Submission to Parliamentary Enquiry into Vic Roads

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I'm concerned about Vic Roads lack of community consultation & lack of interest in protecting our natural history. I'm also concerned about their lack of protecting prime agricultural land that rely on biodiversity as part of their management system.

In particular, I'm concerned about the route chosen for the Western Highway upgrade. It has chosen the most environmentally & monetary expensive path demolishing ancient trees that will take hundreds of years to replace.

As a farmer off the Trentham-Daylesford Rd, I'm concerned that Vic Roads roadside "scraping" treatment over the last 2 winters has introduced weeds & a disease that looks like Fire Blight in my Blackwood trees. If this disease moves into my berries, my income will be severely impacted. At the very least, all Vic Roads contractors need to follow strict vehicle hygiene practices. I've a photo of the contractors machinery from 2 years ago growing 10cm high plants on their surface. I also have samples of the "dirt" that they left along my roadside reserve. Roadside weed contractors need to use signs & dyes & observe wind & climate conditions.

I would like to see Vic Roads merged with Vic Rail & a more rational distribution of resources to provide better public transport. The increasing truck traffic at night is impacting on our wildlife & road surface. A defunct railway the passes my farm once had a service 3 times a day - transporting vast quantities of produce out of this prime food production region.

At the very least, each proposed project should have significant community consultation over seeing the project.

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