



The Hon Michael McCormack MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for Riverina

Ref: MC19-000572

20 MAR 2019

Mr Russell Mowatt
Public Liaison Officer
Calder Action Group
4 Farrell Street
NEW GISBORNE VIC 3438

Dear Mr Mowatt

Thank you for your letter of 29 January 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the Calder Freeway. Your letter was forwarded to me as I am the minister responsible for the matters you have raised.

The Australian Government takes concerns about road safety seriously and continues to play an active role in infrastructure planning and investment. I appreciate and commend the Calder Action Group's advocacy for the improvement of this important corridor.

The Australian Government recognises the significant role the Calder Highway/Freeway plays in Melbourne and Victoria's arterial road network and has invested more than \$66 million since 2013-14 to improve the safety and efficiency of the corridor, including the recently completed Ravenswood Interchange.

You may be aware that, through the 2018-19 Budget, the Australian Government announced the \$1 billion Urban Congestion Fund (UCF) and, in February 2019, announced a \$261.3 million UCF package of works to address congestion across Melbourne's rapidly growing outer metropolitan regions. As part of this package, the Australian Government committed \$50 million to upgrade the Calder Freeway between Sunbury and the M80 Ring Road.

The project scope, funding and delivery arrangements for the Victorian component of the UCF are currently being settled with the Victorian Government, including the Calder Freeway upgrade.

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I encourage the Calder Action Group to advocate for a matching \$50 million commitment from the Victorian Government and commence delivery of these critical works.

Thank you for bringing the concerns of the Calder Action Group to the Australian Government's attention and I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael McCormack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael McCormack

cc The Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population