SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Victorian State Government has stated that they have "doubled spending on road maintenance" to which I agree. My submission is to the quality and timeliness of that maintenance. The question I ask is "are we getting value for the monies spent?" and I believe the answer is "NO"

As a previous councillor and Mayor of Colac Otway Shire, I have had the honour and privilege to travel over most VicRoads managed roads from Portland to Ballarat to Melbourne at some stage over the last 10 years. I was also the Community Health Nurse at Cobden and travelled between Colac, Simpson, Camperdown and Cobden on a regular basis.

My observations is that maintenance is not so much lacking but if done correctly and in a timely manner would present better outcomes and value for money.

Case 1. Main St, Elliminyt, Colac, 3250. 2017
Pot holes occurring along Main St, particularly between Irrewillipi Rd intersection and Pound Rd. "Repaired" three times by contractors in a period of 8 weeks. Each time contractors filled the pothole with stone and bitumen but did not empty the pot holes of water before "repairs" made. No compaction of filling was done and within a short period the potholes had returned. Even to the untrained eye the entire road surface in this section of road is cracked and continues to break down with frequent potholes. If maintained correctly the road would cost less to maintain and last longer.

Case 2. Road edges.
In the past the edges of all roads were graded to allow water to drain from the surface of the roads therefore assisting to prevent water entering the substructure of the roads and helping to prevent damage. This is no longer carried out and with differing weather, particularly in the West of Victoria, this leads to road edge failure and increase for maintenance and increase in cost.

Case 3. Road slashing and clear line of sight at intersections
Today contractors are engaged to slash roadsides at certain times of the year but this does not take into account the changing grass and weed growing seasons and has lead to dangerous intersections which when reported, has to have a contractor attend the task and is not cost effective. The intersection of Simpson and Timboon Road is a prime example of which I had to report several times over the last 10 years.
Case 4. Local Government compared to Contractors
Pre Council amalgamations, Local Government was contracted to maintain local arterial roads which came under Victorian State Government control. This was a cost effective, timely and well managed program which local knowledge and local employees maintained the roads. Today contractors DO NOT provide cost effective maintenance because they do not use local knowledge and pardon me but "do not have give a damm" whether the road is repaired well or maintained properly.

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File1:

File2:

File3: