

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition Number: 747
Petition Sponsored by: Mrs Ann-Marie Hermans, Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Tabled on: 29 July 2026

Petition Grievance:

The petition of certain citizens of the State of Victoria draws to the attention of the Legislative Council that a 16-year-old boy was fatally struck by a vehicle while returning from school walking along the unpaved footpath on Pound Road in Narre Warren South. This footpath runs immediately adjacent to high-speed traffic without protective safety barriers. There have been ongoing community concerns regarding pedestrian safety along vulnerable sections of Pound Road, particularly for children travelling to and from school.

Petition Action:

The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council call on the Government to install appropriate safety barriers along Pound Road particularly in the vulnerable sections, relocate the footpath further away from the roadway, reduce the speed limit to 60 km/h in this predominantly residential area, undertake a comprehensive road safety review of Pound Road to prevent further tragedies, and consider updating the relevant legislation or regulations to require footpaths to be a minimum of a metre from high traffic roads.

Reply:

I wish to express my deepest condolences to all those affected by the tragic loss of Chris Antony. My thoughts are especially with Chris's family during this incredibly difficult time.

Following all loss-of-life incidents on state-managed roads, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) works with its transport and road safety partners, including Victoria Police, to understand the circumstances surrounding the incident. This helps to determine causes and factors that contributed to the incident and identify road and transport measures that improve safety at the site.

I am advised that DTP has completed its assessment of the speed limit on Pound Road in accordance with its Speed Zoning Policy. The review recommended reducing the current 70 km/h limit to 60 km/h. DTP will prioritise implementing the speed change in the coming works program.

DTP will also continue to work with its road safety partners to identify other opportunities to implement safety improvements at this location.



The Hon. Paul Hamer MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety