

CAG

CALDER ACTION GROUP MEETING AGM

26th JUNE 2008

At Goonawarra Neighbourhood Centre 8:00 PM

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions: Russell Mowatt

Will also brief group on status of works on the Calder Freeway and funding for Kings Road/Calder Freeway interchange.

2. Apologies: [P. Mcloughlin resigned](#), [R. Brunton](#), [M. Abernethy](#), [G. Browne](#), [M. Ryan](#).

Present: R. Mowatt, I. Sutherland, J. Worden, P. Watson, J. Haskin, D. Clark, C. McKinnon, M. Keskevich, A. Keskevich, G. Clifford, Cr A. Potter

3. That previous minutes on the 24th April 2008 be accepted as true and accurate record of meeting: Motion put forward by R. Mowatt and seconded by I. Sutherland

- 3.1 Correspondence in: Letter from VicRoads Vince Punaro on Calder Freeway Improvement Works, Press Release from Brendan O'Connor MP on the Kings Road/Calder Highway interchange development. Also letters from a couple of elected representatives.

- 3.2 Correspondence out: R. Mowatt letter to elected representatives CAG Press Release.

- 3.3 Outgoing reports from President and Treasurer

[President - R. Mowatt](#)

[Treasurer – P. Watson](#)

4. The following positions are declared vacant on the executive Committee at this AGM meeting held on 26th June 2008.

Motions put forward to nominate the following people for casual positions vacant. Returning officer J. Worden elected.

- President - R. Mowatt nominated by I. Sutherland seconded by P. Watson unopposed.
- Vice President- I. Sutherland nominated by R. Mowatt and seconded by P. Watson unopposed.
- Secretary - Vacant but R. Mowatt acting until position filled
- Treasure - P. Watson nominated by I. Sutherland and seconded by R. Mowatt unopposed.
- WebPage Coordinator - Vacant but I. Sutherland to pursue likely candidate
- Committee Members - J. Worden, G. Browne and J. Haskin

5. Objectives: Following objectives were re established at meeting held on 26th of June 2008 and carried over from 2007. Objectives are ongoing.

5.1 Short Term

- 5.1.1 To establish solar lights at the intersection of Calder Park Drive and the Calder Highway through Vic Roads – VicRoads advised to be done early 2009
- 5.1.2 Possible community fund raising campaign if Vic Roads do not assist with lights.
- 5.1.3 To inform local authorities of motorists doing illegal U turns at Organ Pipe's Road southbound to Mel and exceeding 80k speed limit towards Bendigo and making right hand turn at Calder Park Drive to Mel over medium strip.
- 5.1.4 To review legal U-turn road pass BP station towards Bendigo.

5.2 Long Term

- 5.2.1 To lobby and secure a funding commitment and upgrade to this part of the Calder Highway within the next two years or earlier from the federal and state governments via AusLink Network roads program or similar. Commitment received from federal government to do Kings Road/Calder Highway interchange starting in June 2009.
- 5.2.2 Between the Western Ring Road and the Melton Highway to lobby for the widening of the freeway and freeway bridges into the median. Also providing a permanent third lane in each direction (at full freeway standards), reinstatement of emergency stopping lanes and freeway management systems, such as variable speed signs and ramp metering. The speed limit would be reinstated to 100km/h with the completion of the longer - term proposal.

6. Action Points

Sutherland to write to local media regarding AGM and the way forward and draft letter to our elected representatives for our next meeting on the status of works. Also to secure likely candidate for Web Page Coordinator. However if no one can found to fill position then A. Potter has volunteered to do it in the interim.

J. Worden to write to Vic Roads re acceleration and deceleration lanes on Calder Park Drive and Calder Highway intersection.

G. Browne to write to Vic Roads re future design of Calder Park Drive and impact on local residents.

P. Watson to deposit membership money into bank account for CAG and set up appropriate book keeping of receipts and costs incurred for photo copying etc etc.

D. Clark to contact Vic Roads re safety improvements on the Sunshine Ave and Calder Highway intersection.

R. Mowatt has written to Midland Express (letter to editor used AGM report) on way forward to assist Ian. Also Telegraph paper contacted R. Mowatt prior to meeting on what was happening in the future for the Calder. It might appear in this week's edition.

7. General Business

J. Haskin advised group that we are the poor cousins of the eastern part of the state in terms of funding for urgent road works on this part of the Calder. He advised as former transport driver that this road was not even up to Highway standard.

He further advised that to erect barriers and reduce speed to 80km on this part of the Calder was not a solution but a Band-Aid fix.

D. Clark raised concerns about Sunshine Ave and Calder Highway intersection and the possible accident waiting to happen. He suggested that Vic Roads should implement some safety measures.

R. Mowatt advised that he was happy that the state government investment of 2.2 million dollars on the Keilor section of the Calder to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. However he advised that a number of angry residents contacted him regarding the reduction of speed from 100km to 80 km.

He also advised that the 80km is only temporary as advised by Vic Roads rep V. Punaro Manager Program Development and that the 100km speed limit will be reinstated once the bridges are widened in the future.

I. Sutherland raised prospect of R. Mowatt joining Calder Improvement Committee in Bendigo but he declined owing to other community commitments and family.

Meeting closed 9:20PM.

Next meeting same venue at 8:00 PM on 21st August 2008

Attached: Presidents Report

CALDER ACTION GROUP AGM 26TH JUNE 2008

PRESIDENTS REPORT

On the 7th of June 2007 the Calder Action Group was formed to lobby all levels of government federal, state and local councils for the urgent upgrade and funding of the Calder Highway. In particular at Calder Park Drive, Robertson's Road, Sunshine Avenue and Kings Road in accordance with AusLink Network Roads program.

Over the course of the last twelve months our group has been very dedicated and successful in raising the profile of this part of the Calder Highway which is not to Freeway standard to our elected representatives and the wider community.

As a result of our letter writing, lobbying, web site and media coverage, prior to the last federal election, we successfully obtained a commitment from both sides of politics to construct the Kings Road/Calder Highway interchange. Federal Member for Gorton Hon Brendan O'Connor MP has reaffirmed this commitment in his budget media release dated the 14th of May 2008. The construction of this interchange will be funded under AusLink 2 package, which commences on 1st July 2009.

We have also been successful in obtaining some interim safety and improvement works from VicRoads, which is currently in progress and will be closely, monitored by our group to ensure its completion.

At this point I would like to personally thank my Vice President Ian Sutherland for his guidance, advice and continued support in the lobbying process on areas where his expertise and persuasion was invaluable. Also our outgoing Treasurer Paul Mcloughlin who set up the Calder Action Group Web Site which from all accounts has attracted a number of visitors and provided a means by which the public can view the progress of this issue.

I would also like to thank committee members Cr Anne Potter, Peter Watson for their continued support Jim Worden for his efforts with the RACV and Margaret Abernethy in her efforts with Melbourne radio stations and VicRoads.

A special mention to Brimbank Cr Margaret Giudice who with other councilor's and representation from Melton Shire Council and Calder Highway Improvement Committee lead the Canberra Delegation. From all accounts the meeting with our federal representatives was quite lively, positive and proved instrumental in securing the Kings Road/Calder Highway interchange.

This process has also been made much more easier with the unanimous support of our local federal, state and council representatives. A number of them have been working very hard behind the scenes and proved to be an important element in this process and we thank them to.

The way forward now is to ensure as a group, community and individuals that we do not take our foot off the pedal in the lobbying process to have the Kings Road/Calder Highway interchange started and safety improvement measures as suggested by our group is implemented by VicRoads.

To do otherwise would be an injustice to those people who have lost their lives or have been seriously injured on this stretch of the Calder over the years and potentially into the future.

We owe it to ourselves our children our neighbors and the travelling public that we continue this journey till this part of the Calder Highway is completed.

Thank you,

Russell S. Mowatt

President Calder Action Group