

NEWS

# Overpass urgent, says CAG

The Calder Action Group has approached the Minister for Transport, Terry Mulder, for the first time since his appointment under the Coalition Government, requesting support for a Calder Park Drive overpass.

The group is continuing to seek state and federal support for the overpass as part of its work over the past five years to improve the road's safety.

"We believe that unless both federal and state governments make a firm commitment to the eventual building of the Calder Park Drive Overpass, it will remain in limbo as the safety environment around it deteriorates progressively as the areas population expands," Calder Action Group president, Russell Mowatt wrote to the minister.

Calder Park Drive has been identified as one the most urgent projects for the Taylors Lakes

section of the Calder Freeway.

"By giving strong budgetary support for this Calder Park Drive overpass project in the forthcoming financial considerations, you will ... give our community some hope that this seriously hazardous road section will finally be complete and brought up to the requisite safety and effectiveness standard," Mr Mowatt said in a letter to the minister.

"The north-west of Victoria deserves your strong support of this project and we look forward to its inclusion in funding for next year."

The group was successful in getting the Kings Road Interchange construction underway last year. The interchange will link the Calder to Watergardens Shopping Centre area and new estates with an overpass.

Two other intersections and

action on 80-kilometre speed limits are now the group's focus.

"The speed limit is one of the major public concerns, leading as it does to infringement, road rage and increased accident potential," a Calder Action Group statement says.

"The accident rate has not been reduced much by a number of VicRoads minor restrictions and remedial measures.

"Population growth in this fast growing area will make the situation progressively worse."

Mr Mowatt says the State Government needs to make a commitment to the Calder Park Interchange before federal funding availability in 2015. He said a commitment will ensure preparations can begin including preliminary environmental, historical and other clearances, as well as land acquisition.

## What you missed ...

If you missed your copy of the *Macedon Ranges Guardian* and *Castlemaine Mail* last Friday, pick one up from our offices or your local newsagent for these and other important local stories.



- The power of your plate, page 1 - Rescued farm animal sanctuary, Edgar's Mission discussed the environmental impact of our food choices at the second annual Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival in Woodend.

- Keeping children safe, page 3 - A new kindergarten providing a safe place for Cambodian babies and toddlers needs funding to ensure its future. The recently completed kinder, built by Woodend-based charity Cambodian Kids Foundation, is already changing the lives of families living in Cambodia's Soksam Village.

- Coliban's \$300,000 storm damage bill, page 5



- Coliban Water's Main Channel, which supplies water from catchment storages near Malmsbury through to Sandhurst Reservoir in Bendigo, is back in operation following recent storm damage.

- Brazen theft, page 1- A terrified woman fled to the rear of the Newstead General Store after she was confronted by a knife wielding bandit last week.

- Police search for driver, Page 3 - Castlemaine Police want to interview a man in his 60s who offered a 10-year-old boy a lift in Harcourt on February 9. The man was driving a dark silver Falcon sedan.

- Pet registration fees up, Page 3 - Pet registration fees will rise in Mount Alexander Shire after council increased the fees at its February meeting.

- Airedales' living treasure - Olive Penno, Page 11 - as the Castlemaine VIEW Club prepares to celebrate the centenary of International Women's Day, the *Mail* spoke to the first of three women who are making a difference in the local community.

### Traffic interrupted

A gas leak in Hamilton Street, Gisborne, caused minor disruption to traffic last Wednesday.

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