



## Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392  
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[www.transport.vic.gov.au](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au)

Your ref: COR 2024 005732

Our ref: LV473

Ms Keely Keene  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
65 Kavanagh Street  
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

**By email only:** [cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Keene

### **INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF STEFAN BARTHELOT**

I refer to your letter of 20 November 2025 regarding Coroner McGregor's findings and recommendations.

The Department of Transport and Planning (**Department**) extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Barthelot.

#### **The Coroner's recommendations**

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), Coroner McGregor made three recommendations.

##### **Recommendation 1**

That the Department of Transport and Planning review the relevant portion of Healesville – Koo Wee Rup Road at Yellingbo and consider whether repairs and improvements need to be made to the road surface.

##### **Response to Recommendation 1**

In April 2025, the Department resurfaced sections of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road including the section of road where the incident involving Mr Barthelot occurred.

## **Recommendation 2**

That the Department of Transport and Planning review the relevant portion of Healesville – Koo Wee Rup Road at Yellingbo and consider whether safety/warning signage should be erected at the location.

### **Response to Recommendation 2**

In late 2024, the Department conducted a review of safety risks along Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road between Belgrave-Gembrook Road (Cockatoo) and Warburton Highway (Woori Yallock) to identify opportunities to improve safety. This review identified opportunities to deliver a range of improvements at certain locations along this corridor, including:

- Improve delineation by installing curve alignment markers, guideposts, curve warning signs with advisory travel speed signs.
- Install larger speed limit signs.
- Reduce speed limits (see below).
- Install safety barriers.

Funding to develop, design and deliver the above changes would need to be sought in a future program.

## **Recommendation 3**

That the Department of Transport and Planning review the relevant portion of Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road at Yellingbo and consider whether the speed limit should be reduced.

### **Response to Recommendation 3**

In early 2025, the Department reviewed the appropriateness of speed limits along Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road between Belgrave-Gembrook Road (Cockatoo) and Warburton Highway (Woori Yallock). This review considered decision making criteria of the Department's Speed Zoning Guidelines (at the time of the review).

Outcomes of the review indicated opportunities to replace all 90 km/h and 100 km/h speed limits with an 80 km/h speed limit (including at the location where the incident involving Mr Barthelot occurred). This change has been funded under the Commonwealth Road Safety Program and is expected to be delivered by mid-2026.

It should be noted that existing 60 km/h speed limits that operate through the townships of Cockatoo, Yellingbo and Woori Yallock will remain in place.

Please do not hesitate to contact Jason Stakic [REDACTED] if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



**Brien Armstrong**  
Acting Executive Director – Greater Metro Region

05/01/2026