

## Calder Freeway-Kings Road interchange opens early

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

### [From the Minister for Roads](#)

The Calder Freeway is safer with the official opening of the new Kings Road Interchange nearly five months ahead of schedule.

Member for Calwell Maria Vamvakinou, representing the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Anthony Albanese, joined Victorian Minister for Roads Terry Mulder to cut the ribbon on this jointly funded \$62 million project.

Ms Vamvakinou said the much-needed upgrade now provided far safer driving conditions for Calder Freeway drivers and for people living and working at Taylors Lakes.

"The Gillard Labor Government provided \$25 million from the Nation Building Program towards the construction of the new 'full-diamond' interchange at the Kings Road and Calder Freeway intersection in Taylors Lakes," Ms Vamvakinou said.

"Between 2004 and 2009 this section of the road has had a high number of vehicle accidents, with 39 recorded including 15 serious crashes and one fatality, figures that are simply far too high, and warranted action.

"This new interchange, and other planned Calder Freeway improvements between Keilor and Diggers Rest, will provide more efficient and safer journeys between Melbourne and Bendigo, and beyond.

"The opening of the Kings Road interchange today has allowed the nearby Robertsons Road intersection on the Calder Freeway to be permanently closed, providing safer and more direct local access from Kings Road.

"This eliminates a potential freeway hazard with local traffic no longer needing to slow to exit or merge at this freeway intersection.

"In an added boost for the local community around 600 people were employed during construction of the interchange, delivering a boost to the region's economy," Ms Vamvakinou said.

Mr Mulder said the early completion of this interchange was welcome news for commuters and for businesses depending on safe and reliable travel via the Calder Freeway, including regional tourist operators, the road freight industry and its customers.

"Each day, more than 38,000 vehicles including 4,000 trucks use this section of the Calder Freeway and traffic is predicted to double in the next ten years with expected residential growth in Melbourne's north-west," Mr Mulder said.

"The new interchange will consist of an overpass over Calder Freeway, including off and on ramps in both directions, which will improve the safety and traffic flow of vehicles travelling along, as well as moving on and off, the Calder Freeway from Kings Road."

As part of a \$12 million package of additional works funded by the State Government and delivered as part of this project, Kings Road has been upgraded and extended as a four-lane divided road through to the freeway.

"The Kings Road upgrade is the first stage of planned safety and access improvements along the Calder Freeway between Keilor and Diggers Rest," Mr Mulder said.

"Through cost savings we have been able to reallocate funding to nearby safety improvements including the upgrade of the Sunshine Avenue and Calder Freeway intersection, and the extension of an access road to link Highland Road and Oakbank Road to the Kings Road interchange."