

Calder speed bid won't be curbed

By Matt Crossman

Variable speed limits and the construction of an overpass at Calder Park Drive are among the measures proposed by the Calder Action Group as frustration about an 80km/h speed limit continues to mount.

As reported by *Star Weekly*, motorists are calling for the speed limit on the freeway between Keilor-Melton Road and Calder Park Drive to be increased to 100km/h.

They say the limit, introduced during construction works that have long been completed, is a source of annoyance that leads to tailgating and impatient drivers weaving in and out of traffic.

The action group has written to the state government offering solutions it believes will bring the section up to full freeway standard.

Group president Ian Sutherland said that while VicRoads had a case for retaining the 80km/h limit, it was too often ignored.

He said the group was pushing for variable speed signs where out-bound traffic passes the Melton turnoff to allow for higher speeds during off-peak times.

But the main goal remains funding for a long-awaited overpass at Calder Park Drive.

"The moment that is finally built, they've got no reason not to raise the speed," Mr Sutherland said.

The fight for the project has been long – it was among a list of priorities that also included an overpass at Kings Road as far back as 2002.

Mr Sutherland said that while VicRoads had been supportive, it was time for governments to act.

"We will continue to press state and federal governments to give the Calder Park Drive overpass project high priority," he said.

In the meantime, Mr Sutherland encouraged motorists to support any efforts to draw attention to the freeway's needs.

"The more the issue is raised, the more pressure it puts on"

- Ian Sutherland

A motorist-led petition to increase the speed limit to 100km/h, supported by Sunbury Residents Association, has almost 1500 signatures.

"The more the issue is raised, the more pressure it puts on the governments to do something about it," Mr Sutherland said.

VicRoads regional operations director Brad Smits said the limit, which is supported by police and Brimbank council, was appropriate.

"Driver safety is the most significant factor in VicRoads' decision as there is no emergency stopping lane at the Maribyrnong River and direct access from Calder Park Drive makes this short section unsuitable for a speed limit increase," Mr Smits said.

"Given this road environment, the 80km/h limit also makes it safer for drivers entering the freeway."

Safety for cyclists please

PLEASE provide a safe option for cyclists as well ("Support swells for Calder Freeway 100km/h speed change", sunburyleader.com.au).

Too many cyclists are put in danger by the poor design around entry and exit points, especially at Calder Park Drive.

Raising the speed limit will make it more dangerous for cyclists.

There's heaps of room for an off-road bike path alongside the highway, which would make it safer for everyone.

And before you have a go and tell me it's a road for cars, actually it's for bikes too.

I'm not saying it's all about bikes, but neither is it all about cars.

JENICA BROOKE, via Facebook

Limit of 100km/h is good

A 100KM/H limit is a safe speed for a freeway, especially one with infrequent congestion.

If an emergency lane needs to be added, then there is plenty of land beside the 80km/h section to extend for this.

An 80km/h limit is not fitting for the Calder Freeway and does not promote safety in any way.

MARIA KASTANIOTIS, via Facebook