Dear Sir,

Re: Parliamentary Enquiry into VicRoad’s Management of Country Roads

I wish to make a submission to the enquiry relating to the appalling condition of the roads in the South West Region of Victoria.

When the current state budget was announced $80 Million was allocated to fix the roads in this region. On the same day it was announced in the Herald Sun newspaper that $220 Million was to be allocated to repair ONE road in the Melbourne region and a further $280 Million to repair another road in Melbourne.

This is also on top of the Billions being spent on new freeways in and around Melbourne.

I respectively submit to the inquiry that the $80 million allocated is a band aid approach that is unworkable. The Roads are patched up and last a matter of weeks before they breakup and are worse than before.

It is only a matter of time before there is a major accident on our roads and a number of fatalities occur due to condition of the roads.

The Governments answer is to reduce the speed limits which is again a Band-Aid approach and indicates that the minister is out of touch with the needs of country people. Travelling from this region means several hours in the car and reduced speed limits would increase fatigue and frustration for drivers.

Public transport is also very limited and requires about a six-hour bus and train trip to reach Melbourne.

I respectively suggest to the inquiry that instead of pouring large amounts of our tax payer funds into the Melbourne Road network that more funds are allocated to properly construct country roads which are currently third world standard. This also requires research into proper drainage as well as adequate foundation of the roads as standing water is a major contributor to road degradation.

I would be happy to be called to give evidence to the inquiry if called upon as I consider myself well versed in this subject as I travel at least 75/80,000 Kilometres per year on our local roads.

Yours Sincerely

BRUCE FROST, PORTLAND