

Ian T Sutherland AO
8/55 Brook Street
Sunbury
Vic 3429

Mob. No 0422 753 196

Calder Action Group Inc

ABN:- 38 421 403 996
Reg. No A0052911E

Hon Terry Mulder MLA
Minister for Transport,
19th March 2013

Calder Action Group Inc.– Calder Park Drive Overpass

Dear Minister,

Firstly we are delighted to see the completion of safety improvements on the Calder Freeway at the Organ Pipes Road junction near Calder Park Drive in Brimbank. This TAC funded project was finished right on the initial timescale and is a credit to the management effectiveness of VicRoads in this region.

As I think you know, our organisation has been keenly aware of the remnant safety deficiencies in the Calder Freeway completion and has been active in trying to bring this to the attention of both Federal and State governments over at least seven years. We have been very keen that both Federal and State Governments make a firm commitment to the next crucial element, the building of the Calder Park Drive Overpass. This project has been strongly nominated in the Victorian State Government submissions to the Federal Nation Building Program in the group of projects under \$M100. The safety environment around it will deteriorate progressively as the area's population expands. If you can give this commitment and some introductory funding for the normal planning processes, work up to the issue of tenders can take place and can be implemented rapidly after 2015 when Federal Funding is likely to be available.

Recent data shows that in the 5 years from July 2007 to June 2012, there have been a significant number of crashes along that road section of long term interest to our group. From the Western Ring road exit to the Thunderdome there have been:-

66 casualty crashes which included 1 fatal crash, 38 serious injury crashes and 40 minor injury crashes, and a total of 213 persons involved in these accidents.

This section of the road bears an increasing traffic load as the population of N-W Victoria and particularly the Sunbury and Macedon Ranges areas grows. The whole outbound section is affected by an 80km/hr speed limit which causes driver frustration and a hazard itself from the many users who break the limit. Coupled with the above is the significant demographic profile change experienced in this part of the Northwest Metropolitan area; in particular Taylor's Lakes, Hillside and Caroline Springs have a growth rate which is near the top for the state. The Calder Freeway/Calder Park Drive interchange features strongly in this increased usage and the increased electrified railway traffic through the level crossing on Calder Park Drive overflows onto the freeway at odd times, exacerbating its present threat to safety. This future trend should also weight forthcoming funding priorities

The economic benefits from smoothing traffic flow and environmental reduction in pollutants are also tangible benefits from the proposed investment.

It is clear to us that, unless this situation is continually brought to the attention of both Governments, progress is likely to continue to be unacceptably slow. By giving strong budgetary support for this Calder Park Drive Overpass project in the forthcoming financial considerations you will maintain the progress recently made with the Kings Road and Organ Pipes Projects and give our community some hope that this seriously hazardous road section will finally be completed and brought up to the requisite safety and effectiveness standard.

We seek your commitment to a financial commitment for early planning of the Calder Park Drive Overpass. The North West of Victoria deserves your strong support of this project and we look forward to its inclusion in funding for the next year.

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 Napthine
Hon Brendan O'Connor, MHR
Joanne Duncan MLA
Hon Candy Broad MLA
Bernie Finn MLC
Hon Wendy Lovell, MHR
Ben Collier, McEwen candidate
Mayor Hume City Council
Mayor Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Mayor Brimbank Council

Senator Scott Ryan
Hon Maria Vamvakinou, MHR
Hon Jacinta Allan, MLC
Hon Martin Ferguson, MHR
Rob Mitchell MHR
Donna Petrovich MLC
Senator Michael Ronaldson
Mayor Brimbank Council
Mayor Melton Shire Council