

Letter to Sunbury Leader 21 Apr 09

by Cr Helen Ralph Chairperson, Calder Improvement Committee

This letter, written about the opening of the last new stretch of the Freeway to Bendigo, is a clear indication of the importance to the CIC of the work still needed on the Kings Road Interchange. Our Calder Action Group Inc. has maintained contact with this Committee and admires their efforts, constituted as they are with Local Government and Community representatives.

Vision achieved

WITH the last section of the Calder Highway duplication between Melbourne and Bendigo due to open on April 20, the Calder Highway Improvement Committee after a long history has seen its vision achieved.

The Calder Highway Improvement Committee, comprising councillor delegates and community representatives from along the length of the Calder Highway, was set up in the

late 1980s to lobby for the duplication of the Calder Highway from Melbourne to Bendigo.

The dream is now realised.

As chair of this committee, I wish to thank those who had the foresight to work for it and to VicRoads who shared the dream and have seen it achieved.

The committee now has the mission to live up to its name and continue to work with State and Federal Governments to see improvements, both in safety and in performance of this vital highway, which services up to a third of the state.

From those heading to Murray River towns, or the Wimmera via the Tullamarine, Calder then Melton Highways to those who access the food bowl of Mildura and beyond, this is a vital network that ensures the travelling public and transport providers arrive at their destination safely.

The committee is currently carrying out a campaign to have the Kings Road interchange at Taylors Lakes constructed as soon as possible.

The duplication has come from a team effort and support from governments recognising the value of a road that can improve efficiencies for transport networks, which helps to achieve green house gas objectives by more efficient transport solutions.

There are many community members who have given their time over the years to achieve this end that should be recognised as well as the VicRoads staff and many contractors who have worked on this project.

It has been a long journey, remembering along the way, the Gisborne Bypass was opened 20 years ago on March 17, 1989.

Congratulations to all involved in this journey, especially those volunteers who have served on the committee.

Cr Helen Ralph, Chairperson, Calder Highway Improvement Committee.

