



Aus Teen Expo

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**8** TRANSFORM FORUM TO CONFRONT HOT ISSUES | **14** LEARN LOCAL AND LIFT YOUR SKILLS

Moonee Valley  
**Leader**

**5** POP IN TO THANK THE ANZACS

# Backed into a corner

**Linky**

**EAST WEST LINK IMPACT**

**GEORGE'S KINGDOM**

DAWSON ST  
CITY LINK  
BRUNSWICK RD  
GRMOND RD  
LINK EXIT RAMP  
ENTRY RAMP

A MOONEE Ponds pensioner who feared he would lose his home because of the East West Link may not get to stay. But the \$6 billion road project will still come at a cost for George Mungherli, who faces losing a big chunk of his backyard and being swamped with freeway noise.

The 84-year-old was told in mid-2013 his Portion 81 house was in the path of the proposed East West Link's connection to CityLink and would likely be acquired.

Plans originally included a two-lane flyover to join CityLink next to Moonee Valley racecourse, but they were scrapped for an Ormond Rd off-ramp and CityLink widening works.

A Linking Melbourne Authority case manager met Mr Mungherli to discuss further options following State Planning Minister Matthew Guy's decision to approve the project in July.

"She said your house can be saved, if you want to stay you can," Mr Mungherli said.

He has lived at the house for 35 years and said he was happy to have the option to stay at his "kingdom", but was unsure if it would be worthwhile due to the project's impacts.

"I'm attached to this place because I've been here so long, but I don't know if I'll keep it," he said.

"The worry is the noise. For anybody it's a problem, but for elderly people it's more critical."

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George Mungherli has a tough decision to make: the backyard for a garden or a way to build a fence that would be a security or a barrier to the noise of CityLink. Picture: Michael Long.

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Essendon Keilor College students Hayley (from back), Jordi, Casey, Isobel, Abby, Joeli and (front) Lucas, Luke, Lauren and Jordan, prepare for the Australian Teenage Expo. Picture: MARK WILSON

## Teens the focus of expo

TEENAGERS may believe that the world revolves around them and at the Australian Teenage Expo that will actually be the case.

The expo will return to Melbourne Showgrounds in Ascot Vale for its fourth staging this month, with more than 10,000 attendees expected over two days.

"The expo is all about giving young people as many opportunities and choices as we can possibly put together in one place," expo co-founder Sonya Karras said.

There'll be entertainment

and performances and teens can play in handball competitions, breakdancing battles, cupcake eating competitions, and play against Melbourne Vixens netballers.

The event will also include representatives from agencies and organisations providing information about mental health, eating disorders, online safety and sexual health.

"We like to think of the expo as a place where young people can feel safe and can listen," Ms Karras said.

"Youth workers are doing great things, but not all young people will ask for those services."

Ambassadors include *X-Factor*, *The Voice* and *Young Talent Time* contestants Omar Dean, Krishool, Thando, Courtney Hale, Soli Tesema and Frank Dixon, and performer Vivica.

It runs August 28-29. It's open to schools only during the day and to the public 3-9pm. Tickets cost \$8.50 for children and \$10 for adults.

Details: [teenageexpo.com.au](http://teenageexpo.com.au)