January 3, 2018

The Executive Officer  
Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE Vic 3002

Inquiry into VicRoads’ management of country roads

Speaking as residents of the Southern Grampians Shire:

1. Do not agree that a council-run system would be an improvement to the status quo. Council is already floundering under the pressure of keeping the grass cut within the town boundaries and in satellite towns (just to name one task) - there’s no way this massive new responsibility could be given the attention required.

2. **VEGETATION ON ROADSIDE**

One issue of current concern is the long grass along our main (smaller) highways in this district - example Hamilton-Coleraine Highway. A real fire hazard, yet nothing has been attempted to reduce summer fire risk. The policy seems to be to burn off in Autumn!!

Regards road safety, a motorist cannot safely pull off the road in an emergency or dangerous traffic situation, e.g. heavy vehicles travelling close at high speed. Problem exacerbated at night, when wandering wildlife enters the mix.

3. **POOR MAINTENANCE**

We have lived in this area over 25 years, and in that time the roads have substantially deteriorated to a patchwork mess while VicRoads choose to direct their priorities elsewhere. The Winter season presents a whole new set of challenges when water over the road conceals unknown hazards and crumbling road surfaces.

4. **SUMMARY**

The time is right for a fair deal in country Victoria - a designated Authority to oversee existing roads to achieve acceptable safety standards and maintain those standards, and further to plan efficiently and effectively for future development.