



ELECTION 2018

DELIVERING FOR AGRICULTURE GROWING COMMUNITIES



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More required to address country road infrastructure deficit

The Victorian Farmers Federation is calling for more to be done to fix the unacceptable state of rural and regional roads amid concerns a recently-announced road fund will not address the infrastructure deficit facing the state's country network.

It comes after the State Government last week touted legislation to establish the 'Better Roads Victoria Fund' to receive on-the-spot speeding and traffic camera revenue, with the money to be used for road upgrades.

The VFF holds concerns the move does little more than rebrand the 'Better Roads Victoria Trust Account' which has existed since 1979 and already receives funds from traffic camera and speeding fines.

While the new legislation is more specific about the types of roads the money will be spent on, and ensures at least 33 per cent of the funding will be used for country roads, the VFF is not convinced it will be enough to solve the problems facing the regional and rural network.

"Renaming an existing trust account will not address the years of neglect for Victorian country roads," said VFF President David Jochinke.

"While the new arrangements might amount to slightly more money for country roads, there is still a huge road infrastructure deficit in rural and regional Victoria.

"In the lead up to the 2018 state election we are expecting all parties and candidates to explain how they will guarantee funding to fix our rural and regional roads."

As part of its 2018 election platform, the VFF is asking for a \$6.2 billion commitment over five years to fix the state's roads.

"Victoria's food and fibre supply chain relies on the road network to transport over \$13 billion worth of produce to market each year," said Mr Jochinke.

"Without a well-maintained and fit-for-purpose road network, the viability of our sector and the state's economy as a whole is under threat. A substandard road network also puts lives at risk every day.

"We need more than just rebrands. It's time for parties and candidates to stand up for agriculture and fix our state's roads."

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About the VFF

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is dedicated to representing the interests of farmers and making a positive difference to their businesses and communities. We strive to create an environment for our members, our farmers, that enables profitable, safe, sustainable production to ensure an enduring social licence in a community that respects and values the sector.