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Letter to the Editor

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Nigretta Road intersection safety upgrade

For many years, motorists turning at the Nigretta Road-Glenelg Highway intersection, five kilometres west of Hamilton, have called for the installation of turning lanes to improve safety.

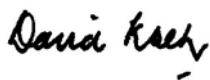
The intersection has at long last been allocated \$40,000 to improve safety for right turning vehicles from the Glenelg Highway into Nigretta Road as part of the Greyspot program funded by the Transport Accident Commission.

Despite S.R.D. Hall's assertion in the Hamilton Spectator (9/2/2008), that credit for the upgrade was due to others, I can assure readers both the Member for Lowan, Hugh Delahunty, and I have called for improvements to this dangerous intersection on numerous occasions. Most recently, I raised this matter in Parliament on 21 November 2007 and wrote to the Minister for Roads, the Hon Tim Pallas MP, again asking him to urge VicRoads lift the priority of installing turning lanes at the intersection before a fatality occurs.

I received a response from the Minister this week advising that VicRoads will commence works in early 2008. I have since been in contact with VicRoads and am told that the works will be undertaken as part of a larger upgrade to be completed over the next couple of months.

If Labor is working for "the local people" as Mr Hall claims, why has it taken almost three years since VicRoads advised that a proposal was being prepared to install a turning lane at this intersection? Obviously, Mr Hall is quite happy to run second to our metropolitan cousins and a city-centric government.

Yours sincerely



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