

## REQUEST FOR MAYORS SIGNATURE

Purpose of document: Advocacy

Brief Description of Document: Advocacy for the Fixing Country Roads Program Funding

Council Agenda Item and date (attach a copy of minutes) if applicable: N/A

Responsible officer to return documentation to for final action and registration: Cowin

**Please indicate if there is a critical date for document return** N/A

I confirm that the details of the attached document are accurate and ready for sign off by the Mayor

Responsible Manager Signature: 

Please print name: Andrew Cowin Date: 17/02/2020

General Manager Signature: Jason has approved by email.

Please print name: Jason Deller Date: 17/02/2020

Governance Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If exempted by EM  
please initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CEO Signature: 

Please print name: Declan Moore

Date: 18/2/20

**This form must be registered (by the responsible officer) with the signed document**

AC



19 February 2020

The Hon Daniel Andrews  
Premier of Victoria  
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Dear Premier,

**Re: *Continuation of funding for the Fixing Country Roads Program***

Campaspe Shire Council is concerned at the lack of information and detail pertaining to the continuation of the Fixing Country Roads Program (the Program) funding.

The Program is vital in assisting rural and regional Councils to maintain their extensive road networks.

Campaspe Shire Council maintains a road network of more than 4,000 kilometres, including 1,147 kms of sealed roads, 2,440 kms of gravel roads and 551 kms of earth roads. Council additionally maintains 64 bridges as part of its road network. Roads make up Council's largest single item expenditure, with around 20% of the annual budget allocated to road and bridge maintenance.

In recent years rural councils have been hit with unsustainable reductions in grant income for roads, with cancellation of the Roads and Bridges program and a three year indexation freeze on federal government Financial Assistance Grants. Nationally, there is an estimated \$1.2 billion annual funding shortfall to maintain Australia's local roads.

Agricultural production and its associated processing and servicing industry remain Campaspe's single largest area of economic output and source of local jobs. These industries rely heavily on a reliable, effective local road network. Failing road infrastructure impacts road safety, travel speeds, vehicles, road users and can result in damage to freight.

Local government is financially constrained in delivering basic road maintenance programs. Consequently it is unable to invest in network improvements, such as those which implement the Safe Systems approach. Implementing Safe System solutions which improve road safety would not be possible without the Program.

Continued economic growth and investment in regional Victoria is reliant upon an effective transport network. Without ongoing state government funding in rural road infrastructure investment and expansion in the agriculture and processing sectors remains at risk in Campaspe.

We strongly encourage you when considering the future funding arrangements to recognise the critical role the Program has played in supporting investment and expansion of the regional economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate these concerns. We invite you to contact Jason Deller, Infrastructure Services General Manager on 5481 2200 should you wish to discuss these concerns further.

Yours faithfully



**Adrian Weston**  
**MAYOR**

CC: Treasurer, Tim Pallas  
The Hon Jaala Pulford, Minister for Roads, Road Safety and the TAC  
The Hon Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Regional Development  
Ms Robyn Seymour, CEO VicRoads  
Mr Michel Masson, CEO Infrastructure Victoria