



Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia
www.transport.vic.gov.au

Your ref: COR 2024 004536

Our ref: LV1411-14285

Sheean Werkmeister
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

By email only: [REDACTED]

Dear Registrar

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF IAN JAMES BRYANT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

I refer to your email of 23 March 2026 to the Department of Transport and Planning (**Department**) regarding Coroner Fitzgerald's finding without inquest (**Finding**) into the death of Ian James Bryant.

The Department extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Bryant.

The Coroner's Recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (**Act**), Coroner Fitzgerald made recommendations in the Finding for the Department to implement the following safety measures prior to/at the location of the collision on Murray Valley Highway in Barnawartha North between Mildrens Road and Coyles Road:

Recommendation 1

"a. Change the broken dividing line to double continuous lines to indicate no overtaking in either direction."

Recommendation 2

"b. Install warning signs in both directions to inform drivers of the upcoming corner during periods of poor visibility."

Recommendation 3

"c. Perform regular maintenance of the vegetation to the southern side of the road to increase visibility for motorists."

Department Responses to Recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(3) of the Act, the Department provides the following responses to the Coroner's recommendations:

Response to Recommendation 1

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

Response to Recommendation 2

The Coroner's recommendation will be implemented.

Department officers will arrange the installation of Curve Warning signage (W1-3B) type before the end of July 2026.

Response to Recommendation 3

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

The Department currently undertakes scheduled slashing of roadside grass along the Murray Valley Highway (MVH) once per financial year. Slashing is aimed at increasing the visibility of the white guideposts for motorists, which is generally described as slashing 3m from the edge line on the road.

The slashing along the MVH is normally carried out in November, as the northern parts of the State dry out earlier than the southern areas. A single slash is considered sufficient as the grass is unlikely to grow during the hotter parts of the year.

Additionally, the Department undertakes regular inspections of the MVH under its Road Management Plan. These inspections aim to identify vegetation defects and hazards. When identified, these defects and hazards are addressed in accordance with the Road Management Plan within the applicable response times.

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

Yours sincerely



Anthony Judd
Executive Director Loddon Mallee Hume

26 / 06 / 2026