Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

Mr Brendan Finnigan

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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The roads managed by VicRoads have deteriorated in the last 10 years and the narrow bridge crossings in my area continue to be a hazard- despite obvious need. (Woolsthorpe-Caramut Rd at Woolsthorpe and Mailors Flat in particular - are 'just' wide enough to be 2 lane). Agricultural equipment using these roads has to slow and be aware when pulling aside that the road shoulder is full of potholes and unsafe. The pot holes on the WOOLSTHORPE-HEYWOOD RD, are so bad we drive on the road shoulder for over 500 metres in sections.

The existing funding model and its lack of effectiveness for country Victoria; Signage of hazards, reduced speed and front end / tyre repairs are a constant of country peoples driving experience and an increase to our cost of production. North of Woolsthorpe the Caramut Rd is single lane for many kilometres – so people traveling north to Horsham, Dunkeld, and Hamilton are subject to this risk – and grain/hay coming south makes the risk higher.

The lack of consultation with regional communities and their subsequent lack of input into prioritising which roads are in dire need of repair; I have no idea what consultation happens. I have heard of reducing speed limits on some roads which is unequitable and another cost (revenue raising in fines and loss of time for producers/drivers).

The option of dismantling VicRoads and creating a specific Country Roads organisation and separate Metropolitan Roads body is appealing however it would need to be funded. Country roads are vital to production and communities.

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File1:

File2:

File3: