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# Opinion

Heidelberg Leader

## Say 'no' to tunnels

IN REPLY to Anthony Whitemarsh's and Martin Appleby's comments, I would like to set some facts straight.

Friends of Banyule is not a special-interest group.

We represent many concerned Melburnians who want to preserve our magnificent parklands and open spaces and improve public transport.

To build more roads in this day and age just does not make any sense from many perspectives, including climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and peak oil prices.

We are realists because we know that there will be no tunnel.

Welcome to a concrete bridge on columns running across the entire Banyule and Manningham area and through our parklands.

People tend to be optimistic and want to believe in a positive outcome, but you have to be realistic, too.

It is so easy to fall into the trap of being reassured by the tunnel option.

We must improve public transport to create a sustainable future.

Duplication of the Hurstbridge rail line, a tram line along Bulleen Rd and Banksia St and a train along the Eastern Freeway are viable alternatives that provide much better options than destroying our open spaces and parklands.

Facilitating freight via freight nodes throughout Melbourne rather than transporting it on trucks, only 15 per cent of freight (Wilson, 2001) is refrigerated, is yet another alternative.

Yes to sustainable public transport.

No to tunnels, freeways and viaducts.

*Source: Wilson et al, 2001, Estimated Freight Volume & Composition, Transport Research Centre, Faculty of Business, RMIT University*

**Marion Ware, Heidelberg.**