

Fix Regional Roads for National Prosperity

Local Governments manage the majority of our roads. The six members of the Murray River Group of Councils (MRGC) manage 22,000 kilometres, equivalent to the state-managed road network in Victoria.

Across the state, councils maintain 87% of the road network, but don't receive funding to match. There is a \$4 billion maintenance backlog in Victoria alone.

These roads are critical freight corridors, arteries for food production and lifelines for communities, connecting people to healthcare, education and essential services.

Underfunding is putting lives at risk. Only 20% of Victorians live in regional areas but nearly 60% of road fatalities occur on regional roads.

Councils are falling further behind despite increases in Roads to Recovery funding. The freight task is growing, rural populations are expanding, and our roads are wearing out faster than we can fix them.

We call on the Australian and Victorian Governments to

Create a dedicated **Local Road Maintenance Fund** – a one-off national "catch-up" investment to directly support councils to tackle the urgent and growing backlog of repairs on local roads and bridges to boost economic activity and productivity of the nation

This investment will

- Save lives and reduce road accidents
- Increase national productivity
- Underpin regional development

Better roads mean lower transport costs, fewer breakdowns, and more reliable deliveries for Australian exporters.

Better roads means regional growth and investment, allowing businesses to thrive and tourism to expand

Better roads means a safer, more connected and more prosperous regional Australia

Councils are best placed to fix and maintain local road networks efficiently and cost effectively – fill the funding gap and we will fill the potholes.

Further Information: Geoff Turner, Executive Officer, p: 0419 030 314 e: gturner@mrhc.com.au



REGIONAL ROADS: Fill the funding gap and we will fill the potholes.

- Our Councils' 22,000 km of local roads power Australia's food, freight and regional communities.
- They are crumbling under a maintenance backlog from years of State and Commonwealth underfunding and repeat natural disasters.
- We need a **dedicated regional road maintenance fund** to fix regional roads safeguard lives and boost productivity.

For Further Information:

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