To Whom It May Concern,


Most of our country roads were constructed in the days when most trucks were 5 Ton Bedford’s and a semi-trailer would be around 11 Tons. The roads stood up to the traffic considerable well. In recent years the advent of the B Double now has these same roads being traversed by massive trucks carrying up to 70 Tonnes. The same roads constructed during the 5 Ton Bedford era have never been improved, to carry the tonnage they are subjected to today.

Trucks have been allowed to become bigger and bigger, no thought has been put into the impact they are having on roads never constructed to carry their tonnage.

The drainage alongside many of these roads has never been properly maintained, water seepage into the foundations (if you can call them foundations) doesn’t help the situation.

The nature of our farm enterprise means we have many interstate & overseas visitors, they often comment on the state of our roads, the worst in the state is a common comment. A disgrace is how many people refer to our roads. (I won’t put the colourful language they use in print).

I am referring to roads in the South Western Victorian coastal region, Sth of Hamilton, East of Portland.

The roads around our local towns such as Pt Fairy are normally in quite good condition, our rate money spent in the more populous areas, token maintenance only in the farming areas.

The road we live on “Barkers Road”, the most direct route north from Yambuk a good example of neglect. The shire began the task of improving the 10km section of gravel to bitumen in 1966. They haven’t got half way yet. In the winter its condition becomes so bad that most people in the Yambuk area go many kilometres out their way to avoid using the road.

Meeting any of the B Doubles, stock trucks or milk tankers can be a hair-raising experience because the vegetation on the gravel section extends onto the road past the white posts, either vehicle needing to stop in a gateway to allow the other to pass. The dense vegetation extension onto the road also makes it difficult to avoid collisions with native wildlife an expensive business for vehicle owners and insurance companies.

On the northern extension of this gravel road “Rowbottom’s Road” the dust is so bad that my mother’s house is covered with it many times per day. The dust washes into the spouts and into the drinking water tanks, the water becomes a dirt brown and undrinkable. A situation that would not be tolerated in or near a town, they have town supply anyway. Her situation is one put up with by many country people who live close to a gravel road, some even suffering asthma attacks from the dust.

Complaints to our local shire (Moyne) fall on deaf ears, we no longer complain as in the past we have got the feeling that complaints get their back up and they do even less. As for councillors, I am not sure why we bother having them, they never seem to be able to achieve results, “a total waste of money”.

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LRRCSC - INQUIRY INTO VICROADS’ MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY ROADS
SUBMISSION NO: 234
RECEIVED: 15 JAN 2018
They never listen, I am hopeful that perhaps you will.

Yours Sincerely,

David Rowbottom