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Calder Action Group Inc

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14th November 2013

Hon Terry Mulder MLA
Minister for Transport,

Hon Warren Truss, MHR
Minister for Infrastructure & Regional Development

Calder Action Group Inc.– Calder Park Drive Overpass

Dear Ministers,

As Infrastructure becomes a higher National priority we consider that this reminder of the needs of the Calder Freeway should be addressed. We congratulate the Victorian and Federal Governments on the recent decision to upgrade the Calder junction at Ravenswood near Bendigo to create a much needed safety overpass there. As the pressures on funding for transport infrastructure projects grow we wish to keep, in the list of higher priorities, the need for a similar safety overpass at the junction of the Calder with Calder Park Drive and its Palmers Road Corridor extension. It has previously been listed in the under \$M100 category.

We are all aware that the Calder Freeway acts as the major transport lifeline to the north west of Victoria. Yet the first section built through Keilor has never been fully upgraded to freeway standard. Traffic density is ever growing as housing developments in that area, in Sunbury and major towns further out, steadily expand. Safety features are lacking and the economic benefits of a smooth traffic flow are impeded. The 80 Km/Hr limit continues to be a dangerous and frustrating limitation.

Our concerns also address the apparent difficulties both Governments have in developing a funding model for these costly projects. Unless the road is subject to a toll or other levy, there is clearly no immediate return on investment, for Superannuation Funds, as an example. We suggest that the a combination of a toll and government funding be considered for the Calder Park Drive Overpass, difficult as it is politically even given that the tolls would be introduced with adequate justification and at a reasonable level. Delays in initiation of work will only seriously exacerbate the safety and economic penalties into the future.

As budgetary planning proceeds for the next year we ask that a commitment to the Calder Park Drive Overpass project be agreed, that an appropriate funding model be developed and the support of the growing populations of the north-west of Victoria be particularly addressed.

Yours sincerely,

Ian T Sutherland AO
President,
Calder Action Group Inc.

FOR INFORMATION:

Information addressees are encouraged to add support to this plea.

Hon Anthony Albanese
Hon Denis Naphine
Hon Brendan O'Connor, MHR
Joanne Duncan MLA
Hon Candy Broad MLA
Bernie Finn MLC
Senator Michael Ronaldson
Hon Wendy Lovell, MHR
Mayor Brimbank Council
Mayor Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Senator Scott Ryan
Hon Maria Vamvakinou, MHR
Hon Jacinta Allan, MLC
Rob Mitchell MHR
Amanda Millar MLC
Noel Shanahan, CHIC
Mayor Hume City Council
Mayor Brimbank Council
Mayor Melton Shire Council