

# Call for overpass to ease road squeeze

BY CHARLOTTE CULLUM JENKINS

SUNBURY resident Ian Sutherland has stepped up a campaign to secure funding for an overpass at Calder Park Drive at Taylors Lakes.

"The Calder Action Group is advocating for further action at the Keilor section of the Calder Freeway," Mr Sutherland, secretary of the group, said.

"There's a lot of pressure regarding roads around the Macedon electorate but we need it here, too.

"We want to press both [major political] parties to say we need a commitment and forward planning so when planning money comes up in 2015 the government can allocate it."

Mr Sutherland said it would cost \$60 million to build the overpass.

Since 2005 the group has been highlighting the "deficiencies" of the Calder Highway in the region.

Works on the Kings Road interchange, linking the Calder to Watergardens shopping centre and newer neighbourhoods in the area by an overpass

and new dual-lane road, are due to begin later this year.

But there are safety concerns over the five-kilometre section of the highway with two intersections across the highway and speed limits at 80 km/h.

"The Calder threat is very real to a great many people in Sunbury," Mr Sutherland said.

"We travel often in the evening and it's traumatic to see the full stream of traffic out of Melbourne on a Friday night and a collection of up to 10 cars waiting to cross [the Calder]. I've been in that situation and I feel the hairs on my neck rising as I approach these waiting cars."

He said the federal government funding under the nation building program for major roads would be available in 2015.

"The state government has to date only listed further safety improvements to this section of the Calder among some 30 other main projects and no firm commitment exists.

"We understand any commitment will depend on an appreciation of the urgency of this work among the priorities for all these other projects."