



Sir Rod Eddington didn't ask public transport planning expert Paul Mees what he thought before writing his report. So **PAULA MAUD** did

Sink tunnel call

TRUCKS would crowd Brimbank's main road for the next 10 years if the Eddington Report's planned road tunnels go ahead.

And the \$1.5 billion Tarneit V/Line link is "completely unnecessary" and planned bicycle tracks to the city are "sheer tokenism" designed to placate bicycle lobby groups.

That's according to Melbourne University senior transport-planning lecturer Paul Mees, who said he had not been consulted on the Eddington Report.

"They knew I'd tell them that they don't have to spend all this money," he said. Taking aim at the report's plans for an east-west road link, Mr Mees said tunnel construction would see trucks diverted on to Ballarat Rd until 2017 when the final link to the Deer Park bypass

was planned.

But Mr Mees questioned whether the last stage of the link under Sunshine would ever be completed.

"What happens if they run out of money and just don't build that. Eighteen billion dollars rolls off the tongue but it is more money than has ever been spent on anything in Australia's history," he said.

The proposed \$1.5 billion Tarneit V/Line link would benefit only Geelong commuters and offer no real benefit to suburban travellers. "The priority is to speed up train service from Geelong. They won't be allowing stops," he said.

He backed calls from local politicians (*Leader*, April 8) to extend the electrified line to Melton.

"Caroline Springs and Burnside is where the largest concentration

of new urban growth is occurring and why traffic congestion on Ballarat Rd is going up".

Plans to extend electrification of the Sydenham line to Sunbury would be welcome for outer residents but not such good news for those closer in.

"There'll be no benefits at all for people between Sydenham and the city. It just means they've got more people to share their trains with."

Mr Mees said a cheaper option would be to simplify the timetable, and he recommended maximising use of existing lines.

■ **Public forums to discuss the Eddington Report are planned. Details: 0419 338 817 or Brimbank Council on 9249 4000.**
■ **For the complete report go to www.doi.vic.gov.au**