Mr Cameron Reid

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit my observations concerning the current status of road conditions throughout Victoria. I have ridden motorcycles on public roads for close to thirty years and have noticed a rapid decline in the quality of road repairs recently. I can only speculate on the process involved in appointing the appropriate repair to each circumstance, however I can definitely recognise the inappropriate and somewhat dangerous results left on our roads that somehow qualify as a fix. I feel as if the cheapest option is the only consideration taken when a road repair is needed. Safety is definitely a low priority, and motorcyclists needs are never considered. I can say this with authority, as the conditions encountered on recent country road rides have had me perplexed as to how a road-worker could leave a job site in such a dangerous condition, and class it as safe for motorcyclists?

Although motorcyclists are a relatively small percentage of all vehicles on the road, they need more attention spent on their welfare in order to reduce road trauma overall. Motorcyclists pay fees higher than most cars in order to use the roads, yet do very little if any damage to road surfaces. They also reduce congestion. Don't forget that most motorcyclists also have a car registered as well, this amounts to quite the insult when looking for value for money. We pay most, yet our safety isn't even considered where we need it. Where do we need it? Corners! It's pretty much that simple. Unlike vehicles with four or more wheels, it doesn't take much to take down a bike in a corner.

It seems obvious to me, but maybe you need to really think about operation of a motorcycle when applying a road repair? Recent trips through the alpine regions have
uncovered such examples where repairs clearly have been applied without thought of motorcycle safety. I remember a particular stretch of the Great Alpine Road, heading from Hotham Heights towards Harrietville. I think it was more in the second half of the above mentioned stretch where most of the overtly dangerous repairs were. It is a downhill section with tight corners, some of which have ribbons of a tar or rubber-like repair snaking all over the place. It would honestly be better if these 'repairs' were never applied. Riding over cracks in the tar is probably better than losing the front tyre over random height bumps of a slippery material. Cracks need to be filled, as do potholes however if the repair simply becomes a bump the same danger is still present. This particular section saw my front and rear tyres simultaneously lose grip in one corner. I was well aware of the dangerous conditions at this point, and was riding accordingly yet still I lost complete traction momentarily! I was not very happy at all. Upon meeting a fellow motorcyclist in the next town he stated the exact same had happened to himself. Please keep in mind that we are experienced riders and far too old to be playing boy racer, the roads are plainly unsafe. A road that I think was recently resurfaced (Eildon-Jamieson Rd) seems to have been done with the wrong type of asphalt? Now if the temperature is over 25 degrees the road starts to melt in various places, this is a disaster waiting to happen for many motorcyclists. I'm not sure who authorises these roadworks, but their duty of care is non-existent.

In summary, motorcyclists are in danger due to most road repair works in Victoria. More consideration is needed in this area.

Yours sincerely,

Cameron Reid.