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

COUNTRY ROADS MANAGEMENT INQUIRY

We are making a submission because we have seen an example of waste of money by VicRoads to construct unnecessary numerous kerbside barriers along regional roads in our area this year.

I, Janice Crosswhite, attended the VicRoads public consultation meeting in 2016 at Kangaroo Ground. The local residents were united in giving feedback that roadside barriers were not required as we considered the roads safe and the area of considerable landscape significance. If barriers were to be installed we chose the wire type as less visibly intrusive. Concern was expressed about the danger to wildlife crossing our roads, particularly the kangaroo population. Accident figures were quoted which differed widely from local knowledge and experience.

Indeed, the one accident I knew of was a friend’s daughter texting while driving between Panton Hill and Hurstbridge on Cherrytree Road.

However, this year solid metal rail barriers have been constructed, despite community opposition and public demonstrations at the time of construction. Even some straight stretches of road have guard rails.

Not only has this work been a waste of public money but the barriers are detrimental to the natural amenity of the countryside. The unsightly road signs are unnecessarily large and have resulted in, what previously was a pleasant and beautiful country drive, into a plethora of large arrow signs and numerous glow in the dark posts. More upsetting is the sight of a dead kangaroo or a wombat against the guard rails.
This experience demonstrates that VicRoads has:

- A total disregard for public consultation
- Is not capable of effective management of public consultation and resultant decision making
- Is wasting public funds
- Is possibly in collusion with road construction and road supply companies

VicRoads needs to be more effective in establishing systems capable of getting better value for public money where repairs and improvements are needed.

Yours faithfully

Janice J Crosswhite OAM

Perry R Crosswhite AM

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