

MENT

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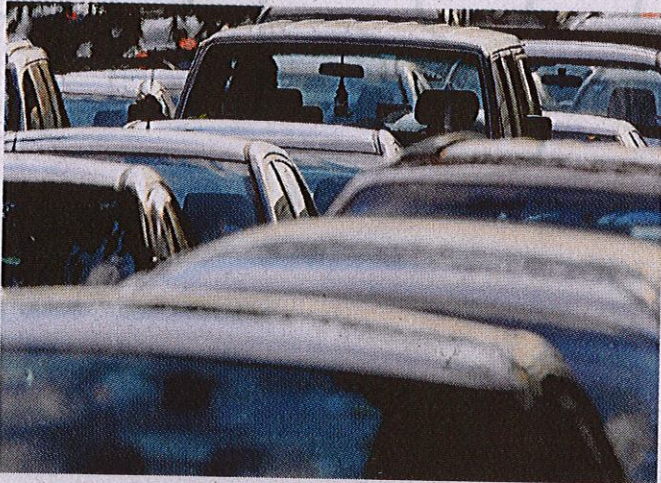
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WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT

Develop and divide

State and local governments are continuing to divide and delude Victorian communities by allowing controversial commercialisation and “development” in environmentally and culturally valued locations throughout our state (Letters, 20/7).

The breakwall/boat ramp development at Bastion Point, Mallicoata – approved by the state government, and proposed by the East Gippsland Shire – is at whose expense? I’ll tell you whose: ours. This particular development has destroyed the “unity” in our “community”, destroyed our faith in government process and will be the biggest example of environmental vandalism in the state’s history.

With the government’s “develop and divide” policies, nowhere in Victoria is safe. Tecoma might just have a clown on the way, but down here in East Gippsland we’ve got the whole circus.

Julie Parker, Mallicoata

Congestion all around

Governments of all stripes have poured hundreds of millions of dollars into expanding at railway stations and routes

EAST-WEST LINK

Funded by tried and true Victorian principle

The link is the epitome of unsustainability (“Taxpayers shoulder huge risks of east-west link” 20/7), spewing traffic into the city and shifting the gridlock from Hoddle Street to Flemington. State governments don’t believe in government but in facilitating the market. Other People’s Money (as their mentor, Margaret Thatcher, dubbed taxes) will be used to transport container-loads of sweatshop-made clothing, plastic gimcrackery and tilt-slab concrete facades from the Port of Melbourne to suburban storage. Great for the port, the trucking industry and the finance and construction industries, whose “infrastructure pipeline” was empty. That the bulk of traffic from the east is headed for the city and readily replaced by rail has shredded repeated cost-benefit analyses. And the public (with no say in the matter) will foot the bill. It’s the tried and true Victorian principle: privatise the profits and socialise the costs.

Angela Munro, Carlton north