

CAG

CALDER ACTION GROUP MEETING

7TH December 2009

At Goonawarra Neighbourhood Centre 7:30 PM

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Russell Mowatt welcomed executive members and introduced Mr Harry Markou, from VicRoads Sunshine Planning Office
2. **Apologies.** Paul McLouglin, Alex and Marina Keskevich
Present: R. Mowatt, I. Sutherland, P. Watson, C McKinnon
3. **Priorities for future funding.** Russell Mowatt gave a quick review of recent achievements and his appreciation for the work of VicRoads on the lights and acceleration and de-celleration lanes at the Calder Park Drive exit and other safety features. He relayed discussions he'd had with the President of the Calder Highway Improvement Committee (CHIC) and Brimbank Council. These discussion resulted in an agreement that the first priority for funding now that the Kings Road overpass is approved, is the Clader Park Drive junction. Other projects to reach full Freeway standard can be determined later. These include the Sunshine Avenue junction, road widening from the Western Ring road to restore the safety lane and widening of the bridges.
4. **Calder Park Drive overpass planning.** Harry Markou said this planning was integrated with that for the Palmers Road Outer Ring Road project, and was oriented at the moment to planing the road reservations. A series of Environmental Impact Assessments would be needed. Some issues with businesses and land owners affecting Calder Park Drive planning were still to be resolved.
5. **Diggers Rest access interaction.** We discussed the issues raised at the recent public meeting at Diggers Rest and the public concern that the Outer Ring Road would remove the Bulla Road overpass and cut off access to the town from the south. Mr Markou explained that a serious safety issue would arise since the the large new interchange with the Calder was relatively too close to the other and that traffic would be crossing lanes between exit and entrance access points. VicRoads were well aware of the access problem and are considering other access points other than the Bulla Road entrance.
6. **Elimination of the 80Km/Hr speed limit.** Mr Markou reiterated VicRoads position that this limit could not be raised until the major projects mentioned in para 3 above were completed. Interim suggestions included introducing an off-peak variable speed limit system

(like on the Western Ring Road) and a speed identification screen to warn motorists that their speed was excessive (as we've seen on the Vineyard Road duplication project in Sunbury). Putting up traffic lights along the route to create a safety break for crossing traffic was also unacceptable in that 100km/hr would have to be reduced beforehand for safety reasons again. Concern was raised that regular breaches of the speed limit occurred, road rage was evident in some users and that despite the fact that the speed limit caused only very minor time delays, some measure to alleviate these concerns, involving safety to users, was badly needed. CAG was determined to progress the upgrade projects with urgency so that full freeway standard could be reached as soon as possible.

7. **Residents' Concerns along Kings Road.** A request has been received for assistance from a Taylors Lakes resident on behalf of those in Wentworth Drive and Bellbird Avenue. The duplicated Kings Road will not allow right hand turns across the other lane. Mr Markou explained that, based on their estimates of heavy peak hour traffic in Kings Road, such turns would be a serious safety hazard. He said that ways of ameliorating this problem were being looked at. The meeting agreed to take up the matter also with the VicRoads Kings Road Project people. They will also be undertaking a letter drop in the area to inform residents.
8. **Future Strategies.** The meeting decided our next activity would centre round publicising the need for early action on the Calder Park Drive Overpass project including programming the necessary funding. We will be seeking a cost estimate for the project. The need for the other projects on the Keilor section will also be kept in public view. Input to the problems on the Calder would be welcome via the web-page www.calderactiongroup.com.au

Meeting closed 9.00 PM.

Next meeting: TBA in early February 2010 at 7.30 PM at same venue.

I T Sutherland
Acting Secretary CAG Inc.

R S Mowatt
President CAG Inc.