VicRoads under Fire

Replace VicRoads with a Council run System.

Just take a look at the condition of our State Roads, everyone would agree there is a maintenance problem.

Our politicians when in Government attempt to fix the problem by throwing more money at it. When in opposition, they slam and ridicule the Government of the day mainly to score political points. When political parties are campaigning for election, they place fixing our roads at the top of their list, however when elected they all fail their election promise and our roads fall further into disrepair.

Do our Politicians assess the problem? Do our Politicians understand where the problem is?

We pay road tax, fuel tax, registration and rates, however, it is not a funding problem.

It is a mismanagement problem. Most of the funding is eaten up before it gets to the road, with no one in control and no one accepting responsibility, with road failures occurring left, right and centre.

VicRoads mainly consist of Managers and Inspectors while practically all works are let to contracts while not managed or inspected.

VicRoads fail right across the board. VicRoads are past their use by date and need to be replaced with a Council Run System (as explained in the "Maintaining State Controlled Roadways" submission.)

If you doubt my words then please refer to the Auditor General's Report on VicRoads, or inspect State roads yourself.

Any duties that VicRoads presently attempt to perform, Council can do better, quicker, more efficiently and the real bonus is, all these Councils are already in place, with equipment and engineers, ready to maintain State Roads.

The big question, is there a political party prepared to fix our State Roads?

If they were interested in fixing our State Roads, they would support a Council Run System. But instead they are considering dismantling VicRoads and creating a Country Roads organisation and a Metropolitan Roads body. Why would you want two organisations to follow in VicRoads footsteps? It would only send jobs to Melbourne and create another bureaucracy, one for Metro and one for Country with funding going to administration and planning over delivery of road maintenance and reconstruction. We have to put forward a much better plan than that.

"Replace VicRoads with a Council Run System"

Wallace Hill
Member of Road Focus Advisory Committee