



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Interim report on VicRoads' management of country roads

The Victorian Parliament's Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee has today tabled an interim report into VicRoads' management of country roads.

The interim report outlines some of the key themes that emerged from the 335 submissions that were received by the Committee from a range of stakeholders across Victoria.

With the current Parliament concluding soon for the State election, the Committee said there was insufficient time remaining to hold public hearings. The Committee has recommended that the inquiry be referred to an appropriate committee in the next Parliament for full investigation.

"There were a range of diverse views on each terms of reference, making it difficult to identify any clear consensus on reform steps or actions to rectify identified issues," said Committee Chair Geoff Howard. "There were, however, some broad themes outlined in submissions."

"All submissions to some extent discussed the poor quality of roads within regional and rural settings, highlighting particular roads or areas that have deteriorated over a period of time," Mr Howard said.

"In recent times, however, VicRoads has implemented various policy initiatives and program changes in response to ongoing issues with its state-wide maintenance program. VicRoads' five year engagement strategy, released in 2016, has also resulted in enhanced community consultation efforts across the State, including in regional areas."

The extent and effectiveness of VicRoads' consultation efforts featured heavily in many submissions. There was support for communities to be involved as early as possible in developing projects within their areas and VicRoads providing detailed information about implementation.

A large number of submissions discussed the feasibility of a specific country roads body separate to a metropolitan roads body. The Committee noted that the announcement of the new Regional Roads Victoria division in VicRoads is an important development, signifying a structural change within VicRoads to place greater emphasis on country roads as part of its overall approach.

The interim report is available from the Committee's [website](#).

Media queries

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