

# Letters to the Editor

## Speed concern

Dear editor, (and fellow Barkers Creek residents),

I have a property on the Midland Highway, Barkers Creek between Castlemaine and Harcourt before the exit to Melbourne or Bendigo via the new Calder Freeway.

The speed limit as you leave Castlemaine is 100kmh until you reach approx. 1km from the entrance to the new freeway just after Black Jack Road where it then becomes 80kmh. So effectively, for approx. 5kms, the speed is 100kmh and I am wondering why?

We have a school bus which stops along the highway letting children off at various stops and there is no separate right-hand turn access into very busy Specimen Gully Road where, whilst trying to actually turn there, you view in your rear mirror, cars coming towards you at over 100kms which can be very intimidating.

Let's face it, if the speed says 100kmh many, many drivers seem to think that means 110kms or more and at times it sounds

more like 140kmh. Just putting rubbish bins out every week is a challenge so I am asking other residents along the Midland Highway and beyond if they feel that since the freeway opened back in August, do you think the traffic along that stretch of road has increased two-fold as has the noise!

I cannot understand why VicRoads will not have the speed limit lowered to 80kms for the entirety from Castlemaine to Harcourt which is only a 8km distance, given it has now become so incredibly busy since the opening of the Calder freeway.

I see this as a real safety concern and when I witness motorists overtaking at high speeds on a road with many blind spots, I feel it is just a matter of time before we have a serious accident.

I would be encouraged if anyone else feels the same as I do and would welcome their feedback directly to me on either my mobile 0407 181160 or email rma@arc.net.au

I am sure if enough people feel the same way, perhaps we could see VicRoads realise that this would be a

good decision and perhaps not only make a safer road for us to live on but avoid a potentially dangerous situation arising. I have no doubt that the volume of traffic using this thoroughfare will only ever increase to a non stop continual traffic flow 24/7.

Rhonda Martinez,  
Barkers Creek.

## Calder action

Dear editor,

Recently Calder Action Group Inc, Brimbank Council and CHIC unanimously agreed that the next major development will be the Calder Park Drive/Calder Freeway interchange. This will be the second stage in a four part strategic process for this section of the Calder Freeway. We will shortly convey this decision to VicRoads and our local state and federal representatives for future funding consideration.

Current planning on the first stage Kings Road/Calder Freeway interchange is well advanced and we are hopeful that works will commence in the later part of 2010. Public consultation on these works will start shortly with

venue details on our webpage [www.caldractiongroup.com.au](http://www.caldractiongroup.com.au) under news section.

If you wish to speak with VicRoads representatives, the display will be attended from 4pm to 7pm only for the nominated date. We encourage all residents affected by the development to attend.

Russell S. Mowatt  
President Calder Action Group Inc.

## Omitted?

Dear editor,

An article on 'MR fire restriction' published on p2. of the *Express* November 24 edition listed eight municipalities in which restriction would commence on November 30 - Macedon Ranges, Whittlesea, Moorabool, Nillumbik, Wyndham, Mitchell and Hume. An ad. by the CFA on p. 10 listed just five - Macedon Ranges, Melton, Hume, Whittlesea and Wyndham. Neither indicated that other shires would also be affected, though 20 shires were listed as having restriction taking effect on that date in the Vic. Gov. Gazette G48 (26/11).

One might not expect the *Express* to