



The Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Minister for Ports

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The Hon Martin Dixon MP
Member for Nepean
Shop 1, McCrae Plaza,
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Dear Mr Dixon

Martin

I refer to an Adjournment Debate matter you raised in the Legislative Assembly on 22 June 2016, regarding traffic noise emanating along the Mornington Peninsula Freeway between Safety Beach and Rosebud.

VicRoads understands that traffic noise can adversely affect the health and quality of life of people who live near busy roads and freeways. The management of traffic noise on the road network is guided by VicRoads' *Traffic Noise Reduction Policy*, which can be accessed at vicroads.vic.gov.au/planning-and-projects/environment (click on "noise").

VicRoads advises me that there is a legacy of existing freeways, such as the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, that were not originally installed with noise barriers. VicRoads commenced installing noise attenuation treatments in 1979. This section of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway was built prior to 1979 and traffic volume increased as residential developments took place progressively. VicRoads recognises that residents along these freeways experience increased noise levels and considers eligible sites for noise retrofitting works when the traffic noise levels exceed the 68-decibel threshold. As highlighted yourself, with more people choosing to live permanently in these areas, the traffic increases causing an increase in traffic-related noise.

VicRoads has undertaken a traffic noise modelling exercise along the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, and the results confirm that there are sections that meet the above criteria. Accordingly, it will be prioritised for future funding along with other eligible metropolitan freeway sites.

VicRoads is also aware that residents from the Country Club Estate in Safety Beach are concerned over the accuracy of this traffic noise modelling exercise. As such, two new noise measurements at representable locations with the estate are currently being planned. If the new measurements are proved to meet the eligibility criteria for noise attenuation works, VicRoads will then include and prioritise this section of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway along with other eligible metropolitan freeway sites for funding consideration.

In relation to the low noise pavement trial that is currently underway along the southbound carriageway of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway between Latrobe Parade and Lonsdale Street, it is planned to finish in mid 2017, but may be extended to 2018. The aims of the trial are to investigate, not only the effectiveness, but also the durability of various road-surfacing treatments in reducing traffic noise. As such, it was not designed to be a short-term trial.

Furthermore, VicRoads has recently resurfaced the southbound lanes of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway under its maintenance program to ensure the road surface is safe for road users. VicRoads acknowledges the unintended increase in traffic noise to nearby residents as a result of these road works and has decided to apply an additional smoother road surface to reduce the level of noise. It is anticipated these works will be completed over the next six to twelve months.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Donnellan', written over a long horizontal line that extends across the page.

Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

20/7/2016