

Plan to unclog Taylors Lakes bottleneck

BY RUZA ZIVKUSIC
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THE Calder Freeway at Kings Road in Taylors Lakes will become safer by 2012.

The long wait for the freeway's improvements is over, with the first stage between Keilor and Diggers Rest entering a consultation period.

The federal and Victorian governments have allocated up to \$67 million to upgrade Kings Road to a four-lane divided road from Melton Highway to the new interchange, as part of the federal economic stimulus plan and the Victorian Transport Plan.

VicRoads project director John Moylan said the works extended the \$19.7million duplication of Kings Road from Taylors Road to Melton Highway, which was finished in May 2008. "This is the first stage of safety and access improvements along the Calder Freeway between Keilor and Diggers Rest.

"Providing a new interchange will improve safety and traffic flow for vehicles moving on and off the Calder Freeway at Taylors Lakes. The duplication will cater for the extra drivers expected to use the new interchange to access the Calder Freeway. This upgrade will make it easier for drivers travelling from Melbourne to Bendigo, with less congestion and improved safety. It will also improve access to growing suburbs such as Taylors Lakes, Sydenham and Hillside."

Construction is due to start late next year. Calder Action group president Russell Mowatt, who has pushed consistently for funding for the interchange, said up to eight people had been killed on that section of the road.

"We're ecstatic, as a group and the community. It's been a long haul over many years and we're very appreciative that the State Government and the Federal Government have recognised the importance of this particular part of the freeway.

"By this coming about, it will improve safety and remove congestion."



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Excellent article by Ruza and gives a good balance between VicRoads rep and the community group CAG Inc. We are very appreciative that \$67 million dollars is being invested in vital infrastructure in the Northwest of Melbourne. Long overdue and will reduce accidents and improve safety on this part of the Calder Freeway. Regards Russell S. Mowatt President - CAG Inc

Posted by Russell Mowatt, 3/12/2009 12:33:23 AM

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