



Office of the Hon Catherine King MP

**Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
Member for Ballarat**

Ref: MC23-062166

Mr Russell Mowatt
24 St James Drive
JUBILEE POCKET QLD 4802

via: russell.mowatt@bigpond.com

Dear Mr Mowatt,

Thank you for your email of 17 May 2023 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, regarding the Calder Park Drive/Calder Freeway Overpass Big Build Project in Victoria. Your email has been referred to the Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, as this matter falls within her portfolio responsibilities. I am responding on behalf of the Minister. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of investing in projects that not only support Victoria's growing cities and regions, but align with state government's priorities. As such, the Australian Government will continue to work closely with the Victorian Government and local councils to progress the projects that matter most to them.

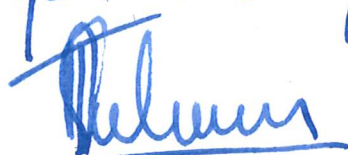
As you may be aware, on 1 May 2023, the Minister announced an Independent Strategic Review of the Infrastructure Investment Program (IIP), to ensure projects funded by the Commonwealth represent value for money and deliver lasting benefits for Australians. The Review will be undertaken within 90 days and the reviewers will engage with relevant government and industry stakeholders in relation to the projects being reviewed, including with states, territories and local government.

The Australian Government is maintaining a 10-year \$120 billion infrastructure pipeline, whilst working towards ensuring land transport infrastructure projects are genuinely nation-building, economically sustainable and resilient to our changing climate.

Until the outcomes of the Review are known, the Australian Government and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts are not able to pre-empt the recommendations of the Independent Review, but will continue to work closely with the Victorian Government to deliver projects already under construction and the Australian Government's 2022 election commitments.

While the Australian Government is a significant investor in transport infrastructure projects across Victoria, the responsibility for identifying, planning and delivery of projects is primarily a matter for the Victorian Government and local councils. As such, the Minister recommends you raise your views with your local government authority, or the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning at www.dtp.vic.gov.au/contact-us or telephone 131 171.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Australian Government's attention.

Yours sincerely,


Joseph Solomon
Chief of Staff

26 / 6 / 2023