



JESS WILSON MP
MEMBER FOR KEW

Submission

**Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy by Infrastructure Victoria
April 2025**

This submission is in response to:

Recommendation 8 - Extend Melbourne's trams to encourage more new homes nearby.
The Victorian Government should complete a detailed assessment of tram extensions in Melbourne's established suburbs. We have prioritised 8 tram extensions for the government to start building by 2030. We chose these based on their potential to encourage new homes, improve access to jobs and increase public transport use.

The purpose of this submission is to advocate for the inclusion of the 48 Tram to the priority tram route extensions contained in Recommendation 8.

The 48 Tram presently terminates at the corner of Balwyn Road and Doncaster Road, leaving most residents of Balwyn North who live to the East of this intersection without walkable access to a tram route.

This submission advocates for the 48 Tram's extension approximately two kilometres to the Doncaster Park and Ride facility, scheduled to re-open in 2028¹.

Consideration should also be given for a further extension to Westfield Doncaster Shopping Centre, to create further integration with its bus network hub and its linkages to Box Hill.

Residents of North Balwyn will tell you that the stretch of Doncaster Road between Balwyn Road and the Eastern Freeway has been underserved by public transport for many years, and that an extension of the tram route is overdue.

The nearby 109 Tram, for example, was extended 2.2 kilometres East from its previous terminus at Union Road, Mont Albert to Box Hill shopping centre over 20 years ago².

Looking toward the future, the case for extending the 48 Tram becomes even more compelling for two distinct reasons.

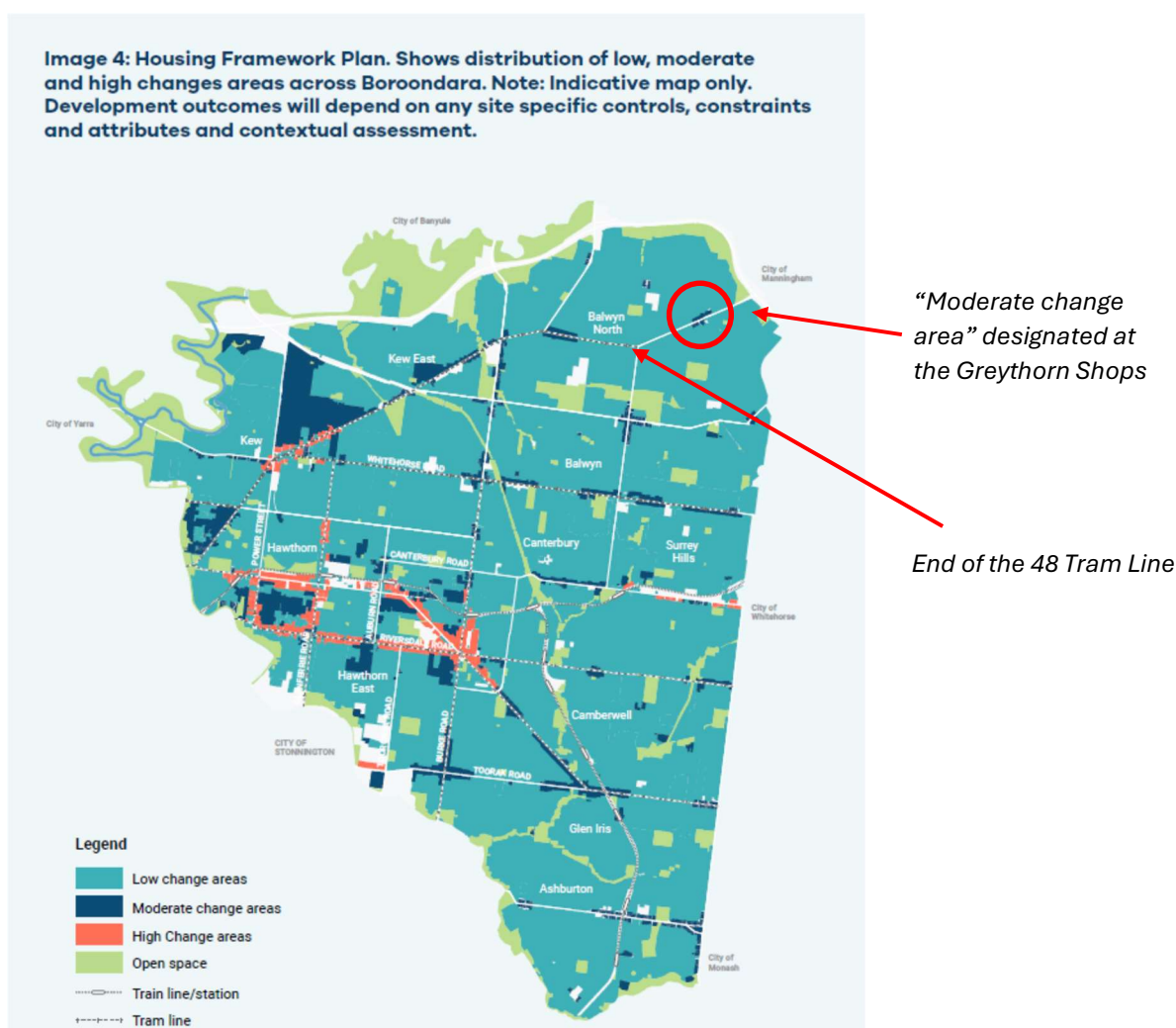
¹ <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/news/roads/doncaster-park-and-ride>

² Media Release: Box Hill Tram Extension Opening, Yarra Trams, 2 May 2003:
<https://victoriancollections.net.au/media/collectors/61c11435820f25839e392b96/items/63a0f4e00931e400b66f1301/item-media/63a0f8b90931e400b6701598/original.pdf>

1. Designation of the area surrounding Greythorn shops as a “moderate change area” by Boroondara Council’s Housing Strategy

The City of Boroondara in its October 2023 Housing Strategy identified the area surrounding the Greythorn shops in Balwyn North as a “moderate change area”³.

The Greythorn shops are located on Doncaster Road, one kilometre East of the 48 Tram terminus.



Source: Boroondara Housing Strategy, September 2023, City of Boroondara (*emphasis added*)

³ Boroondara Housing Strategy, September 2023, City of Boroondara:
<https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/media/91211/download?inline> p.58

Council deems “moderate change areas” as those that “have the capacity to accommodate a more modest level of housing and are generally within or close to activity, neighbourhood and commercial centres, education and public transportation.”

In the middle of the Greythorn shops, where once was the site of a small mechanic’s garage, there is now a multi-use development that houses an ALDI and several apartments.

The Greythorn community hub, set just to the rear of the shops, houses a Maternal and Child Health Service and a multitude of other community services.

Neighbouring streets are increasingly seeing planning approvals for two or three units or townhouses on blocks that previously housed single dwellings.

In short, the neighbourhood is changing, but public transport infrastructure is not keeping pace.

2. Pending upgrade to the Doncaster Park and Ride as part of the North East Link Project (NELP)

Doncaster Park and Ride is a popular CBD commuting option for many North Balwyn residents.

The Park and Ride is currently closed due to North East Link Project works, but prior to its closure residents reported that the facility was used by so many commuters that most carparks were gone before 7:30am on weekdays.

Due to open in 2028, the existing Park and Ride will be replaced with a multi-level car park connected to a dedicated exit and entry ramp onto the North East Link, which will incorporate an express busway into the CBD.⁴

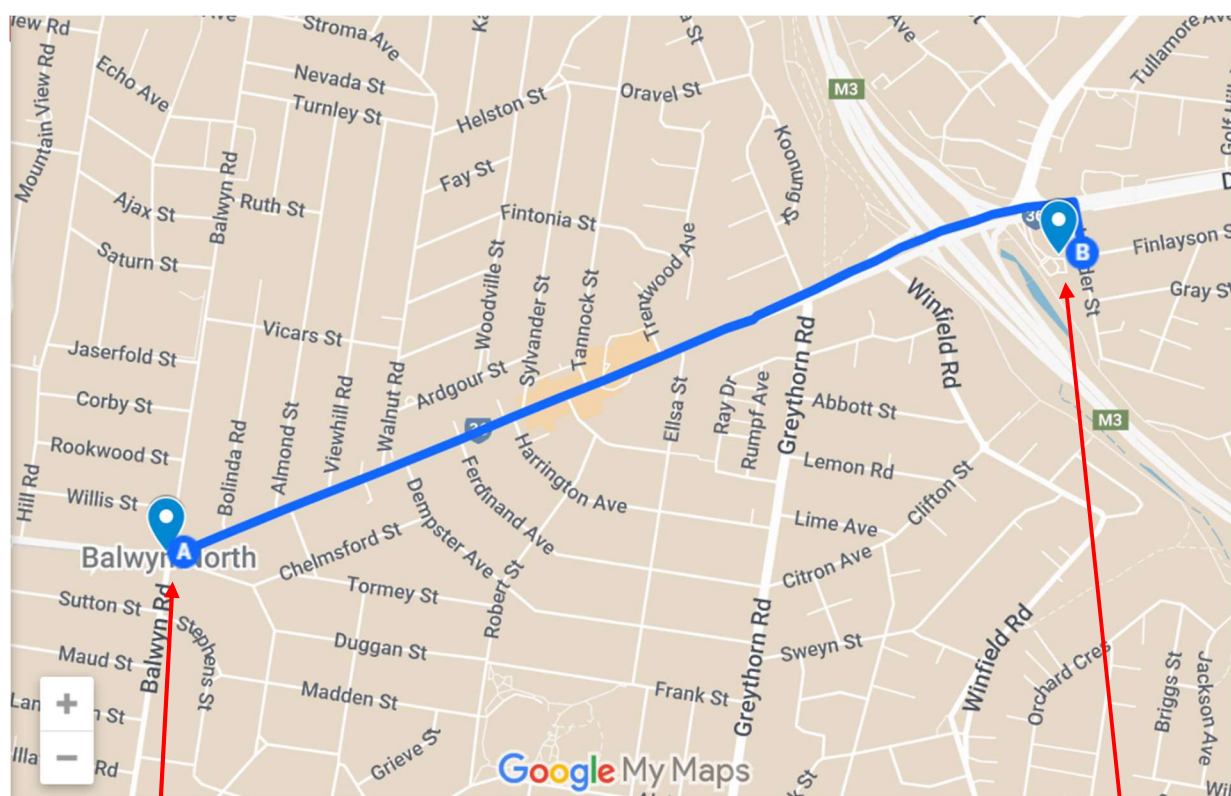
Improving public transport linkages from North Balwyn to the future Express Busway to the CBD will help greater numbers of people to commute without relying on cars and creating congestion throughout the suburb.

⁴ <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/news/roads/doncaster-park-and-ride>

Given the significant budget impact and ongoing cost growth that the North East Link Project is experiencing, it is worthwhile taking steps to ensure as many Victorians as possible can access the commuting options enabled by this infrastructure project.

An extension of the 48 Tram would help ensure residents of Balwyn North have greater access to the North East Link without needing to use a car, as well connecting the tram network to new road infrastructure that will incorporate an upgraded commuter bus network.

Appendix i: Proposed extension to 48 Tram route



Current terminus
of 48 Tram

Proposed terminus –
Doncaster Park and
Ride