaster rail, my constituents have consistently told me that the East West and North East links are their No. 1 priority,” he said.

Independent Stephen Mayne said the project would complement other transport infrastructure projects. “We need Doncaster rail to be delivered at the same time as an East West Link and after Metro rail is completed,” he said.

Labor candidate Adam Rundell said heavy rail was a vital piece of the jigsaw puzzle in improving public transport across the electorate.

“I am encouraged by the building of the Melbourne metro tunnel because that will be an improvement for public transport across Mel-

bourne that will allow other areas, such as Doncaster, to be examined in the future.”

Greens candidate Richard Cranston wants the Doncaster rail because it would help ease traffic congestion.

“Doncaster rail is something the Greens have been calling for for a long time. We think to reduce traffic congestion you need to get cars off the freeway, and one way to do that is to get a rail line in.”

Independent candidate Ramon Robinson said road investment “didn’t really add any value” to transport in the area. “(Without public transport) it puts a lot of extra cars on the road.”



Local identity Stuart McKenzie dresses the Doncaster rail link.

What do you want for the area? Email manningham@leadernewspapers.com.au

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