Submission
VicRoads management of country roads

As the government inconveniently calls for submissions on many important issues each year over the Christmas New Year period, EEG’s submission will be extremely short and succinct.

EEG strongly opposes the reckless destruction of valuable roadside trees as part of VicRoads’ operations. Much of this destruction is unnecessary and without proper assessment by qualified tree risk assessors.

Thousands of people in rural communities feel very proud of their treed roads. They are considered ‘community gardens’ and held by the locals as being as much part of their identity as the main street. Yet VicRoads never consults communities before destroying their trees, often in a day. This causes major grief and outrage. Many roadside landscapes support grand old trees that grew and have stood healthy since Grandma would ride her pony to school past these stands.

VicRoads is seen as a state government version of an invading enemy whose intention is to destroy the culture and valuable assets of a people.
Very little consideration seems to be given to either the locals or alternative means of carrying our upgrades while maintaining a treed landscape along roads. In many farming areas, roadside trees and vegetation is all that remains of the original habitat. This is often essential for ecological reasons and threatened species.

VicRoads rides roughshod over people, their values, their visual amenity and the local environment – for their own expedience. There are many other ways to improve public safety besides annihilating treed roadsides.

The danger to the public is far more serious where VicRoads allows loaded log trucks to travel on narrow winding roads where trucks haul loads down from the forests. There have been countless accidents, cars being run off the road, near collisions and very dangerous driving around corners by these trucks. The roads are not designed to safely take both passenger cars as well as loaded semi-trailers.

The hypocritical management regarding public safety must be reviewed. We cannot see how establishing a country version of VicRoads would alter the current culture.

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Coordinator

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