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# Mulder firm on rail plan

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THE Baillieu Government is continuing with the controversial Regional Rail Link for V/Line trains despite strong opposition from public transport users.

A spokesman for State Transport Minister Terry Mulder said yesterday the \$4.4 billion Regional Rail Link had been funded and would therefore be proceeding.

Spokesman Paul Price said there were about \$28 billion worth of projects under the Brumby government's State Transport Plan that had not been funded, and these were the projects

that would be subjected to some sort of review.

Asked about the Regional Rail Link, which would see Geelong trains diverted around Werribee and approach Melbourne from the northwest, the spokesman said it was funded and would therefore be proceeding.

"We are proceeding with the Regional Rail Link and the Epping to South Morang new line, including electrification," Mr Price said.

"Additionally, electrification between Watergardens (Sydenham) and Sunbury is proceeding.

"We have also commit-

ted to planning studies for a heavy rail line between north of the city to Doncaster and to Melbourne Airport, while we are also commissioning a feasibility study for a Huntingdale to Rowville heavy rail line.

"In our first term we are providing \$50 million towards the construction of a new heavy rail link from the Geelong to Southern Cross Melbourne rail line to Avalon Airport, allowing trains from both Geelong and Melbourne to stop at the airport." But the Public Transport Users' Association said yesterday that it was projects such as the Regional Rail Link that should be subjected

to a review by the new authority.

PTUA Geelong spokesman Paul Westcott said he could not understand why a project allocated funding could not be reviewed.

Mr Westcott said that Mr Mulder had himself been critical of some aspects of the Regional Rail Link, including the fact that it would not have any platforms at North Melbourne station.

He said the Regional Rail Link was still in the planning phase, and could not understand why it should suddenly be set in concrete.