

Office of the Chief Executive

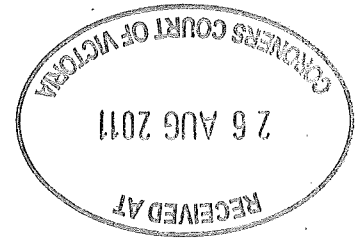
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Please Quote: VRPC003414
(File No: PC011214)

Ms Melina Demasi
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000



Dear Ms Demasi

**INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF ANDREW CLOUGH
COURT REF 2525/07**

I refer to your letter dated 21 July 2011 regarding the findings of the Coroner's Inquest into the death of Andrew Clough.

Whilst a formal response to the findings of the Inquest was not provided, which was due to a misinterpretation of the transitional arrangements for the implementation of the Coroners Act 2008, VicRoads has undertaken work to give effect to the recommendation made by the Coroner:

"I recommend that VicRoads conducts an audit of the manner in which it meets its statutory obligations to ensure that deficiencies in road markings and signage at intersections are identified and rectified".

While VicRoads did not consider that a separate audit as recommended by Coroner Olle was necessary it did consider that tighter controls on road markings and signage at intersections were warranted. To this end VicRoads has undertaken the following activities to implement those tighter controls:

1. The standard section in maintenance contracts (Section 750) has been updated to include the requirement that signage and road marking inspections are undertaken on side roads. Section 750 E02 *Safety Inspections and Response* now states:

“Night Safety Inspection

Without limiting the requirements of any other cause, night safety inspections shall include a review of the “fitness for purpose” and effectiveness of the following items:

- all signage on all roads under the Contract
- signage on approaches to intersections from side roads
- Raised Reflective Pavement Markers (RRPMs) and linemarking generally
- lighting at rest areas, truck stops, etc.
- guidepost spacing and effectiveness of delineators”

These side road inspections will be undertaken every 6 months for maintenance category 1, 2 and 3 roads and one per year for category 4 and 5 roads in accordance with VicRoads’ Road Management Plan 2011. Maintenance categories are determined by VicRoads through a risk assessment process.

A copy of Section 750 is attached.

2. VicRoads intends to undertake a series of random audits in all seven regions across the state to ensure that these objectives are being met. The audits will focus on the assessment of maintenance regimes for side roads, including road signs, pavement markings and visibility splays. At this stage, I envisage that these audits will be completed by December 2011. VicRoads will provide a summary of the audit to the Coroner’s Court if requested by March 2012 together with a list of additional actions to be undertaken, should the audit identify deficiencies in maintenance processes.

Should you require further information, Mr Steve Brown, VicRoads Executive Director, Regional Services (Tel: 9854 2155) would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely



BRUCE GIDLEY
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

24 / 8 / 2011

ENCL.