

To whom it may concern.

I am really concerned about the rising road toll. My family and I have suffered first hand with the experience of road trauma on our family. My brother was killed in a car accident in 1997 on a Victorian road and the effects of road trauma are long lasting.

What is increasingly concerning me is the condition of roads in Victoria. On the Bellarine Peninsula roads are in very poor condition, a good example of a road not up to standard is Murradoc Road on the way to St Leonards. The road has rippled and the bitumen has created hazardous driving conditions for motorists, however if a motorcyclist hits the raised asphalt the results will be even more catastrophic. In the past I have raised my concerns with Luke Donnellan who was the previous Minister for Road and Road Safety in the first Andrews Ministry between 2014-2018 and I did not receive any response. I have also contacted VicRoads about the condition of this road and roads in the City of Wyndham that are the responsibility of VicRoads and I receive a reference number, however no other communication is provided. I recently contacted VicRoads about the condition of a road in Wyndham and received a reference number ETS501665141 and a commitment that a VicRoads customer service operator would contact me within the next 7 business days. To date I have not received a response and this lack of follow up and communication from a State Government Department is not good enough. Many people in Victoria are proactive in trying to help keep Victorian roads safe and we need VicRoads to lift their performance. It is simply not good enough when VicRoads do not do what they are meant to be doing and show little respect for road users who contact them about road issues and then do not even bother to communicate in return. VicRoads need to use their most powerful asset to help keep roads safe for all users, the people of Victoria. Please respect your customers and work with them to reduce road trauma in Victoria.

Another major concern for me is the number of people who text and drive. I commute daily on the Princes Highway between Wyndham and Geelong and it is not unusual to see people texting and driving at 100km. Penalties need to be more severe for anyone caught texting and driving.

Thank you for considering my submission

Rhonda Rathjen

