

Hon Tim Pallas
Minister for Road and Ports
Victorian State Government
80 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Russell Mowatt
4 Farrell Street
New Gisborne
Vic 3438

31th December 08

Lights at Calder Freeway Overpasses

Dear Minister

In the interest of public safety we are writing to you for assistance in providing suitable lighting at a number of Calder Freeway Overpasses northbound to Bendigo. As you are aware any new overpasses constructed are usually incorporated with overhead lighting for safety in the event of adverse weather conditions between dawn and dusk.

A number of residents including myself have asked the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to advocate on our behalf with Vic Roads to seek suitable lighting at the following locations:

- Melbourne Road – Gisborne interchange
- Station Road – New Gisborne interchange
- Springvale Road – Karlsruhe interchange
- Edgecombe Street – Kyneton (north) interchange
- Malmsbury interchange

Unfortunately Vic Roads advised that they cannot assist in this matter owing to budget constraints for lighting. Since this advice Peter Johnston CEO of the MRSC made a passionate plea with Vic Roads representatives, in a November 08 meeting, for urgent light funding at these interchanges challenging the consistency and what other regions have. Again the response from Vic Roads was no.

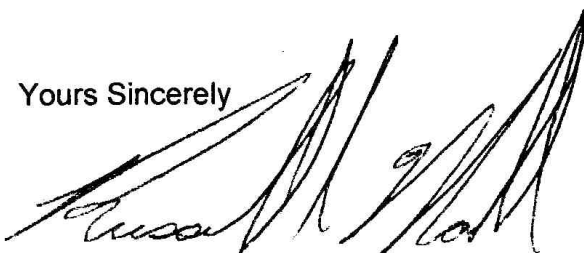
We believe a suitable outcome is achievable by installing one pair of overhead lighting at the freeway exits where they meet at the appropriate crossover road. These lights could be solar powered which would reduce electrical installation costs and greenhouse emissions. For each interchange you would only need two light polls consisting of two lights on each poll. In total you would need ten light polls and twenty lights which would suffice for all interchanges stated as a minimum.

This request is consistent with the State Governments policy of making the Calder Freeway safer for all those who travel it, especially those entering or exiting it.

Minister, the Calder Freeway is a growth corridor of the northwest and any improvements in this matter by your government would be most welcomed and seen as a positive initiative for the welfare of all those travellers who use the Calder Freeway now and into the future.

We look forward to a favourable response.

Yours Sincerely



Russell S. Mowatt

President – Calder Action Group

Cc Peter Johnston CEO MRSC, Dale Thornton MRSC, J. Duncan MLA