8 January 2018

The Executive Officer,
Law Reform, Road & Community Safety
Committee, Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne 3002.

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Parliamentary Inquiry into VicRoads Management of Country Roads**

I am a resident of Echuca & desire to make comment to the Parliamentary Inquiry into VicRoads management of country roads. I confess to not completely understanding the funding for country roads, but I believe that VicRoads are responsible for major roads & the relevant Shire (in this case Shire of Campaspe) has responsibility for the minor roads within the Shire. One of the worst sections of road in the Shire of Campaspe is between the turn off from the Murray Valley Highway at Wyuna to the Shire boundary with Shepparton – VicRoads responsibility I believe as it is a major link between Echuca & Shepparton. There are numerous potholes with warning signs which have been there for months There are several other bad road surfaces which I believe are VicRoads responsibility but very little is being done to alleviate the problems, which is a typical State Government response to problems north of the great divide. These are safety issues & the condition of our roads are one of the major causes of rural accidents. A full page advertisement by VicRoads, the TAC & the State Government in the Riverine Herald on December 27, 2017,(along with several other Rural newspapers), states, “the Wire Rope Safety Barriers can reduce fatals & serious injuries in run-off road crashes by up to 85%).I am sure a motorcyclist would disagree with that comment. In my view, they are expensive to construct & an absolute waste of money which is typical of the Victorian Government. The money expended on constructing the barriers & publishing the advertisement would have been better spent repairing the road surfaces, & who came up with the figure of 85%? Trees close to the road edges should be removed, rather than erecting wire barriers, but that might upset the Greens!!! VicRoads & the State Government should concentrate on road surfaces, not the expense of rope safety barriers. I have travelled extensively up the eastern side of Australia & I firmly believe Victoria has the worst roads by far.

Yours Sincerely

Lal Whyte