

Please Quote: VRPC001894  
(File No: PC006298)

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Ms Ainsley Marston  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale Street  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

Dear Ms Marston

**PETER O'MEARA (DECEASED)**  
**COURT REFERENCE: 5272/08**

I refer to your letter dated 10 June 2010, regarding the Coroner's investigation into the death of Peter O'Meara when the truck he was driving collided with a light rail overpass on City Road, South Melbourne on 25 November 2008.

An inspection has been undertaken to verify the existing conditions and assess the recommendations made by the Coroner.

It is understood that the collision occurred on the south west approach to the light rail overpass. An electronic, infra-red, height detection device is located approximately 110 metres from the light rail overpass on the south west approach. When the infra-red signal is "broken" by a high vehicle, it activates a set of flashing lights located on the "Low Clearance, 3.8m" sign attached to the yellow bridge protection beam. A similar system operates on the north east approach.

While the operation of the electronic warning system cannot be confirmed at the time of the incident, a manual check on 1 December 2008 showed that the system was operational despite one of the warning lights being damaged in the collision.

In addition, there are a number of static signs on both approaches to the light rail overpass to alert drivers to the low clearance.

In relation to the Coroner's recommendation, VicRoads' position is that static and electronic signage on the approach to the light rail overpass are in place.

Nonetheless, VicRoads proposes, as a minimum to:

1. cut back trees and foliage to ensure that existing static signage is not obscured;  
and
2. change the colour of the static signage from black and yellow to a fluorescent yellow or green colour to draw more attention to the signage by road users.

If you would like further information, Mr Jason Stakic of VicRoads' Metropolitan North West Region office (Tel: 9313 1209, Email: [jason.stakic@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:jason.stakic@roads.vic.gov.au)), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



**GEORGE MAVROYENI**  
**ACTING CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

**3 /08/ 2010**