

0:00

Deputy Speaker, I rise today to give voice to my community who are vehemently opposed to the closure of Champion Rd as part of the level crossing removals at Maddox Rd and Champion Rd.

0:10

Whilst the removals of level crossings deliver safety outcomes for everyone in the community, there are a number of concerns that my community have with the closure of Champion Rd.

0:19

Firstly, there's only four roads in and out of Williamstown and the closure of Champion Roads removes one of those important access points.

0:26

Although there are plans to reconfigure the road network to provide additional access through Hakuna Dr, the current plans are not supported by the community.

0:34

Secondly, there's a number of safety concerns raised by putting additional traffic on Maddox Rd, where there's a wonderful primary school and childcare centres.

0:42

There needs to be much more work done on improving safety outcomes, particularly for children, pedestrians and cyclists.

0:49

There's also concerns that at the intersection of Maddox Rd and the new Hakuna Dr does not deliver an outcome for cars to turn right across traffic.

0:56

Speaker Deputy Speaker Along the rail corridor, there are beautiful trees that have been lovingly planted and cared for by the local community.

1:03

They provide habitat for black cockatoos and help mitigate noise from freight trains.

1:07

To date, there's been no advice provided on what can be protected and saved.

1:12

Speaker Finally, there's also significant concerns from local businesses that will be detrimentally affected by the construction.

1:19

I have been working with the Minister for Transport Infrastructure and I understand the Minister is considering a range of options in relations to these concerns, and I will continue to these discussions to advocate for better community outcomes.