How to Fix the Worst Roads In Victoria.

There are two major problems which delay correct maintenance on our state roads. First and foremost our politicians cannot be relied upon to organise our roads to be fixed. Secondly we have VicRoads who are supposed to be responsible for State Roads, yet they fail right across the board, irrelevant of which political party is in power.

The south west of Victoria has been considered a safe Liberal seat for ever and a day, while we have the worst roads in the State, despite the fact, from this electorate we have had a State Premier and a Federal Prime Minister, while our roads continued to fall further into disrepair. All politicians when campaigning have a clever way of convincing the public that when elected, they will fix our roads, however their main objective is to score votes and when elected they fail their election promise. When questioned, they say it is a funding issue, while they increase there own salary. Our present Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Luke Donnellan is spending millions erecting "safety barriers" to" kill you", if you bounce off the rough roads with a damaged rim and flat tyre. Fixing our roads is used as a political football, a method of gaining power and when in opposition, a method of slamming and ridiculing the government of the day to score political points. Do our politicians understand where the problem is? Do our politicians assess the problem? The big question, is there a political party prepared to fix our roads? Is there a political party prepared to accept help and advice?

Submissions to the Inquiry into VicRoads have now closed, while the outcome was probably decided upon before the inquiry opened, "Remove VicRoads and form two bodies, one Metro and one Country," which will require more managers and inspectors, creating more bureaucracy than ever before, without solving any of the real problems that exist at the moment. In fact it will mean less funding for country roads.

However we must put forward a better alternative. There is a much better way to fix our roads than the present legislation employing VicRoads. If you doubt my words, then please refer to the recent Auditor General's Report. (June 2017) into VicRoads. Throw as much money as you have at VicRoads and all you will get is more of the same, roads failing left right and centre. VicRoads mainly consist of Managers and Inspectors while practically all works are let to contracts while not being managed or inspected. VicRoads are past their use by date and need to be replaced with a Council run System as explained in the submission to the Inquiry into VicRoads under "Maintaining State-Controlled Roadways by a Council Run System."

This system will solve twenty three VicRoad problems highlighted in the Auditor General's Report. This system also provides seventeen advantages over VicRoads, plus extra bonuses including the fact that all these Councils are in place with access to equipment and engineers, ready to maintain State Roads.

The big plus is, when this system is initiated, adequate and fair funding would be ongoing irrelevant of which political party is in power, eliminating the "political football game" and enabling council's to budget on a set figure of funding per kilometre of state road. After all, who is experienced in road maintenance, our politicians or our shire and city councils?

This is not a short term fix and this is not a short term campaign. First of all, our politicians need to do a course in economics, then they might realise the importance of a Council Run System. If they were genuinely interested in having our road network correctly upgraded and maintained ,then they would Replace VicRoads with a Council Run System.

Wallace Hill.