Submission to

Law Reform Road and Community Safety Committee

From: Owen William Shannon

Mailing Address: [Redacted]

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Dear Ms. Yuki Simmonds,

Re. Our phone conversation of 19/1/18 and your extension to 14/2/18 to submit the submission. Thank you for this consideration.

I hope the Committee will be happy to accept this submission, part in story and part in comment.

My wife and I came to live in Redesdale over 20 years ago and having to travel to larger town centres for most of our needs, roads became an important factor especially their condition. We were impressed by the state of our roads, linking Kyneton to Redesdale - Redesdale to Bendigo. The Mia Mia to Heathcote Road we found poor with one seriously ill-cambered corner and some normal bitumen surface and the rest, narrow bitumen with no white line.

Only minor improvements have occurred in twenty odd years. In the midst of this period with road repairs ineffective and dwindling, The City of Greater Bendigo [further to rate payers requests] called 3 annual meetings with Vic Roads, Police and representatives from local communities. These were well attended but basically a waste of time as Vic. Roads had no funds. Since then the Kyneton- Redesdale Road and Bendigo-Redesdale Road [busy roads] have continued to deteriorate. We now have a lot of heavy traffic and the road surface suffers. Larger breakouts need digging out and fixing. Towards Kyneton one bad stretch has been there for years but never fixed properly.

Small pot holes are not repaired properly; no digging out-no coating with tar. Just a bit of bitumous material patted with a spade. If they can road crew drive over with their truck. They no longer carry a wacking plate to do the job properly.

In regards to Redesdale itself the corner of Heathcote-Kyneton road Lyel road and Moylans road on the Bendigo side needs a small amount of widening to allow big vehicles better turning ability.
Despite years of requests Vic Roads engineers inspecting this situation it's always “Sorry mate no funds”
This is the lot of rural road users.
Finally in regard to funding, upon enquiring why all the money is being spent on wire fences and steel barriers [which are dangerous]
-ask any truck driver- they can't avoid oncoming traffic if they need to.
Advised TAC money is funding that.
It appears that Vic Roads is the poor relative and TAC the rich uncle.
As a final remark, we had at least three fatalities and serious accidents due to kangaroos and I would urge your committee to seriously consider this problem. A lot of accidents written off to fatigue and this is questionable.
Touch wood after all the years here we haven't hit a roo but dawn dusk and night we travel at 80 Kph giving them time to hear us.

Sorry if I have gone on too long but we live with these problems and would like to see change.