



Office of the Chief Executive
60 Denmark Street
Kew Victoria 3101

Please Quote: VRPC008960
(File No: PC039220)
(Court Reference: COR2017 006004)

Ms Audrey Jamieson
Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Ms Jamieson

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF ERICKA GERLACH

I refer to your letter dated 27 March 2019, addressed to VicRoads' former Chief Executive, regarding the investigation in the death of Erika Gerlach.

As per recommendations in the Coroner's Report, please find the response outlined below on behalf of VicRoads.

Recommendation 1 – VicRoads conduct a Road Safety Audit of Maroondah Highway, between Coldstream and Healesville to establish whether it is eligible for nomination as a 'Black Spot' and the associated funding.

On 11 February 2019, the Victorian Government announced a \$167 million package of road safety improvements on high-risk, high-speed roads in Victoria as part of the *Towards Zero 2016-2020 Action Plan*, a plan to reduce road trauma in Victoria.

As part of this funding announcement, a 7.5km section of the Maroondah Highway between Stringybark Creek and Maxwells Road in Coldstream was included. Regional Roads Victoria is currently seeking feedback on its proposed safety upgrades.

Recommendation 2 – VicRoads implement safer overtaking opportunities for road users on the Maroondah Highway between Coldstream and Healesville.

Part of the road safety treatments being considered for the Maroondah Highway is the installation of flexible safety barrier in the centre of the road. This safety treatment creates a physical barrier between oncoming vehicles and reduces the likelihood and severity of head-on crashes. This safety treatment also prevents road users from overtaking outside of dedicated overtaking lanes.

Consideration is being given to any impact that the safety upgrade may have on overtaking opportunities. There are existing overtaking lanes in each direction within the 7.5km section of road.

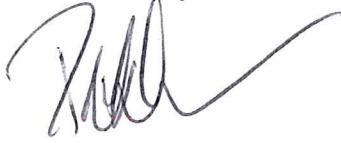
Recommendation 3 – VicRoads consider dedicated turning lanes at popular tourist destinations directly accessed by the Maroondah Highway between Coldstream and Healesville.

As part of this project, upgrades are currently planned to improve access provisions into existing businesses and wineries by extending the existing turn lanes. This also includes upgrades to two intersections at Maxwells Road and Maddens Road.

The detailed plans will be finalised following receipt of community feedback by mid-2019. Construction work is planned to commence late 2019.

Should you require any further information, Mr Stuart Squire, VicRoads' Manager - Delivery Team Zero (Tel: 0438 658 938), would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul Northey', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

PAUL NORTHEY
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

24 / 05 / 2019