My husband and I have often discussed the effectiveness of VicRoads management of roads around south western Victoria!

Living in the Moyne Shire we feel like second class citizens, we see millions and millions of dollars being spent on road infrastructure in and around Melbourne and very little being done to improve country road.

We see wire crash barriers being erected along roads as we drive closer to Melbourne whilst we, in country areas, drive on roads which are constantly falling apart. VicRoads funding should be spent on making good roads for the whole of Victoria and then if there is a surplus, construct the fencing!

After rain in south west Victoria, there are often huge sheets of water laying in the depressions (made by heavy vehicles on inferior bitumen) along many roads. The shoulders of the roads are rarely graded leaving the shoulders higher than the bitumen therefore it is difficult for water to run off. Water seeps under the bitumen making holes.

In the warmer weather the bitumen on many roads softens and peels off – again, making holes!

We wonder how often the Minister for Roads and Road Safety has travelled on country roads in south west Victoria, not just driven along the Princes Highway from Melbourne. Although, many parts of that road are also in poor condition.

The road from Heywood to Mortlake needs to be improved greatly in order for south west Victorian residents to have access to a quicker, safer, more direct way to drive to the state's capital without the need to go along the Princes Highway through large towns with many traffic lights.

We think that, if asked, most residents in south west Victoria would agree that VicRoads is having great difficulty managing both country and metropolitan roads. Maybe it is time for the State Government to separate VicRoads to create two new boards - Country Roads and Metropolitan Roads!

Or maybe in country areas the road funding could be given directly to the local Council concerned. More jobs for local people! Then the local Council cannot use the excuse that it is VicRoads responsibility – we will know that all road construction is the responsibility of the local Council. Maybe this would create savings and some of the smaller councils could increase their bitumen network and there would be less gravel roads – especially in many small country towns.

Yours Sincerely

Sharon and Noel Wohlers