Michel Masson  
CEO  
Infrastructure Victoria  
Level 34, 121 Exhibition Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Michel

Priorities for Funding Improvement Works along the Calder Highway

The Calder Highway Improvement Committee has been in existence for many years and is comprised of three community representatives and representatives from each of the municipalities along the Calder Highway between Melbourne and Mildura. These Councils include:

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Shire of Buloke
- City of Hume
- Shire of Loddon
- Shire of Macedon Ranges
- City of Melton
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Shire of Mount Alexander
- City of Brimbank

The Charter of the Calder Highway Committee is to ensure that both State and Federal Governments are aware of the importance of upgrading the Calder Highway, and are aware of the influence the Calder Highway has on this corridor, and in particular the regional centres of Bendigo and Mildura. The Calder, being the prime transport link for both regional centres, is critical in terms of the ongoing economic and social development of the North Central and Northern Regions of Victoria.

The Calder Highway corridor has several roles:

- It supports the agricultural sector which generates nationally significant levels of produce.
- It supports a major food processing sector which generates food for export and internal consumption.
- Supports manufacturing industries.
- Provides the vital link between rural towns and communities and to the major centres of Melbourne and Bendigo.
- It is a major tourism route.

The Committee last year adopted the Vision and priorities for improvements along the Calder Highway (Copy attached).
At its last meeting the Committee resolved: “Write to Infrastructure Victoria reaffirming Calder Park Drive Interchange as the Committee’s Number One priority.”

The reasons for this priority are:

- The Committee is concerned by the poor safety record. There were 24 casualty crashes at the Calder Park Drive from 1987 to 2015 including 1 fatal and 9 serious injury crashes. Although various intersection and traffic control modifications over the years have improved safety, which includes an 80 km/hr speed limit on the western side of the highway, there were still 7 casualty accidents including 4 serious injury crashes in 5 year period 2011 to 2015. Construction of the interchange will greatly improve safety, remove the 80 km/hr speed limit and upgrade the Highway to freeway status north of the Kings Road interchange.

- The potential for accidents is increasing as the district is in an urban growth area which results in increasing traffic volumes on connecting roads to the Highway. In 2015 the traffic volume along the Highway was 48,000 vehicles per day while there were 10,000 vehicles per day on Calder Park Drive in 2012.

- Calder Park Drive will become an important arterial road in the future. (Palmer Road Corridor Project). This road will link the Western Highway, Princes Freeway and Calder Highway. Construction of the interchange will support this.

- The Community has expressed major concerns about the highway. Their feelings have been expressed through newspapers, letters and petitions.

- In conclusion this section of Highway / freeway which services a third of the State has a poor engineering standard and safety record compared to the adjoining freeway sections. Combined with the 80km/hr speed limit the community must feel frustrated and disappointed with both the State and Federal Governments resolve to upgrade this section of Highway.

The Committee requests you consider this and other Vision projects in your assessment of Victoria’s infrastructure needs.

Yours Sincerely

Cr David Pollard
Chairman

FOR INFORMATION
Mr Ben Carroll MP
Mr Josh Bull MP
Ms Maree Edwards MP
Ms Jaclyn Symes MLC
Mr Khalil Eideh MP
Mr Peter Crisp MP
Ms Colleen Hartland MLC
Mr Bernard Finn MP
Hon Wendy Lovell MP

Ms Natalie Hutchins MP
Ms Louise Staley MP
Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Mr Damian Drum MLC
Mr Daniel Young MLC
Hon Steve Herbert MLA
Ms Rachel Carling-Jenkins MLC
Mr Cesar Melhem MP
Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Calder Highway Improvement Committee

Vision

Who are we?
The Committee exists to provide the vision and commitment to drive significant improvements in the safety and operation of the Calder Highway by securing total funding commitments from Mildura to Melbourne.

Mission
We will work together to identify the long-term strategies that will allow the building and upgrading of infrastructure to improve the performance of the highway for all road users.

We advocate for an ongoing program of works and capital improvements along the length of the highway supported by long-term investment strategies to ensure improvements and benefits can be delivered to the community.

Current priorities
To properly and safely connect Melbourne with Mildura and North West Victoria generally, through to NSW and South Australia.

1. Interchange at Calder Park Drive, Taylors Lake.
2. Benetook Avenue heavy vehicle bypass, Mildura.
3. Additional traffic lanes - Melton Hwy to Keilor Park Drive, Keilor.
4. Duplication, Irymple to Red Cliffs, Sunny Cliffs.
5. Interchange at Fogarty’s Gap Road, Ravenswood South.
6. Interchange at Sunshine Avenue, Keilor.
7. Facilitate improved commercial links by constructing additional lanes in the region north and south of Ouyen.
8. Recognition of the need, planning and design for a new section of freeway from Ravenswood to Bridgewater to bypass Lockwood South and Marong.