Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

Mr Graham Howell

President
Livestock & Rural Transporters Association of Victoria Inc.

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Critical to the success of any undertaking - is gained through comprehensive consultation and engagement with appropriate stakeholders.

The Livestock & Rural Transporters Association of Victoria Inc, (LRTAV), represents around 200 rural and regionally based Victorian transporters. The role of LRTAV is to represent its members at local, state and federal government levels on issues like roads, access, sale yards, on farm facilities, truck stops, animal welfare, fatigue management, driver training and law enforcement. All LRTAV members are operators within the Rural Transport industry.

LRTAV has previously worked with all levels of Government, both federal and state based, in a collaborative and constructive way to initiate change, with an effective and manageable approach and be actively involved in shaping change for the prosperous growth of both Victoria and LRTAV individual members. With Australia’s transport industry forecast to increase significantly in the coming decades, the scale of this growth can be expected to place enormous pressure on infrastructure, the environment, safety, congestion and ease. It is unlikely that the allocation of funding for infrastructure will increase in line with perceived requirements – therefore the transport industry, as a whole, has valid concerns regarding the future distribution of the expected limited funds available and ensuring that funding is directed to the essential locales of need. The transport of goods - from products purchased through shops & supermarkets - through to agricultural products exported through our ports - are directly impacted by the efficiency of the transport industry & costs incurred. Improved efficiency and productivity of freight operations reduces costs - thus benefiting the state of Victoria directly.

LRTAV would appreciate the opportunity to discuss these matters further and be fully involved with additional input into any proposed changes.

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