

NEWS

Calder safety boost

CENTRAL Victorians travelling to and from Melbourne will begin to see an improvement in safety on the Calder Freeway from 2010.

The first stage of safety and access improvements along the Calder Freeway between Keilor and Diggers Rest has entered a consultation period.

Construction is slated to begin next year.

By RICHARD WILLINGHAM

Stage 1, the Calder Freeway-Kings Road intersection, near the Calder Park Thunderdome, will see a massive overhaul including a flyover to improve safety.

Two other flyovers are also in the pipeline and once completed the freeway will have a third lane and the speed limit restored to 100kmh.

VicRoads project director John

Moylan said it was part of a wider upgrade of the Kings Road.

"The Australian and Victorian governments have allocated up to \$67 million for this project as part of the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan and the Victorian Transport Plan," he said.

"This upgrade will make it easier for drivers travelling from Melbourne to Bendigo, with less congestion and improved safety."

Construction on the Kings Road

upgrade will begin late next year, and expected to be finished by mid-2012.

Calder Action Group president Russell Mowatt has been commuting on the road for decade and says the northbound section between Sunshine Avenue and Calder Park Drive is very dangerous.

"It has been a difficult process, but it fantastic that the Kings Road intersection is getting an

upgrade — it will remove the bottlenecks and improve safety, which is paramount," he said.

Calder Action Group, Brimbank Council and the Calder Highway Improvement Committee had unanimously agreed that the next major development should be an upgrade of the Calder Park Drive intersection, Mr Mowatt said.

The first public consultation meeting is at 4pm tomorrow at Overnewton Anglican Community College in Taylors Lakes.