Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

Mr Brian O'Donnell
Group Managing Director
Centre for Paving Excellence Australia Pacific Pty Ltd (CPEAP)

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Dear Committee,

My name is Brian O'Donnell, a former City Engineer/Planner who commenced my engineering life December 1959 with the Country Roads Board.

I am sure that the first issue with VicRoads is the lack of engineering pride within the organisation. This is evident by the lack of maintenance of their side drains, shoulders and road pavement, to a point that some roads are extremely dangerous to the travelling public. For example, the drop off shoulders up to 100mm deep adjacent to sealed pavements, the uneven pavements due to poor subgrade construction and also attributed to the poor maintenance of poor sub-drainage and culverts which allows moisture into the pavement and results in an uneven riding surface. One of the other issues resulting in reoccurrence of washouts in the flood remediation works as the replacement of the previous pavement with crushed rock and thus leaving exposed pavements to be washed out at a later date.

It is sad to see the waste of money in the way VicRoads maintain their sealed pavements, replacing the damaged pavement with 400mm of hotmix pavement, with scant regard to what is causing the failure - most likely poor subgrade.

There is also an issue relating to proper subgrade enhancement by the poor surfaces provided by engineers where there is scant regard for permeability testing to prevent moisture entering the pavement through the subgrade.

In 2018, Engineers Australia and Institute Public Works Engineering Australasia, in conjunction with CPEAP will conduct seminars and workshops on stabilisation methodology.

The Institution of Engineers Australia is preparing interim standards for stabilisation protocols, specifications and standards. At present CPEAP has agreements with 26 universities. There are three full time PhD students and 23 Masters students working on
research with stabilization.

CPEAP is willing to assist VicRoads to remediate the poor standard of road conditions throughout the network.

Kindest regards

Prof Brian O'Donnell FIE Aust., CPEng.

Centre for Pavement Excellence Asia Pacific

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File1:

File2:

File3: