Points to be made in submission to lrsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

1. There needs to be a new Road Authority established to be given total authority for the construction, maintenance and re-surfacing of all country roads, including the complete control and maintenance of State Highways.

2. This new authority (similar to the previous Country Roads Board structure) should be able to liaise on at least a quarterly basis with all municipalities outside of the metropolitan area in order to regularly assess the condition of all highways and roads within each municipality and continually prioritise for repair/maintenance/or complete re-construction, those roads that are in the worst condition and require URGENT attention.

3. Sufficient funds from the pool of car/truck and other vehicle registration fees plus an equal amount of funding from the Federal Government should be paid to the proposed new Road Authority which shall be responsible for the equitable distribution of all available funds between those country based municipalities (outside of the Melbourne metropolitan area).

4. The new Road Authority needs to be able to make necessary policy decisions to facilitate the construction of more passing lanes on State Highways, especially the Princes Highway between Warrnambool and Portland as well as planning for the duplication of the Princes Highway between Colac and Camperdown.

5. Municipalities MUST take a leadership role by co-operating with the proposed new Road Authority to ensure that the necessary road construction resources (for full re-construction, construction, repairs and maintenance) for highways and all other country roads, are readily available in order to get the best possible value for each dollar that is to be invested in the care and maintenance of all State Highways and other municipally controlled roads.

6. All decisions made by the new Road Authority should be transparent and readily available for the whole community to evaluate with annual reporting processes to be made to State Parliament.

7. Full accounting and audit processes should apply to the new Road Authority.

Lois Roberts