

The Economy and Infrastructure Committee
Parliament of Victoria

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Avenel Action Group we would like to make a submission and raise again the dangerous situation that exists at the Avenel Roadhouse interchange on the Hume Freeway.

This interchange has become increasingly more dangerous in light of the following developments.

1. Avenel's rapidly increasing population (1000+ and growing)- highest growth rate in Strathbogie shire and one of highest in Australia.
2. Increased traffic entering and leaving the freeway at both Fowles winery/restaurant South of Avenel and the Caltex roadhouse at Jones St intersection with Hume Freeway (30,000+ vehicles from Fowles winery restaurant per annum alone.)
3. Greater traffic volumes using Tarcombe Road to enter and cross the freeway as a result of developing industry (wine, cherry, poultry and explosives) as well as an increasing number of residents living on Upton and Tarcombe roads running the gauntlet to get kids to School and Kindergarten on a daily basis.
4. School Buses run the gauntlet twice a day taking students North and returning later in the day. Parents living on Upton/Tarcombe roads having to bring students into Avenel to catch buses also have to run this gauntlet twice daily.
5. For Avenel residents wanting to enter the freeway on public holidays and long weekends it is becoming increasingly more difficult with flows emanating from Melbourne heading North, or South at the end of such holidays.

The "U" turn for South bound traffic leaving Avenel at the roadhouse is increasingly becoming more dangerous with a significant increase in traffic volumes. We understand that the "U" Turn treatment was as a result of 2007 traffic figures using the intersection. (Thirteen Years ago, which are by now well out of date)

- We request that a new traffic count be conducted to get up to date figures from which to make an informed decision re the future of this intersection before a major accident prompts action.
- This intersection would not be allowed in Vic Road's own build design specification for current and future freeway development which demand traffic separation.
- At the very least we want a review to get an 80kph speed restriction zone from south of Fowles Winery (Lambing Gully Road) to North of Jones St entry to the freeway (Caltex Service Centre) to lessen the likelihood of an accident occurring and making life safer and less stressful for Avenel residents who use this intersection.

Your sincerely

Jeff Moran
President
Avenel Action Group

John Hyland
Secretary

