



Ref: CORG-1-21-10470R

File:

Mr Will Doolan
Coroner's Registrar
team4@courts.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Doolan

CORONERS INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF KYLE SHEPHERD

Thank you for your letter to Mr Paul Northey, Chief Regional Roads Officer received on 30 June 2021 and subsequently your letter to Mr Paul Younis, Secretary, Department of Transport received in late September 2021 relating to the Coroners Investigation into the death of Kyle Shepherd. Your letters have been referred to me for my consideration and response as the matters you raise fall within my portfolio of responsibilities.

Firstly, the Department of Transport extends our deepest condolences to Mr Shepherd's family and friends.

I note the recommendation provided at the end of the Coronial Finding COR 2020 3638 pertaining to the investigation into the death of Kyle Shepherd. The Department has accepted the recommendation and this letter sets out the activities that have been undertaken in response.

Recommendation 1.

With the aim of reducing pedestrian fatalities through education focussing on the safe use of shared roads in rural areas, I recommend that the Department of Transport and the Transport Accident Commission work with other State government departments and agencies to specifically develop education campaigns directed at pedestrians in rural areas.

Activities relating to the Recommendation:

Road Safety Victoria, as part of the Department of Transport has collaborated with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) to support the development of an appropriate pedestrian safety campaign to alert pedestrians to key safety messages they can use while walking in rural areas at night.

The messages under development include:

- Wearing bright and reflective clothing and carrying a torch or light to see and be seen.
- Walking against the flow of traffic and walking on the hard shoulder or verge where footpaths are not available.
- Removing ear plugs and audio devices
- Choosing safe crossing places by avoiding the brow of hills or corners

To support these messages, the TAC is developing three videos, each with a message for drivers as well as pedestrians. The creative concepts for these videos are currently under development but it should be noted that due to Coronavirus restrictions filming is not possible at this time. Circulation of the videos will take place during the 2021-22 financial year.

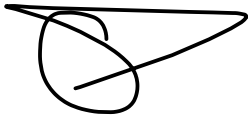
The VicRoads pedestrian safety webpages have also been reviewed and updated, including:

- Crossing the road safely, updated section on 'Staying visible'
- Pedestrians and sharing the road, new sections on 'Pedestrians sharing the road safely with drivers', and 'Pedestrians sharing the road safely at night'.

In addition, new visuals to illustrate the key messages are currently being developed to use on the VicRoads website and social media channels. These visuals and safety messages will also be cascaded through a number of other organisation's communication channels, including Victoria Police, key walking stakeholders, 22 local councils, and all Department of Transport Road Safety Coordinators (and in turn their local road safety groups).

I trust that this information satisfies the Coroner regarding the implementation of the above recommendation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line that loops back under the 'C'.

Carl Muller
Deputy Secretary - Policy, Precincts & Innovation

Date: 7/10/2022