

GET MOTORVATED

It's state election time in Victoria, so let your local polly know you want a dragstrip!



WITH the announcement that the Victorian government has signed an agreement with Bob Jane to support a revival of the Calder Park facilities, many drag racers in the state are asking if Motorvate Melbourne still has a chance of delivering a \$38million standalone track.

However, with the election looming, ANDRA CEO Tony Thornton says: "The Motorvate Melbourne project will be an election issue. Our team has a number of strategies in place to reinforce the sport's position."

The election will be held on Saturday, 27 November, which leaves almost eight weeks (at time of writing) for Motorvate Melbourne to put pressure on the incumbent Labor government for a solution to the state's drag racing problem.

"As recently as last week, ANDRA has been in discussions with the Victorian government at the highest levels," Mr Thornton added, although he did concede that there were alternative solutions being offered.

The news that the government is talking with Calder Park brought mixed responses from Victorian racers. While some don't care what

the solution is as long as racing returns, others are reluctant to align with Bob Jane again, after a 10-year hiatus in top-level racing in the state, along with the fact that having homes only 500m from Calder means that the venue's ability to host Top Fuel in the long term is questionable.

However, some racers seem equally disappointed by the lack of information provided by ANDRA and the Motorvate Melbourne team.

"Since the Motorvate Melbourne event in February, work has continued at all levels," Mr Thornton said. "However, this project requires that the majority of the work is done behind closed doors to ensure the best outcome is achieved for ANDRA Drag Racing."

"The priority of the ANDRA team is to deliver a world class drag racing venue to Melbourne, comparable with what the state governments in Western Australian and New South Wales consider ANDRA drag racing is worthy of. Any options offered by the Victorian government must provide those levels of opportunity. Even an organisation as successful as the AFL is not expected to deliver its own venues."

FIND your incumbent MP at www.parliament.vic.gov.au, and candidates via party websites.

STORY SCOTT TAYLOR PHOTOS PETER COLBURN

