



Parliament of Australia

Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP

Federal Member for Gorton

16th May 2016

Mr David Pollard
Chairman Calder Highway Improvement Committee
PO Box 733
Bendigo 3550

Dear David,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of your committee regarding funding for the Calder Highway. Along with other Federal Labor Members whose electorates include the Calder Highway, I have been actively lobbying the Federal and State governments to commit to adequately funding The Calder Highway proposed upgrades.

I have written to the Federal Minister Darren Chester to call upon the federal government to commit to providing funds to support the proposed Palmers Road corridor proposal.

I have also written to the State Minister for Roads and Road safety Luke Donellan to convey my support for this upgrade.

He has written back to tell us that the Andrews Labor Government have identified the Palmers Road corridor as a longer term project that will be implemented in stages that will ultimately involve the construction of a six lane divided road. As well as the new road, two existing rail crossings will be removed, one at the Melbourne-Bendigo rail line crossing with Calder Park Drive and another at the Melbourne- Ballarat rail line crossing at Robinsons Road. Two bridges will be built over Kororoit creek and an interchange constructed on Calder Park Drive at the Calder Freeway.

VicRoads have developed a proposal for the provision of the interchange at Calder Park Drive and the Calder Freeway that will be considered by the newly established *Infrastructure Victoria*, an independent body established to consider and prioritise Victoria's infrastructure needs. I will continue to lobby for upgrades to the Calder Highway as I, and my Federal colleagues believe that it is critical that infrastructure keeps up with the population growth in this fast growing region.

I have also started a petition on my website that I urge you to share with any interested parties
<http://brendanoconnor.com.au/Campaigns/Support-the-Calder-Park-Drive-Overpass>

Thanks again for taking the time to write and I would be happy to help your campaign by continuing to lobby both state and federal governments.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Brendan O'Connor MP
Federal Member for Gorton.

Electorate: Level 2, 13-15 Lake Street, Caroline Springs VIC 3023. Phone: (03) 8390 6166 Fax: (03) 8358 4245

Canberra: P.O. Box 6022, House of Representatives, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Web: www.brendanoconnor.com.au