

## **For Immediate Release**

### **Keep Champion Road Open Campaign Responds to New Political Push in Melbourne's West**

The Keep Champion Road Open campaign welcomes any political party, group or representative willing to genuinely listen to the west and fight for transparent, accountable decision-making. For months, our community has been calling for one simple thing: **Keep Champion Road Open** and stop pushing through a closure that locals never asked for, were never properly consulted on, and will carry long-term safety and accessibility impacts.

With a new political party now publicly positioning itself as the “alternative voice” for Melbourne's west, we want to be clear about what this community expects:

1. Champion Road is not a political talking point; it's a critical connector.

Closing this road will push thousands of cars into already congested residential streets, increase emergency response times, affect local businesses, and sever long-standing community access. The Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) has not provided credible safety, traffic or risk modelling to justify the closure.

2. Consultation must be real, not a box-ticking exercise.

Residents have repeatedly been told decisions are “final” while consultation is still supposedly underway. A genuine community-first approach starts with transparency, not predetermined outcomes dressed up as listening.

3. The Inner West deserves investment, not cuts to connectivity.

For decades, Melbourne's Inner West has been asked to absorb population growth without the same level of infrastructure support afforded elsewhere. Closing a major local road is the opposite of what a growing region needs.

4. Any political party seeking to represent this community must demonstrate action, not promises.

Whether they are long-established or brand new, parties calling themselves the voice of the west must show it through their behaviour:

- Turn up.
- Ask questions.
- Demand evidence.
- Stand with the community when government decisions don't stack up.

Our ask is simple:

Support the community's call to **keep Champion Road open**, and push for a full, independent review of LXR's justification, modelling, and safety assumptions.

We will gladly work with any party or representative, new or old, who prioritises community safety, access, and transparent decision-making over politics.

**The west is watching. And we're not going anywhere.**

For more information, please contact:

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