Just an observation from a road user. Several years ago a decision was made to provide sealed shoulders on our Victorian roads which I thought at that time was one of the smartest ways to make our roads so much safer for not a huge cost and save on edge maintenance at the same time. There was a flurry of activity for a short time then it trickled to practically zero. Why? It seems to have been replaced by the horrendously expensive safety cable idea. Locally on the road between Rochester and Elmore cables have been placed but the shoulders were not sealed leaving the large drop which can throw unsuspecting cars off to be saved by the cables. I would think that doing the shoulders first would possibly eliminate the need for the cables. I sure that dollars per life saved would come out hugely in favour of shoulders. Do this first before cabling. Also with the new rule of giving a cyclist 1 metre clearance means I have to slow to the cyclist's speed if there is oncoming traffic (which is more often than not). This would not happen if the shoulders were sealed.

My other thought is long time that it takes for a dangerous hole in a road to be repaired. I've seen huge holes with 40k/hr signs take months to be patched then within a short time the patch blows out again so the method of patching seems to be inadequate.

Thanks for the chance to have my say,

Yours faithfully,

Ross Lees