1. **The effectiveness of VicRoads in managing country roads.**

With the changes to agricultural production across Victoria, including the development of the hay export industry, the growth in wine exports, changes in grains production, the expanding meat industry along with the mineral sands sector, the manufacturing and secondary industries have all contributed to the need for an improved road network - the majority of the above is transported via road.

VicRoads has not kept pace with these changes in road use by larger articulated and increased numbers of vehicles in all configurations. The Victorian road structure needs to be designed and built to accommodate the volume and capacity of vehicles on the arterial roads and main roads leading to the major highways to ensure the safety of rural road users.

2. **The existing funding model and its lack of effectiveness for country roads.**

The current funding model for VicRoads is out of date and out of balance. There are thousands of kilometers of roads outside the metropolitan area needing repair and maintenance because of the age of their construction. We must be aware that road vehicle is the only mode of transport available in many parts of rural Victoria. Therefore funding for rural roads needs a massive increase to ensure safety for all Victorians, as well as the tourism industry and visitors to our State.

This would create employment and increase safety for the benefit of all road users.

3. **The lack of consultation with regional communities.**

VicRoads could make better use of Local Government network which is already available for consultation and is in contact with their regions and communities.

Council management in collaboration with Councilors and community are working at the “coal face” for the safety of their citizens, but are restrained by bureaucratic and financial limitations.

4. **The option of dismantling VicRoads and creating a specific country roads organisation.**

I think there is merit in creating a specific country roads organization, separate to metropolitan roads - an appropriately funded body to deal specifically with country roads, road design, construction and maintenance - separate from other aspects of VicRoads business.

Administration in regional cities working with Local Government Councils to improve our road and transport network for the safety of all road users would also provide employment in rural Victoria. A Board or group similar to that of the “Waste Management Groups” could be worth consideration.