

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# Calder Freeway safety improvements at Sunshine Avenue, Taylors Lakes

### When will the works start and how long will it take to complete?

- Works are expected to commence in early 2012 and be completed by mid 2012.

### What will the project cost?

- The safety improvements are estimated to cost approximately \$1.7 million, with funding from project savings on the \$62 million Calder Freeway/Kings Road interchange project. The Australian and Victorian Governments are funding partners for the works.

### What changes are planned?

Proposed works include:

- upgrading the Bendigo bound entry from Sunshine Avenue to the Calder Freeway as a freeway-standard ramp.
- removing the left-turn entry into Sunshine Avenue from the Calder Freeway.
- permanent closure of the freeway median openings at Sunshine Avenue, Oakbank Road and Highland Road to prevent right turns across the freeway.
- permanent closure of the local road intersections with the Calder Freeway at Oakbank Road and Highland Road.
- extending the access road (past the Keilor Public Golf Course) to link Highland Road and Oakbank Road with the nearby Calder Freeway/Kings Road interchange.

### How will this project improve safety?

- Removal of the local road intersections with the freeway and the median openings will eliminate current road safety hazards and cross traffic along this section of the Calder Freeway where 39 casualty crashes were recorded between 2004 and 2009.

### Has the community been consulted about these works?

- With funding now confirmed, VicRoads will discuss the changes with the local community and landowners, and provide information through one-on-one meetings, letter drops and website updates.

### Will the Sunshine Avenue/Calder Freeway intersection be upgraded as a full freeway interchange in future?

- These interim works are an initial stage to improve safety and traffic flow until a freeway interchange is built as part of the longer term Calder Freeway safety strategy between Keilor and Diggers Rest.

### What are the access arrangements for Oakbank Road, Highland Road and Kiuna Road residents and businesses?

- Oakbank Road, Highland Road and Kiuna Road residents and businesses will be able to access the Calder Freeway from a new access road connecting to the Calder Freeway/Kings Road interchange. The additional travel time to access the freeway interchange is approximately 1.5-2 minutes.
- As traffic volumes on the Calder Freeway are predicted to double over the next ten years, without these actions now it will become increasingly more difficult and dangerous for Oakbank Road, Highland Road and Kiuna Road residents and businesses to safely access the freeway.

### Will completion of the Kings Road interchange and Sunshine Avenue works allow the current 80km/h speed limit on this section of the Calder Freeway to be lifted?

- VicRoads will review the freeway speed limit on this section once works are completed.

### Why is the left-turn entry into Sunshine Avenue from the Calder Freeway being removed?

- The exit to Sunshine Avenue does not provide adequate safe distance on the freeway for drivers to slow down and turn off. Removing the left-turn will improve safety and traffic flow with the nearby Melton Highway exit or the Calder Freeway/Kings Road interchange providing safer alternative options to exit.

### Why are the median openings being removed at Sunshine Avenue, Oakland Road and Highland Road?

- Removing these median openings will improve safety and traffic flow by eliminating potentially hazardous cross-freeway traffic.

### Will there be increased traffic at the Melton Highway/Sunshine Avenue roundabout as a result of these improvements?

- The new Calder Freeway/Kings Road interchange will provide for a safer local option to access the Calder Freeway. It is expected that this should take some traffic away from the Melton Highway/Sunshine Avenue roundabout to help reduce congestion.



Australian Government

**Nation Building Program**

