



Office of the Chief Executive  
60 Denmark Street  
Kew Victoria 3101

Please Quote: VRPC008856  
(File No: PC038032)

Ms Marde Bevan  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
**SOUTHBANK VIC 3006**

Dear Ms Bevan

### **INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AMBER-ROSE BEARD**

I refer to your letter dated 28 November 2018, addressed to VicRoads, regarding the investigation by Caitlin English, Coroner, into the death Ms Amber-Rose Beard and the recommendation that VicRoads conducts a Road Safety Audit of Hereford Road to establish whether it is eligible for nomination as a Black Spot.

For a length of road to be eligible for Black Spot funding, an average of 0.2 casualty crashes per kilometre per annum over the length in question over five years is required. Project proposals also need to demonstrate a benefit to cost ratio of at least 2 to 1.

VicRoads has undertaken an investigation of the historical safety record for the length of Hereford Road. The analysis showed that the incidents along Hereford Road are relatively dispersed and are varied by collision type, including run-off-road, head-on and vehicles emerging from driveways/laneways. As such, it is unlikely that a suitable proposal could be developed that would address the range of safety issues whilst meeting the above criteria for Black Spot funding. I am also advised that in Victoria, the Commonwealth Black Spot program has previously focused on local roads and, since Hereford Road is an arterial road, it is unlikely to be eligible under this program.

When a road fatality occurs on an arterial road in Victoria, VicRoads undertakes a fatal crash investigation (similar in manner to a Road Safety Audit) in consultation with Victoria Police. These investigations may identify opportunities for safety improvements at a crash site. If safety improvement opportunities are identified, VicRoads then explores available funding avenues to undertake the works.

Following the fatal crash that resulted in the death of Ms Amber-Rose Beard, VicRoads' road safety engineers undertook an investigation and determined that the road environment was not a contributing factor to the crash. This was confirmed by Victoria Police.

Notwithstanding this, VicRoads identified that installing additional chevron alignment markers along Hereford Road would improve motorist awareness of changes in the horizontal alignment of the road. When installed, the markers will help motorists navigate Hereford Road during nighttime and at times of poor visibility. VicRoads will complete these works by the end of April 2019.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, Ms Lynda Nguyen, Acting Team Leader Safe Road User (Tel: 9881 8857) would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Seymour', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

**ROBYN SEYMOUR**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

7 14/2019