

Russell S. Mowatt
4 Farrell Street
New Gisborne
Vic 3438

Mob. No 0422 753 196

Calder Action Group Inc

ABN:- 38 421 403 996
Reg. No A0052911E

Hon Terry Mulder MLA
Minister for Transport,
5th January 2011

Calder Action Group Inc.– Commitment to Calder Park Drive Overpass

Dear Minister,

Firstly our congratulations on your appointment to a very critical task in Victoria's development. We are conscious of your deep interest in the portfolio over many years and wish you the very best for your time in the Ministry. We applaud the Coalition's commitment to strong policies on Transport infrastructure and look forward to support for our concerns in the NW 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 five years. You may recall our CAG Election statement of October this year, of which I've attached a copy, which makes a general plea for our major objective in the next year or two; we believe that unless both Federal and State Governments make a firm commitment to the eventual building of the Calder Park Drive Overpass, it will remain in limbo as the safety environment around it deteriorates progressively as the area's population expands. Given this commitment, the normal planning processes up to the issue of tenders can take place without major expenditure and can be implemented rapidly after 2015 when Federal Funding is likely to be available.

Our consultations with the CHIC and Councils have confirmed that the most important and urgent next project for this section of the Calder should be the planned **overpass at the Calder Park Drive exit**. This project, which will involve about the same level of joint funding, ie in the region of \$60M. Additional State Government road work on the approaches will be need in the same way as at Kings Road.

In the 5 years prior to October 2004 (prior to the works currently completed), there had been:-

41 casualty crashes which included 5 fatal crashes, 20 serious injury crashes, and 16 minor injury crashes.

Recent data shows that in the 5 years from Oct 2004 to Oct 2009, there have still been:-

31 casualty crashes which included 1 fatal crash, 13 serious injury crashes and 17 minor injury crashes.

While the works to date have resulted in a reduction in these fatal and serious injury crashes the situation is still grave and motorists lives continue at serious risk.

Coupled with the above is the significant demographic profile change experienced in this part of the Northwest region; in particular Taylor's Lakes, Hillside and Caroline Springs have a growth rate which is near the top for the state. The recent release of land in the Sunbury area by the State Government will over time place a further hazardous burden on the Calder Freeway/Calder Park Drive interchange 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 Project 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.

The North West of Victoria deserves your strong support of this project and we look forward to its inclusion in funding for next year.

Yours sincerely,

Russell S. Mowatt
President,
Calder Action Group Inc.

FOR INFORMATION

Hon Ted Baillieu
Hon Brendan O'Connor, MHR
Joanne Duncan MLA
Hon Candy Broad MLA
Bernie Finn MLC
Hon Wendy Lovell, MHR
Senator Michael Ronaldson
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
Mayor Hume City Council
Mayor Melton Shire Council