

GLEN IRIS

# End of Burke Rd crossing

Holly McKay

ONE of Melbourne's most hated level crossings will be moved underground as part of a multi-million dollar project announced in the State Budget.

The Burke Rd and Wills St level crossing in Glen Iris is one of three level crossings across Melbourne to share in a \$457 million package, fully funded by the State Government.

State Treasurer and Malvern Liberal MP Michael O'Brien announced the funding last Friday. The project will include putting the rail line underground and the redevelopment of Gardiner station.

Mr O'Brien said works to remove the notorious level crossing would start late next year and was expected to be finished by early 2017.

"As a resident I know how bad this intersection is," Mr O'Brien said.

"Sometimes you can see cars backed up all the way to High St. It can take you longer to get onto the freeway than it takes to drive along the freeway and get into town.

"It's the bane of our existence as commuters."

Mr O'Brien said about 26,500 vehicles, 158 trains



State Treasurer and Malvern Liberal MP Michael O'Brien at the Burke Road level crossing.

Picture: JANINE EASTGATE

## NOTORIOUS TRAFFIC BOTTLENECK TO GO IN \$457M STATE PROMISE

and 186 trams used that section of Burke Rd every day.

He said boom gates could be down for up to 47 minutes during peak hour, affecting traffic flow and queuing onto the Monash Freeway.

"Train travel will be more punctual because the trains won't have to slow down to

cross the tram tracks.

"It's a win for train and tram travellers and drivers. We will finally be rid of one of the worst traffic congestion spots in Melbourne."

Mr O'Brien said the announcement was a "career highlight" and was pleased he had been able to help remove the crossing, voted the

fifth most-hated in Melbourne in the 2012 RACV RedSpot survey, run through Leader newspapers.

"I'm really excited," He said. "When I was first elected in 2006 this was what I wanted to deliver before I left the job. We're delivering something that's been an

ambition not only of mine, but of the community."

The \$457 million also includes the removal of level crossings at North Rd, Ormond and Blackburn Rd, Blackburn.

Read more about the announcement online at [stonningtonleader.com.au](http://stonningtonleader.com.au)