



## Office of the Hon Mark Vaile MP

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**Deputy Prime Minister**  
**Minister for Transport and Regional Services**  
**Leader of The Nationals**

*Reference: 08809-2007*

**17 SEP 2007**

Mr I T Sutherland AO  
Calder Action Group  
22 Shetland Way  
SUNBURY VIC 3429

Dear Mr Sutherland

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2007 to the Treasurer, the Hon Peter Costello MP, concerning the Melbourne – Mildura Corridor Strategy. As the matter you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Hon Mark Vaile MP, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, your letter has been referred to him for consideration. The Deputy Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Deputy Prime Minister has referred your submission to the Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services and asked that the relevant officers note the Calder Action Group's concerns.

The Australian Government has committed to funding \$22.3 billion for AusLink 2 from 2009-10 to 2013-14, including \$16.8 billion for projects on the AusLink National Network. Senior officials from the Department met with their counterparts in the Victorian Department of Infrastructure and VicRoads to discuss the process of formulating a new AusLink Investment Programme for Victoria.

The Melbourne – Mildura Corridor Strategy is a statement of the shared objectives and strategic priorities of the Australian and Victorian governments for the long-term development of the corridor. Corridor strategies provide the basis for identifying project priorities, with the states and territories being required to develop an economic case for each project.