

Calder Action Group Inc.

38 421 403 996

MEETING Minutes 29 JULY 2010

At Goonawarra Neighbourhood Centre 7:30 PM

1. **Welcome and introductions:** including Vic Roads personnel, Candidate Representatives, members & guests.
2. **Apologies.** Russell Mowatt, Vince Punaro
3. **Present:** Lachlan Brown, Jamie Byron, Drs Alex & Marina Keskevich, Mark Kotiba (VicRoads Western Projects) Demos Michalopoulos (VicRoads Western Region Planning), Rob Mitchell, Fed. Labor Candidate for McEwen), Ian Sutherland, Peter Watson, Jim Worden
4. **Correspondence:** Nil.
5. **Current status of Kings Road overpass Project:** Mark presented the current status of the Kings Road Project, based on a large scale detailed drawing. It showed the sound proofing along the southern edge of the access roads to and from the overpass, and the final layout of the duplicated Kings Road itself. Tenders have closed at the end of June, have been evaluated and recommendations for the successful tenders presented to VicRoads HQ for Ministerial acceptance and announcement expected before October, allowing physical work on site before the end of 2010.
6. **Recent action on Calder Park Drive/Freeway Interchange:** Demos presented the status of planning for this interchange. This Project was among 33 recommended to the Federal Government for urgent Nation Building Program consideration. However VicRoads had not received any input following our recommendation that specific approval in principal be given this project from the State government so that the planning could proceed to the stage of tender drafting. The project is among 33 high priority projects proposed by Victoria for the National Infrastructure Fund in 2014/15. Our proposal for early planning would allow all assessments for environment, cultural heritage etc to be completed and avoid loss of time once Federal funding became available. Some issues including final land acquisitions near the Calder Thunderdome remain to be settled, and planning is proceeding within the constraints of resources and competing priority projects.
7. **Diggers Rest access interaction & bridge lighting.** VicRoads representatives could offer no news in regard to the Diggers Rest

problem with access to the inbound Calder after construction of the Outer Metropolitan Ring Road, except to suggest that we contact the separate project group, Planning and Investigations Dept., responsible for that project. Peter Watson reported there were two lights out close to the Vineyard Road bridge over the Calder and would advise the pole numbers so that maintenance could be done. After that the case for extra lights could be pursued, depending on surplus funds being available.

8. **Elimination of the 80Km/Hr speed limit.** VicRoads said that the proposal to install variable speed signs to safer and better transit times of the 80Km/hr outbound section was under active consideration and they will advise progress. We were advised to contact the Bridge section in regard to widening of the Maribrynong bridge.
9. **Residents' Concerns along Kings Road.** VicRoads have concluded that the residents' access from Bellbird Avenue and the other roads near the Melton Hwy can best be met by a short drive to a regular U-turn access, so avoiding dangerous crossing traffic at peak times.
10. **Future Strategies.**
 - a. The meeting agreed that we would pursue a response from the State Government to our letter of 9 March 2010 regarding advanced planning for the Calder Park Drive interchange. A further letter is to be drafted.
 - b. We will continue to collaborate with the CHIC whose top priority project for this Taylors Lakes region is the same as ours.
 - c. We will strive to engage the local press in the safety issues, seeking updated accident statistics as they become available.
 - d. We will seek inputs to the problems on the Calder via the web-page www.calderactiongroup.com.au.
11. **General business.**
 - a. Dr Marina Keskevich raised again the lack of the sign at the exit for the C706 to Sunbury. This was a maintenance matter and VicRoads will take it up.
 - b. Lachlan Brown raised the problems experience by Hillside residents, like himself, who had no convenient access to the inbound Calder. Frequent abuse of the illegal u-turn at the Organ Pipes exit had been noted. VicRoads said they were considering adding accel/ deceleration lanes in the centre strip to allow opening up of this turn. In the longer term the Interchange would solve the Hillside access problem.
 - c. Russell Mowatt by mail raised the question of lighting at Gisborne and New Gisborne exits from the Calder. VicRoads advised that this

area was handled by a different division of their organisation and we should approach the NW country regional office.

12. **Meeting close.** The meeting closed at 9pm.
13. **Next meeting:** 7.30 pm 16Sep10 at Goonawarra Neighbourhood House

I T Sutherland
Assist. Secretary CAG Inc.

R S Mowatt
President CAG Inc.