

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 493

Petition Sponsored by: Mrs Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MP

Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Tabled on: 3 October 2023

Petition Grievance: The Petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council the number of potholes and dangerous conditions of northeast Victorian roads. These dangerous conditions are causing serious damage to vehicles, creating hazards for locals who use the roads daily to commute to and from work and deterring tourists from visiting the area.

The relevant departments and government agencies need to investigate and rectify issues, including but not limited to, on the Murray Valley Highway at Huon, the Kiewa Valley Highway at Kiewa, the Murray River Road at Talgarno, Lockharts Gap Road at Tallandoon and the Omeo Highway in the Mitta Valley.

Petition Action: The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to investigate and rectify the potholes and the dangerous conditions of northeast Victorian roads.

Reply:

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) crews have been working incredibly hard over the past year, delivering huge improvements and urgent repairs to keep Victorians moving. This includes patching and pothole filling that will keep our roads drivable and safe for passenger and freight transport. DTP crews have also achieved significant milestones in the past year: patching thousands of potholes, clearing hundreds of thousands of tonnes of snow from alpine roads, repairing or replacing more than 20,000 signs and preparing for the upcoming summer with tens of thousands of kilometres of roadside grass being mowed, slashed and sprayed.

Keeping people safe is at the forefront of everything the Allan Labor Government does on our roads. The Government is investing an additional \$2.8 billion over 10 years into road maintenance and renewal works, including flood recovery. This will see a total of at least \$6.6 billion invested in maintaining our road network over the next decade. This new multi-year funding approach means DTP can plan a long-term road maintenance program and deliver works in a strategic manner across the state. It will also allow DTP to take a more efficient and sustainable approach to road maintenance over the next decade.

Not only is the Government investing record amounts in road maintenance – a total of \$770 million will be delivered to maintain Victoria's road network in 2023-2024 – but we are changing how we deliver our maintenance contracts to provide better value for money, with less disruption while we get on with works and better quality road maintenance where it is most needed. Our commitment to road maintenance is also creating more than 360 local jobs across regional Victoria.

Our initial focus this year remains repairing roads that were damaged as a result of last year's devastating weather events, including patching, pothole filling and more time-critical maintenance that will make the roads drivable and safe for passenger and freight transport. Over the 10-year guaranteed funding period, we will future-proof our roads, building resilience and ensuring Victoria's roads are safe and sustainable for many years to come.

Since 1 July 2023, our crews have repaired over 350 potholes along the listed roads within this petition and continue to carry out regular inspections in accordance with the Road Management Plan.

DTP manages the arterial road network in accordance with its Road Management Plan. This includes regular inspections to identify any potential hazards and to appropriately maintain the road network to ensure it remains safe. The community can find more information about the plan online at vicroads.vic.gov.au/about-vicroads/acts-and-regulations/road-management-plan.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Horne', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Minister for Ports and Freight