

Our Ref: 430801/01
Your Ref:

ANIs

Ask For: Alan Nicholls

20 March 2013

**Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11
222 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000**



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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Investigation into the death of Justin Daniel Smith
Court Ref: COR 2011 002635**

I am writing in response to the recent Coroners Court recommendation relating to the death of Justin Daniel Smith *"That Local Government Bodies within Gippsland carry out an audit of the number of signs in the region advising motorists of the possibility of the presence of animals on the road and consider whether an increase in the number of signs is necessary."*

Council would respectfully like to advise that;

The *Road Management Act (2004)* designates Coordinating Road Authorities and Responsible Road Authorities for certain roads. Road Authorities must inspect, maintain and repair Public Roads for which they are the Responsible Road Authority. The road, on which Mr Smith's accident occurred, Maffra Rosedale Road, was an arterial road, where VicRoads is the Responsible Road Authority.

In a few months the Baw Baw Shire will be conducting an audit of all signs on its roads.

Animal signs have historically been installed by request.

Baw Baw Shire Council would support the review of any applicable Codes of Practice, Australian Standards or VicRoads guidance publications with regard to warning motorists of hazard animals on Public Roads. Baw Baw Shire Council would also support the audit of roads for which it is the Responsible Road Authority and a comparison of this audit to Australian Standard 'AS 1742.2-2009: *Manual of uniform traffic control devices - Traffic control devices for general use*' and the 'VicRoads *Traffic Engineering Manual- Volume 2 - Signs and Markings*'.

If you have any queries, please contact me on 03 5624 2509.

Yours faithfully

Alan Nicholls
Road Network Coordinator

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