



**AIRSHUTTLE
COMMUTER EXPRESS**
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Media Release

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Are we wasting billions on public transport?

Speaking at the 6th Annual Victorian Transport Infrastructure Conference 2014, Airshuttle Commuter Express Director, Peter O'Brien today called on the State Government and Opposition to have an open mind when it comes to Public Transport spending for the benefit of future generations of Victorians.

"For too long our Governments have been blinkered and only looked at heavy rail, we need new thinking and new technology to make our scarce dollars go further" Mr O'Brien said.

Early this year, the State Government via Plan Melbourne forecast a 75% increase in daily journeys from 14.2m to 25m per annum in 2050. What is needed is the long term planning to allow this to happen without gridlock and bankrupting our State.

"Airshuttle technology is one way to bring down the potential cost of public transport and create new efficient and timely services for Victorians. Renewing old lines is hellishly expensive as shown by the \$2.5 billion committed without tender to just the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.

"This technology has been developing overseas at a rapid rate yet our transport bureaucrats and politicians are so risk averse they won't even look at it. They would rather commit \$3 billion to a second rate train service to the airport than look at a monorail alternative that would cost less than half that and give a better service.

"We are not seeking to abandon existing technology but to look at new ways of growing the network. How do we economically deliver a new line to the airport, to Doncaster or to Rowville?" Mr O'Brien said

The Airshuttle consortium believes it can construct a dedicated monorail to the airport with a journey time of less than 20 minutes using dedicated purpose built trains with wide doors and dedicated luggage storage. This can be done at a cost of under \$1.5 billion as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with little or no cost to Government, all that is needed is the will.

Attached: Full transcript of Peter O'Brien's presentation to the 6th Annual Victorian Transport Infrastructure Conference 2014

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