As a Victorian country road driver of 38 years, I submit the following addressing the terms of reference of the Law Reform and Community Safety Committee inquiry into VicRoads Management of Country Roads.

1. **The effectiveness of VicRoads managing country roads:**

I believe VicRoads are not managing country roads effectively, over the last 10-20 years I have seen a marked decline in the standard of road surfaces, there appears to me no co-ordinated ongoing maintenance plan such as routine resealing, for example on the South Gippsland Hwy from Cranbourne to Leongatha there are broken surfaces, pot holes and uneven surfaces along the whole route, VicRoads have placed temporary hazard signs on white posts almost every kilometre of the trip. When a damaged section if finally repaired, a contractor will repair only the section they are allocated, and simply drive over the dozens of other damaged sections to get to their one. I encourage the Law Reform and Community Safety Committee to make the trip from Cranbourne to Leongatha to see the condition of our highway firsthand.

2. **The existing funding model and its lack of effectiveness for country Victoria:**

As stated above, I don’t believe there is enough money being spent on the preventative maintenance of country Victorian roads, our road surfaces are appalling and very dangerous, I regularly see vehicles swerving to avoid pot holes. VicRoads have in my opinion recklessly spent large sums of money installing wire rope barriers along sections of highway which have surfaces that are broken, pot holed and uneven; I accept that wire rope barriers can have an effect on road safety however the highest priority should be safe well sealed highway surfaces, conversely, when I am travelling to Melbourne, as soon as I enter the Monash Freeway, or any other metropolitan road, I find them in pristine condition which says to me that the existing funding model is not effective for country Victoria.

3. **The lack of consultation with Regional communities and their subsequent lack of input into prioritising which roads are in dire need of repair:**

I do see from time to time VicRoads placing advertisements in local papers and on Facebook asking for input into certain roads in our area however I do not believe they listen or act on feedback received, in reading the Facebook comments for a recent VicRoads post for the Bass Highway, almost everyone commenting was saying to VicRoads, fix our road surfaces. For the record, in my opinion, all of our local VicRoads managed roads are in dire need of repair.

4. **The option of dismantling VicRoads and creating a specific Country Roads organisation and separate Metropolitan Roads body.**

I would welcome the option of dismantling VicRoads and creating a specific Country Roads organisation and separate Metropolitan Roads body, provided the Country Roads organisation was funded sufficiently to return our roads to an acceptable safe condition and be funded for ongoing regular co-ordinated ongoing maintenance, I am old enough to remember the Victoria Country Roads Board, under this organisation our roads were maintained to a high standard, surfaces were regularly re-sealed, there were crews that patrolled our highways daily repairing holes in the surfaces until a proper repair could be effected, this is what we need now.