Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

Mr Paul Deakin

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Over the last three to four years I have travelled between 1000km and 2000km per week in various types of car and on various motorcycles. This travel has been within an area from Footscray, Hopetoun, Portland and Geelong and includes dozens of roads both major and minor. Sadly, without exception every one of these roads suffers from a total absence or lack of maintenance.

Excessive wear on both the vehicles I have been driving and on the myriad vehicles I have encountered is expensive and unavoidable. Far worse than mere property damage is the severe risk to lives and safety from the massive potholes, ragged edges, centimetres-high bumps where road surfaces change, large areas of loose gravel left by road maintenance crews on bends with no warnings and “knobs” of bitumen sticking out of road surfaces.

I have endured hundreds of situations where cars I have been driving or approaching have been knocked off a safe line by the hazards caused by a lack of proper care by the authorities responsible. The placement of cautionary signs does not, in my opinion mitigate the duty of care to road users.

The thousands of kilometres that I travel by motorcycle have become a matter of survival due to the life-threatening hazards left unattended by Vicroads and local authorities.

To then be confronted by wire rope barriers placed in locations against Vicroads own advice is unfathomable. Their proximity to the edge of the road, their placement in areas of open ground make evasive action by myself or other vehicles, life-threatening in itself.

I travel interstate regularly and I am embarrassed to say that we have the poorest roads in Australia. Major highways and minor highways share the same appalling lack of maintenance. Our roads are an embarrassment and interstate travellers who I meet are quite scathing in their criticisms.

Shame Vicroads, shame.
I extend an open offer to anyone, to ride on the back of one of my motorcycles with me on any road, major or minor and evaluate whether I am providing an accurate description of the risks involved in driving or riding in this otherwise great state.

Paul Deakin

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File1:
File2:
File3: