Inquiry Name: Inquiry into VicRoads' Management of Country Roads

MR. John Crane
Retired Farmer
As a private citizen

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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I had with the Hamilton Spectator had the previous Minister visit Hamilton to discuss the issues regarding the disgusting quality of South West Roads. He turned up with a person who had been given the role of person responsible for our roads and with in a week after the meeting was shunted somewhere else, so no follow up was possible.

My issue was the huge amount of money being spent week after week chucking a mix in holes only to be dislodged by the first vehicle driving over it. I pointed out that tax payers money is being wasted just chucking a mix in the hole when real and effective repair would be a one off cost which would stand up to all traffic. Once road repair men would come to a hole, dig it out and properly prepare the hole to accept a mix of tar and gravel and then effectively compress the mix to bond to the surrounding road. A bit of effort but a one off cost and effective, it seems now that a crow bar and spade must not be used to prepare the repair and a compacter to bond the material must be occ. health and safety problem, so non effective chucking mix in a hole is the way things must be done.

It seems it is Vic Roads policy to keep this practice going so holes will always be there and keep growing. I brought up the issue as well to the Minister that Vic roads will send up teams with lots of vehicles from I presume Melbourne at great cost to fix large holes and despite there being more large holes near by will just fix a few and go away and in a few weeks return to do a few more and so the waste of money goes on.

I raised the point where a large hole had been dug out to depth as it despite repairs kept breaking up.

The repair was not properly compacted after the hole was filled and after a few weeks it has sunk creating a safety issue. I asked why road inspectors had not demanded the contractor to return to and fill the subsided repair, no effective response except the Minister demanded I do not ask the so called responsible man but direct my issues to him, my response was you supply him with the money and he spends it so he has responsibility to respond not you Minister.
I know that the contractors build a lot of fat into jobs so one would expect that if the job was not effective a poor repair should be fixed by the contractor so the repair does not remain a safety issue.  
A few months later all the road in that area where crews had worked was ripped up and totally replaced with new road. 
In the South west the road foundations are poor so now with heavy traffic wet areas sink and spread out to the side of the road, there is a lot of rocks in areas that farmers would like taken of their paddocks especially in the volcanic areas and I do see where crushers have been working. 
Soft areas need digging to depth and a heavy foundation be set in place to stop the road from sinking and moving sideways.  
I feel that instead of outside contractors being used to fix local holes surely Vic road teams of locals with the right machinery would be more cost effective.  
My point is a proper repair that lasts is an effective spend of tax payers money and what is happening now is a disgraceful waste of money. Money that should fix other holes.

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File1:

File2:

File3: