



Department of Transport and Planning

GPO Box 2392
Melbourne, VIC 3001 Australia
www.transport.vic.gov.au

Ref: COR 2023 003551
Our ref: LEX 11407

Mr Sheean Werkmeister
Coroner's Registrar
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Werkmeister

INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF GRANT DIMITRIJEVIC

I refer to your letter of 19 February 2025 to the Department of Transport and Planning (**Department**) regarding Coroner Olle's Finding without Inquest (**Finding**) concerning the death of Mr Grant Dimitrijevic.

First and foremost, the Department extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Grant Dimitrijevic.

The Coroner's recommendations

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), it was recommended that:

1. In the interests of public health and safety and with the aim of preventing similar deaths, the Department of Transport and Planning collaborate with all the relevant stakeholders and/or authorities to develop reporting or information sharing mechanisms when any of the stakeholders and/or authorities receive or are investigating reports of wandering livestock in the Moriac area.

(the **Recommendation**)

Response to Recommendation

The Department will implement the Coroner's Recommendation.

The Department will work with the following entities:

- Surf Coast Shire,
- Parks Victoria,

- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (**DEECA**),
- Agriculture Victoria, and
- WorkSafe

(collectively, including the Department, the **Stakeholders**).

The Department will ensure the Stakeholders have each other's key contact information. The Department will determine the most appropriate mechanism for Stakeholders to report and share information when any of them receive or investigate reports of wandering livestock in the Moriac area and its surrounding area. That mechanism will optimise the timely sharing of information and will comply with relevant data sharing and privacy laws.

The Department will endeavour to create and implement a mechanism to which all Stakeholders agree within the next 6 months, approximately.

Existing public health and safety practices

(Victorian Road Maintenance Contract (VRMC) - Section 750.0.9 Stock and other animals)

For the Coroner's information, various practices have been implemented pursuant to the VRMC to allow contractors engaged by Head, Transport for Victoria (Contractor) to:

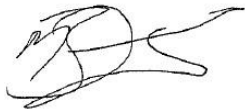
- promptly report incidents of stray livestock; and
- minimise the risk of potential hazard or disruption when stray livestock are on the roads/reserve.

Where livestock are found to be unattended on an Arterial Road or Freeway, the Contractor is required to:

- ensure the safe provision for traffic by controlling stock and providing traffic control.
- where possible, identify the owner(s) of the livestock and instruct them to remove and properly secure the animals.
- failing immediate identification of the owner of the stock, control and return the animals to the land from where they have strayed if the Contractor is satisfied they came from that land and that there is no risk of the animals escaping again; or,
- catch and impound the animal(s), where the care and welfare will be the Contractor's responsibility including all costs until delivered and secured in a pound; and,
- immediately make efforts to identify the owner(s) of the stock impounded;
- record details of the impounded stock and stock returned to the owner's land;
- notify Traffic Operations Centre that the task is complete;
- notify the pound keeper and provide details of the animals impounded. The pound keeper is expected to notify owner(s) of impounded livestock in accordance with the Impounding of Livestock Act 1994 (Vic);
- follow up with the pound keeper to confirm that notification of owners occurred within 24 hours of owners being identified.

Please do not hesitate to contact Julie Cronin, Strategic Advisor Barwon South West & Grampians [REDACTED] if you have any questions about the contents of this letter or if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Bailey

Executive Director

Barwon South West and Grampians

Date: 19/05/2025