Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

Mr Stephen Deutscher

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I still remember the days of Road Maintenance being completed within days/weeks, these were the days of the original CRB with maintenance vehicles travelling the local roads daily repairing or reporting damage as they travelled, one rule should never have been applied to management of Victorian Roads, CRB dropped to become Vic Roads, and the rural roads have suffered ever since this was done. Since the rules were changed to allow bigger and heavier trucks to use small feeder country roads the damage caused has been considerable, Vic Roads have proven to be unable to maintain country roads in an acceptable safe condition for the population that live in these areas. Although I continue to see the occasional VicRoads vehicle checking roads in our area the damage continues to rise as does the lack of maintenance. Our police force is always telling us to drive to conditions but when you round a bend on a country road to find the edge severely depress it can take your breath away, currently it seems that the way this damage is managed by Vic Roads is a sign stating "Rough Surface", then we wait up to 12 months for repairs, Heathcote - Kyneton Road (Edgecombe Rd) at the Kyneton end is a classic example that has been beyond repair for over 12 months, makes you wonder when signs are erected reading "We will fix this road soon", are Vic Roads really serious. The CRB or Country Roads Board or similar needs to be reinstalled for the maintenance of our rural and country roads including A grade freeways outside the metro area, let Vic Roads look after the metro area because that is all they seem to do. Country Victorians pay registration fees expecting to have these fees allocated for the upkeep of the country roads network, it is time for this to happen. There also needs to be a change in allowing B Doubles vehicles to use B & C grade country roads, these huge vehicles, sometime hauling over 70 Tonnes, need to be forced onto the Major Highway Network of A grade roads thus slowing the damage being caused to the smaller network.
I am happy to further detail my concerns on damage to roads in my area that I travel daily, contact details are supplied.

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File1:

File2: