Dear Ms Simmonds

Inquiry into VicRoads’ Management of Country Roads

Colac Otway Shire Council welcomes this opportunity to submit comment for the inquiry into VicRoads’ Management of Country Roads.

In response to the terms of reference Council submits the following for consideration;

1. The effectiveness of VicRoads’ in managing country roads

Colac Otway Shire Council believes the following items require urgent consideration to improve the effectiveness of management of country roads in our region.

   a) Defining responsibility for VicRoads (or alternative body) to provide long-term planning for bypass of regional towns on significant State and National highway routes

   b) A Great Ocean Road Authority or an independent office within VicRoads or alternative body specifically for the management of the Great Ocean Road

   c) Prioritising safety improvements of intersections with regard to upgrading geometry and sight distance on intersections subject to major collisions and regions experiencing increased tourism traffic

2. The existing funding model and its lack of effectiveness for Country Victoria

Colac Otway Shire Council believes that it’s critical to address consideration of climatic effects on roads and the availability of quality material in a functional funding allocation model. The South West Region is adversely affected in terms of both increased rainfall and a lack of quality rock compared to other areas of the state meaning that the cost of maintenance and renewal is going to be comparatively higher.

An effective funding model would allocate funding between regions to account for climatic conditions and availability of materials.
3. The lack of consultation with regional communities and their subsequent lack of input into prioritising roads which are in dire need of repair; and

Colac Otway Shire Council would be in favour of any increased consultation on the prioritisation of maintenance and upgrade of roads within our region.

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

With reference to the above comments regarding the inadequacy of the existing funding model to account for climatic and availability of materials Colac Otway Shire is concerned shifting to a state-wide, country vs metropolitan prioritisation process could possibly make this discrepancy even greater.

Colac Otway Shire Council supports a regionally-based road maintenance prioritisation with an improved model for allocating funding between regions to account for climatic conditions and availability of materials.

If you have any inquiries concerning this matter please contact Jeremy Rudd on

Yours sincerely

ROBERT DOBRZYNISKI
Acting Chief Executive Officer