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CAG

HON JOHN BRUMBY, MLA
Premier of Victoria

3rd April 09

Calder Action Group – Funding for Kings Road Overpass in FY09/10

Dear Mr Brumby,

You will be very aware of the extensive discussion on Victorian Infrastructure and Transport Planning. Before the Federal Election last year we were confident that Federal funding for their 50/50 share of the Kings Road Overpass would be included in the Auslink 2 programme for FY09/10, based on information from Hon Brendan O'Connor.

Apart from some general assurances from the office of your Transport Minister Hon Tim Pallas we have nothing firm in relation to the State funding share. In light of the long list of Road Projects in the Victorian Transport Plan, in which the Kings Road Overpass is not mentioned, we seek urgent consideration of this matter as a high priority.

Based on a VicRoads scheme of six years ago, our Calder Action Group has been effective, with considerable work also by Council representatives on the Calder Improvement Committee, in drawing attention to the major safety and efficiency shortcomings of the Calder Highway in this Keilor area from the Ring Road through to the Thunder Dome.

We are aware that

- a. The long term full-freeway standard widening to improve safety and capacity of the section from the Western Ring Road to the Diggers Rest exit, one overpass is included in the Victorian submission for Auslink 2 in 2009-14. The complete project is fully planned and its scope includes the three interchanges and widening of the freeway over the bridges.
- b. During the Federal election campaign the then Shadow Minister for Transport Mr. Martin Ferguson MP, announced that a Federal Labor Government would commit \$30 million for an interchange at Kings Road on the Calder Freeway as part of Auslink 2.
- c. The State Government has advised our group on a number of occasions that it is willing to bring forward its 50% share of the cost of the construction of Kings Road interchange if the federal government could match the funding. However funding and state priority of this project is yet to be confirmed.
- d. Planning for all the work is complete.
- e. Interim work is also planned to reduce run-off-road crashes – adding guardrails, wire-rope guards and tactile edging along the complete section.

- f. The lighting for the Calder Park Drive exit is also complete although additional acceleration and deceleration lanes is not yet agreed.
- g. The frustrating and potentially risky 80 km speed limit over the 5 km stretch of the outbound road in this section will not be lifted until the full project scope is completed.

The critical issue remains that the safety and economic constraints on the Freeway, affecting the residents of all the areas serviced by the Calder, will remain until the major Interchanges and particularly that at Kings Road Overpass are constructed. State funding remains apparently the only impediment. In the light of all the apparent competition for Infrastructure projects in this year's budget, and the need for stimulating the economy by early expenditure on projects ready to move immediately, it seems to us that this Calder Project deserves a very high priority in the 09/10 State Budget.

The North West of Victoria deserves your strong support of this project and we look forward to its inclusion in funding for next year.

Yours sincerely,

Russell S. Mowatt
President Calder Action Group

FOR INFORMATION
Hon Martin Ferguson, MHR
Hon Fran Bailey, MHR
Hon Tim Pallas, MLA
Joanne Duncan MLA
Hon Monica Gould MLA
Hon Jacinta Allan, MLC
Hon Justin Madden, MLA
George Seitz MLA
Terry Mulder MLA
Bernie Finn MLC
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Donna Petrovich MLC
Senator Michael Ronaldson
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