



Department of Transport and Planning

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Coroner's Registrar
Coroner's Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3000

cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Registrar

FINDINGS INTO THE DEATH OF PAULINE BOWER - COR 2023 006644

I write in response to the Finding made by Coroner David Ryan on 13 October 2025 into the death of Pauline Bower at Princes Highway in Club Terrace on 29 November 2023. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) wishes to take this opportunity to express condolences to the family and friends of Ms Pauline Bower for their loss.

I note that Coroner Ryan has made the following recommendations in his finding:

- 1 DTP undertake further investigations of the road surface on the Princes Highway in Club Terrace at the site of collision and consider whether further safety interventions are required to reduce the risk of vehicles losing traction in wet conditions.

DTP has advised the Coronial Investigator that the following remedial action has been taken at the site of the collision:

- a) *Temporary "Slippery When Wet" warning signs have been installed. Permanent signs replaced the temporary signs in August 2025;*

Permanent signs replaced the previously installed temporary signage in August 2025.

- b) *Temporary 80 kilometres per hour speed limit signs have been installed. Permanent signs replaced the temporary signs in August 2025;*

Permanent signs replaced the previously installed temporary signage in August 2025.

- c) *The relevant section of road will be submitted for consideration under the 2026-2027 Black Spot Program, with a view to securing funding for further safety improvements.*

An application has been submitted under the 2026/27 Federal Black Spots Program for road safety improvements on Princes Highway, Club Terrace (between kilometer post 422 and Serpentine Road). The proposed scope of works includes:

1. Installation of targeted safety barriers on high-risk curves
2. Shoulder sealing in front of safety barriers
3. Resurfacing at targeted high-risk locations to improve skid resistance at sub-standard curves
4. Installation of curve warning signs and curve alignment markers (CAMs) at sub-standard curves
5. Sight line improvements at targeted curves.

In this year's maintenance program, there will be a resurfacing job at this location. Works are expected to commence after the Melbourne Cup long weekend so the works could occur early December 2025.

Should you require further information, Mr Harvey Dinelli, Acting Director Operations, Planning & Development [REDACTED] would be pleased to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Liley', with a stylized, cursive script.

Beth Liley
Executive Director, Gippsland and Capital Delivery
Date: 21/10/2025