RE: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO VICROADS' MANAGEMENT OF COUNTRY ROADS

DEAR SIR,

VICTORIAN COUNTRY ROADS ARE THE WORST IN AUSTRALIA. WE USED TO HAVE THE BEST. THE VICEROYAL ROADS THOSE IN THE SOUTH WEST OF THE STATE ARE THE WORST. IT IS VERY RARE TO SEE "ROUGH ROAD" SIGNS INTERSTATE BUT IN THE SOUTHWEST THEY ARE COMMON PLACE WITH SPEED LIMITS ON THEM.

EVERY ROAD COMING INTO PORTLAND EXCEPT THE HIGHWAY FROM WARRNAMBOOL IS IN A BAD STATE OF REPAIR. THE ROADS COMING INTO MAIN HIGHWAYS ARE ALSO IN A BAD STATE OF REPAIR, WITH HOLES PATCHED NUMEROUS TIMES, AREAS WHICH ARE BEYOND PATCHING AND LARGE AREAS OF VERY ROUGH SURFACE.

AS YOU WOULD BE AWARE THERE IS A LARGE VOLUME OF WOOD PRODUCT TRUCKS CARRY HEAVY LOADS ON THESE ROADS, AND THE ROADS DO NOT HAVE GOOD ENOUGH CONSTRUCTION TO WITHSTAND THE CONTINUAL TRUCK TRAFFIC. WHEN A ROAD IS CONSTRUCTED IT IS THEN FORGOTTEN, THE IS NO ONGOING MAINTENANCE PLAN. AFTER A GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME A ROAD SHOULD HAVE A RESURFACING AS PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE, THIS NEVER HAPPENS. THE ROAD JUST DETERIORATES UNTIL POTHOLES ARE SO NUMEROUS THAT THE ROAD IS OCE AGAIN RIPPED UP AND RECONSTRUCTED.

IF A GOOD THICK SURFACE SUCH AS CONCRETE OR HOT MIX WAS USED ORIGIANLLY, AND ON GOING MAINTENACE KEPT UP, LONG TERM COSTS WOULD REDUCE AND VICTORIA WOULD ONCE AGAIN HAVE ROADS AT LEAST EQUAL TO OTHER STATES.

YOURS SINCERELY

M. RENTOIL