



## Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392  
Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia  
[www.transport.vic.gov.au](http://www.transport.vic.gov.au)

Your ref: COR 2019 005952  
Our ref: LEX 8284

Nicole D'Rozario  
Senior 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), cc: [team5@courts.vic.gov.au](mailto:team5@courts.vic.gov.au)

Dear Registrar,

### **INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF MR J – RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS**

I refer to your email and letter of 26 May 2023 regarding Coroner Sarah Gebert's findings and recommendations concerning the death of Mr J on 29 October 2019 at Calder Alternative Highway, Marong.

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

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

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), Coroner Gebert recommended:

- a) That the Victorian Department of Transport install signage on the approach to both Bullock Road intersections on the Calder Alternative Highway to indicate 'Concealed Road'; and
- b) That the Victorian Department of Transport install signage on Bullock Road at its intersection with Calder Alternative Highway to indicate 'Beware of Turning Vehicles'

The Department (formerly the Department of Transport) sets out its response to the Coroner's recommendations below.

#### **Recommendation 1**

That the Victorian Department of Transport install signage on the approach to both Bullock Road intersections on the Calder Alternative Highway to indicate 'Concealed Road.'

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

The Coroner's recommendation has been implemented.

The Department has undertaken the installation of 'Concealed Road' warning signage on the approach to both Bullock Road intersections. This will make motorists travelling both north and south aware of the concealed nature of the Bullock Road intersections.

## **Recommendation 2**

That the Victorian Department of Transport install signage on Bullock Road at its intersection with Calder Alternative Highway to indicate 'Beware of Turning Vehicles'.

## **Response to Recommendation 2**

The Coroner's recommendation has not been implemented.

The Department has reviewed the Coroner's recommendation and it is of the view that the installation of 'Beware of Turning Vehicles' signage on Bullock Road would diminish the effectiveness of this type of signage within the locality and across the Victorian road network.

Where 'Beware of Turning Vehicle' warning signage is installed at an intersection, it is reasonable for motorists to see regular turning traffic at that intersection. If motorists do not see regular turning traffic, they will consequently ignore the warning signage. This can also result in motorists ignoring similar warning signage in other locations, leading to an increased risk of road accidents.

Bullock Road is primarily an access road to the Bendigo Regional Park. There is very infrequent use of this road as it does not have any residential or commercial properties that would generate a higher amount of traffic.

The Calder Alternative Highway carries local residential traffic from Bendigo, Marong, Lockwood, Maldon and areas further east. The Calder Alternative Highway also carries many heavy vehicles transporting goods north and south across Victoria.

It is expected that these routine road users will have an awareness of the infrequency of turning vehicles into Bullock Road.

The risk of complacency in relation to the warning signage is a particular concern insofar as it involves heavy vehicle operators. This is because these road users travel widely and encounter such signage frequently.

Please do not hesitate to contact Danny Moloney – Manager Movement & Safety – Loddon Mallee Region on [REDACTED] if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



**Alicia Yap**  
Acting Director, Loddon Mallee Region  
15 / 08 / 2023