



## 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 2022 005658

Our ref: LEX 10730

Sofia Hajdari  
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)

Dear Registrar

### **INQUEST INTO THE DEATH OF LESLIE TAYLOR – RESPONSE TO CORONER'S RECOMMENDATION**

I refer to your letter of 9 May 2024 to the Department of Transport and Planning (Department), regarding Coroner Paul Lawrie's Finding without inquest (Finding) concerning the death of Leslie Taylor.

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

#### **The Coroner's recommendation**

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), Coroner Lawrie made the following recommendation in the Finding:

*"That Brimbank City Council and Head, Transport for Victoria review the adequacy of the street lighting along the Ballarat Road Service Road in the vicinity of the site of the collision to ensure safe levels of illumination for pedestrians, motorists and other road users."*

In paragraph 31 of the Finding, Coroner Lawrie stated that:

*"I agree [with the coroner's investigator] that the adequacy of the street lighting in the relevant area is questionable and should be reviewed by the responsible authorities. There is however some complexity in this regard as I understand Ballarat Road falls within the control of Head, Transport for Victoria while Ballarat Road Service Road falls within the auspices of Brimbank City Council – hence my recommendation is directed to both authorities."*

#### **Response to recommendation**

The Coroner's recommendation has been considered and funding will be requested to implement the recommendation.

The Department:

- a. Conducted a site investigation on 9 December 2022 following the fatal crash on 1 October 2022.
- b. Undertook a street lighting assessment in February 2023. The assessment determined the existing street lighting conditions, which are believed to have been installed several decades ago, do not conform with current standards. Although there is no legislative requirement to upgrade the infrastructure in the present case, the assessment recommended that the infrastructure should be upgraded to meet modern standards.
- c. Will nominate the recommended lighting improvements to be considered in future funding programs.

I note the Coroner has directed the recommendations to both the Department and Brimbank City Council. As per the Road Management Act, Code of Practice – Operational Responsibility for Public Roads (2017), Division 2, Item 9.1, the Department is the responsible road authority for lighting at this location.

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

Yours sincerely



**Fiona Green**  
Acting Executive Director Inner Metro Region  
27/06/2024