

# Calder Action Group Inc

38 421 403 996

## MEETING

4th March 2010

At Goonawarra Neighbourhood Centre 7:30 PM

## Minutes

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Russell welcomed our guest from VicRoads, Mark Koliba, from Kings Road Overpas Project Office and members present. He reviewed the present situation on our interests in Calder development and recent activities in reporting faulty lights.
2. **Apologies:** Vince Punaro, Leah Samuel and John Moylan from VicRoads, Sean Payne, Jim Worden, Bernie Finn MLC, Maria Krizmancic and Jamie Byron.
3. **Present:** Russell Mowatt, Pres., Ian Sutherland V-Pres., Peter Watson Treas., Drs Alex and Marina Keskevich, Colin McKinnon
4. **VicRoads presentation.** Mark outlined his 10 years background with the VicRoads Sunshine office and other major projects before coming to this job in recent months. He mentioned his background growing up in Kealba. He tabled a large photomap showing the scope of the Kings Road project and a supplementary one showing the detail of the junction of Kings Road and Melton Highway and the arrangements planned for the side-road traffic. (See section 8 below.) Presenting a series of printed slides, he said good progress was being made with the detailed planning and approvals process, which included some lengthy processes for Environmental and Aboriginal Heritage permits and a planning permit from Brimbank Council. Recent consultations had covered the increase in local traffic, overlooking and noise barrier considerations. The target for opening to traffic in mid 2012 remained valid.
5. **Calder Park Drive Overpass Planning.** Previous recent consultations with Vince Punaro's office indicated that there had been some minor delay in a decision to separate the Calder Park Drive planning from the larger issues involving the Palmer's Road project. This may facilitate our efforts to progress the former expeditiously. Otherwise they seem content that the process is moving satisfactorily. Having reported this we discussed the possibility of seeking funding for this project ahead of the next major milestone in Federal/State agreements in 2015. With completion of Kings Road in 2012 there will be at least a three year gap until 2015. There seems significant

advantage, economically and in using experience, in evoking an adjacent project to follow Kings Road with this work.

6. **Diggers Rest access interaction.** Without VicRoads input we were unable to progress the issue of the plan to remove the Diggers Rest-Bulla Road overpass with its denial of residents' access to the Calder inbound to Melbourne. An issue with the lack of lights on the Vineyard Road bridge to Diggers Rest was brought to our attention by the Diggers Rest Directions organisation. We hope to raise this in the near future with VicRoads.
7. **Elimination of the 80Km/Hr speed limit.** VicRoads currently will not increase this limit until full freeway standards apply to the Keilor section, meaning elimination of 'at grade' intersections and re-establishment of side safety lanes. The meeting preferred to not accept the minor time limits on travel but rather to emphasize the safety aspects of the number of people who ignore the limit, and economic penalties of slow traffic and the seeming low risk in off-peak periods. Measures to ameliorate these aspects discussed were:
  - a. Consider installation of an "Intelligent Transport System' with ramp signals, variable message signs and variable speed limit signs, such as being introduced on the Western Ring Road.
  - b. Seek a higher police traffic presence to deter offenders.
8. **Residents' Concerns along Kings Road.** With the apology from their representative we discussed with Mark Koliba the issue of access from side roads for residents off Kings Road near the Melton Highway. He offered to provide a copy of the map tabled for our web-site. This shows a series of U-Turn provisions to meet the inconveniences introduced by safety concerns in this section. He also indicated VicRoads were continuing consultation with residents to seek to reach an understanding on the need for the measures proposed.
9. **Future Strategies.** Input to the problems on the Calder continue to be welcome via the web-page [www.calderactiongroup.com.au](http://www.calderactiongroup.com.au). The meeting agreed our main concern was to try and achieve an early start to detailed action on the Calder Park Drive Overpass before the 2015 timescale. This could involve an early budgetary commitment from both Federal and State Governments, even in this year's 2010 forthcoming budgets, to fund the first stages of planning and approvals prior to full project funds becoming available. A letter to Federal and State Ministers would be prepared as soon as possible and given wide parliamentary and press coverage as had recently been done on highlighting the Calder Park Drive priority.
10. **Treasurer's report:** Peter Watson reported current funds in the bank as \$1011.29. A forecast expenditure of up to \$200 for re-registration of the Calder Action Group Inc. as a company and of the website was approved unanimously.

**11. Elections :** The resignation of Paul McLaughlin as public Officer/ Secretary was moved seconded and unanimously accepted. The election of Jim Worden as **Public Officer/Secretary** and Ian Sutherland as **Assistant Secretary** were proposed seconded and approved unanimously.

**12. General Business:**

- a. Dr Alex Keskevich raised the importance from their viewpoint as frequent users of the Sunshine Avenue exit to the possibility of building an underpass there rather than an overpass. Subsequent discussion with a VicRoads engineer indicates that an underpass in rocky terrain especially, would be significantly more expensive.
- b. Dr Marina Keskevich mentioned the lack of a sign at the Calder Freeway to Vineyard road exit to C706, the previous one having been damaged and removed some time ago. This will be raised with VicRoads.

**13. Meeting close:** The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

**14. Next meeting:** 7.30 pm on Thursday 17th June 2010

I T Sutherland  
Acting Secretary CAG Inc.

R S Mowatt  
President CAG Inc.y