



**AGENDA APPENDIX**  
**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 23 July 2014**

AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.

THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.

**E.7 REPAIRING OUR ROADS CAMPAIGN AND SURVEY**

Appendix 2 – Repairing Our Roads – Survey Results Summary





South Gippsland Shire Council  
'Repairing our Roads'  
Survey Results - Summary



# Contents

Introduction .....	Page 3
Question 1 .....	Page 4
Question 2 .....	Page 5
Question 3 .....	Page 6
Question 4 .....	Page 7
Question 5 .....	Page 8
Question 6 .....	Page 9
Question 7 .....	Pages 10 - 11
Question 8 .....	Pages 12 - 13
Question 9 .....	Pages 14 - 15

# Introduction

## INTRODUCTION:

**Sharing the frustration of residents, visitors and businesses impacted by the condition of the road network, South Gippsland Shire Council launched an advocacy campaign in November to highlight the critical road conditions and seek urgent funding to restore them to a safe and acceptable level.**

Council maintains approximately 1300 km of unsealed roads and 800 km of sealed roads. VicRoads is responsible for the main highways and most arterial roads that link towns.

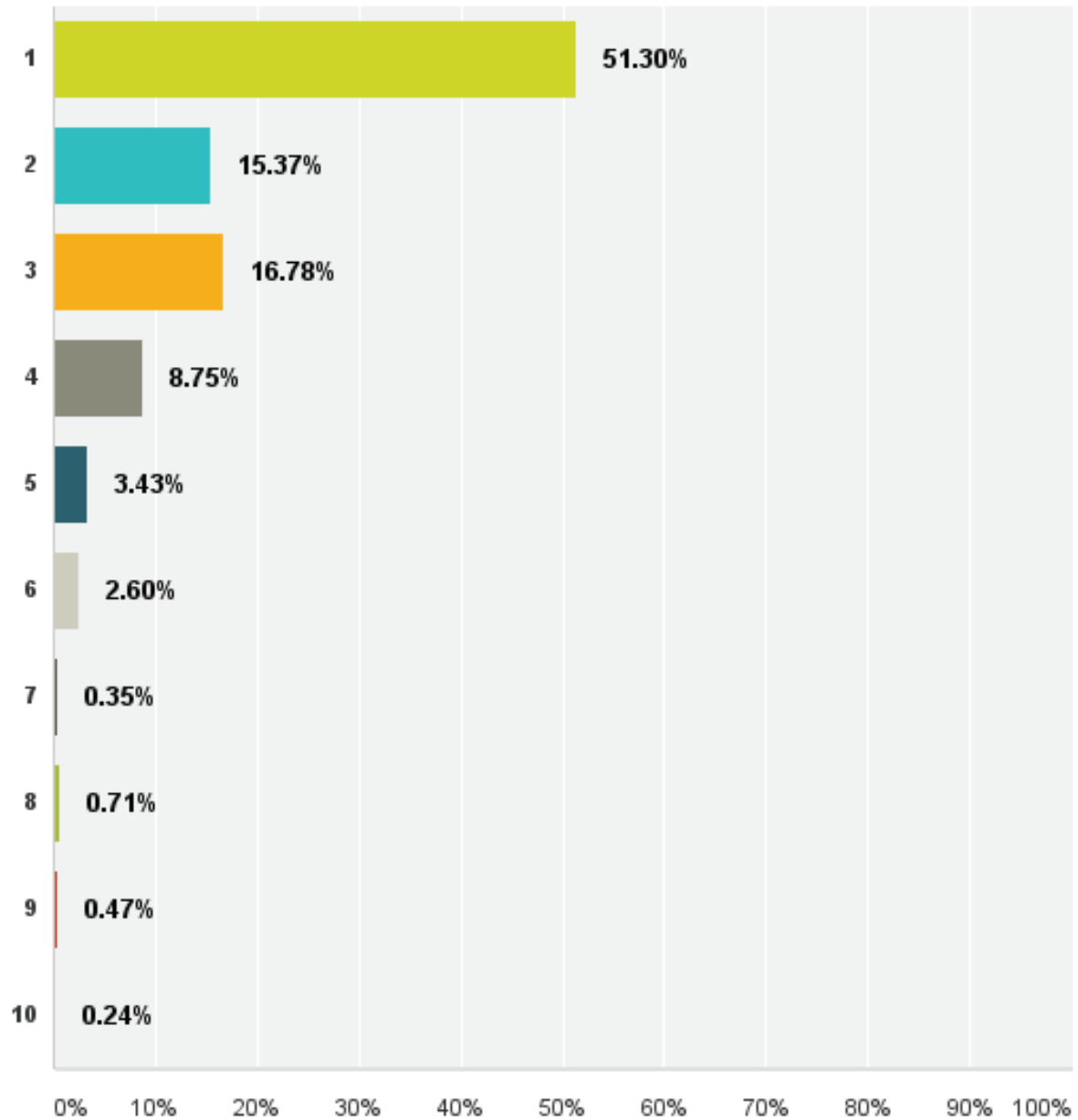
As well as radio interviews and media releases, an online survey was launched to gather feedback to clarify the direct impact the road conditions are having on users, both private and commercial. The survey asked users to identify problem roads, economic impacts, safety issues and to prioritise where they believe any additional road funding should be spent.

## SURVEY DELIVERY

- The 'Repairing Our Roads' survey was launched in November, 2013. Surveys were facilitated via an online survey on Council's website (Survey Monkey). The survey was advertised widely through local media, social media, radio, Win News TV and community business and tourism networks.
- 846 responses were collected. The survey closed 30 January, 2014.
- Based on submitted responses for two of the open-ended questions (questions 6 and 9) several categories were developed. This gave an overview of which roads were most frequently referenced by survey respondents and which roads were the responsibility of VicRoads or Council. There may be a small margin for error through inability to discern some respondents intent.
- Comments listed in the report have been provided verbatim. Spelling inaccuracies may occur.

# Question 1:

Please rate the condition of SEALED roads in South Gippsland.  
(1 = poor condition. 10 = excellent condition)

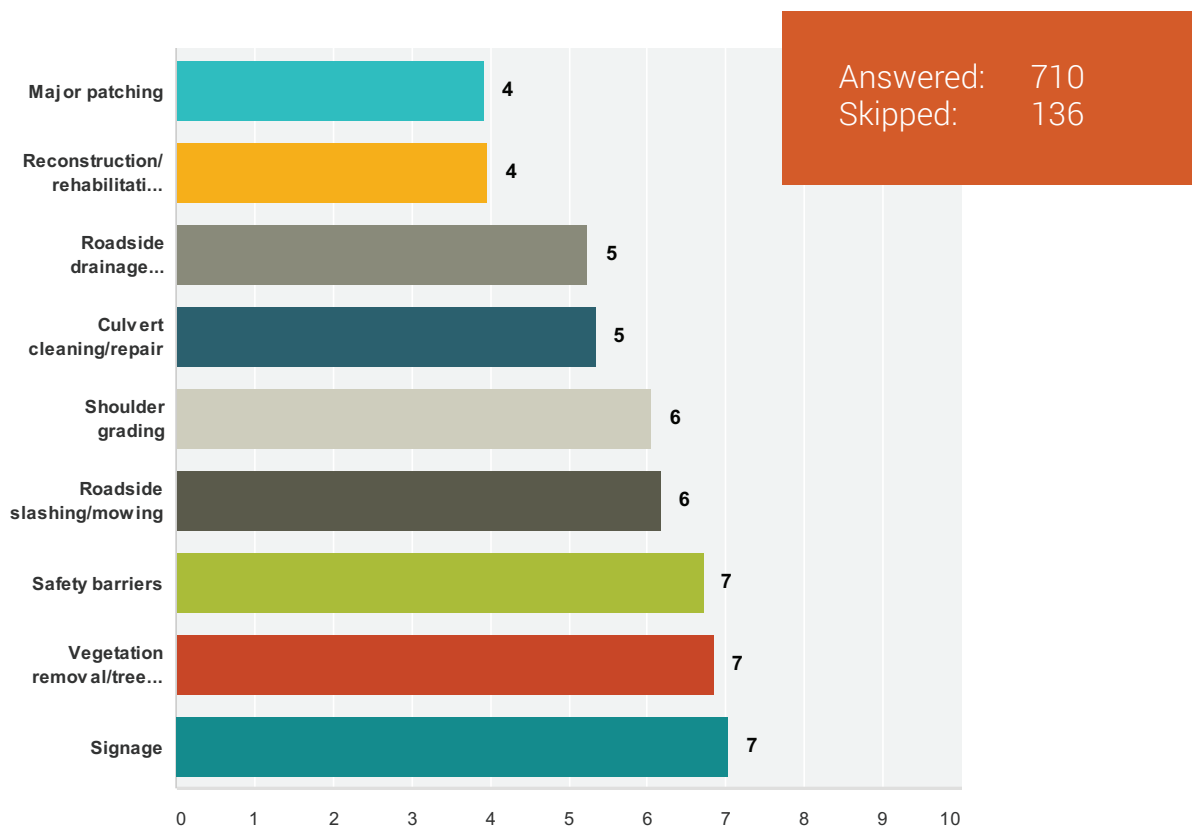


Answered: 846  
Skipped: 0

## Question 2:

If the State Government was to provide additional funding to the South Gippsland road network, where do you believe the money would be best spent?

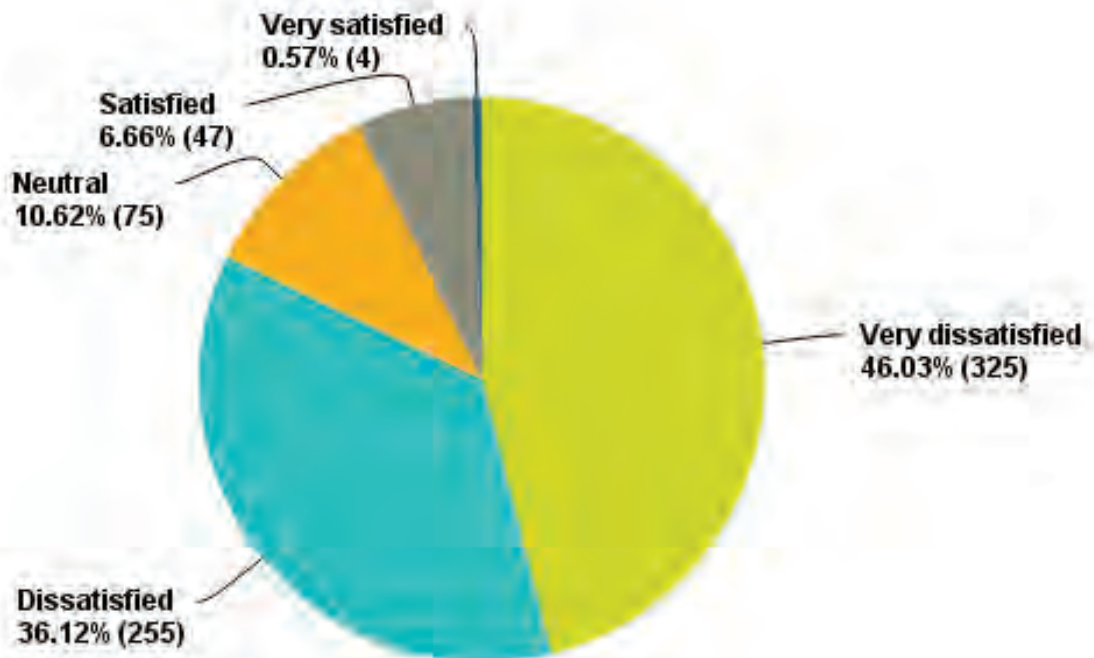
(Please rank each item in order of importance from 1 though to 10. 1 = most important, 10 = least important)



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Average Rating
Potholes	30.56% 217	18.03% 128	19.44% 138	5.35% 38	2.68% 19	1.97% 14	1.97% 14	5.77% 41	5.21% 37	9.01% 64	710	3.69
Major patching	10.99% 78	37.04% 263	16.62% 118	5.49% 39	4.08% 29	3.24% 23	2.96% 21	4.93% 35	10.28% 73	4.37% 31	710	3.93
Reconstruction/rehabilitation of road	28.87% 205	9.86% 70	22.11% 157	7.32% 52	4.65% 33	2.96% 21	3.80% 27	7.89% 56	4.65% 33	7.89% 56	710	3.96
Roadside drainage clearing	4.51% 32	5.92% 42	7.75% 55	18.87% 134	20.28% 144	17.32% 123	9.44% 67	7.89% 56	4.79% 34	3.24% 23	710	5.25
Culvert cleaning/repair	3.52% 25	6.76% 48	9.01% 64	19.86% 141	19.44% 138	11.27% 80	11.41% 81	7.04% 50	5.92% 42	5.77% 41	710	5.35
Shoulder grading	2.68% 19	4.23% 30	6.48% 46	11.55% 82	11.41% 81	18.31% 130	18.73% 133	13.66% 97	8.73% 62	4.23% 30	710	6.05
Roadside slashing/mowing	1.27% 9	3.38% 24	5.07% 36	10.99% 78	16.48% 117	20.14% 143	16.62% 118	10.42% 74	8.45% 60	7.18% 51	710	6.18
Safety barriers	6.20% 44	3.10% 22	4.65% 33	8.17% 58	8.87% 63	10.42% 74	12.82% 91	14.51% 103	12.54% 89	18.73% 133	710	6.72
Vegetation removal/tree branch removal	4.93% 35	5.07% 36	4.93% 35	6.48% 46	8.31% 59	8.31% 59	11.83% 84	15.07% 107	17.04% 121	18.03% 128	710	6.84

### Question 3:

When road repairs are undertaken on South Gippsland roads, how satisfied are you the repairs?

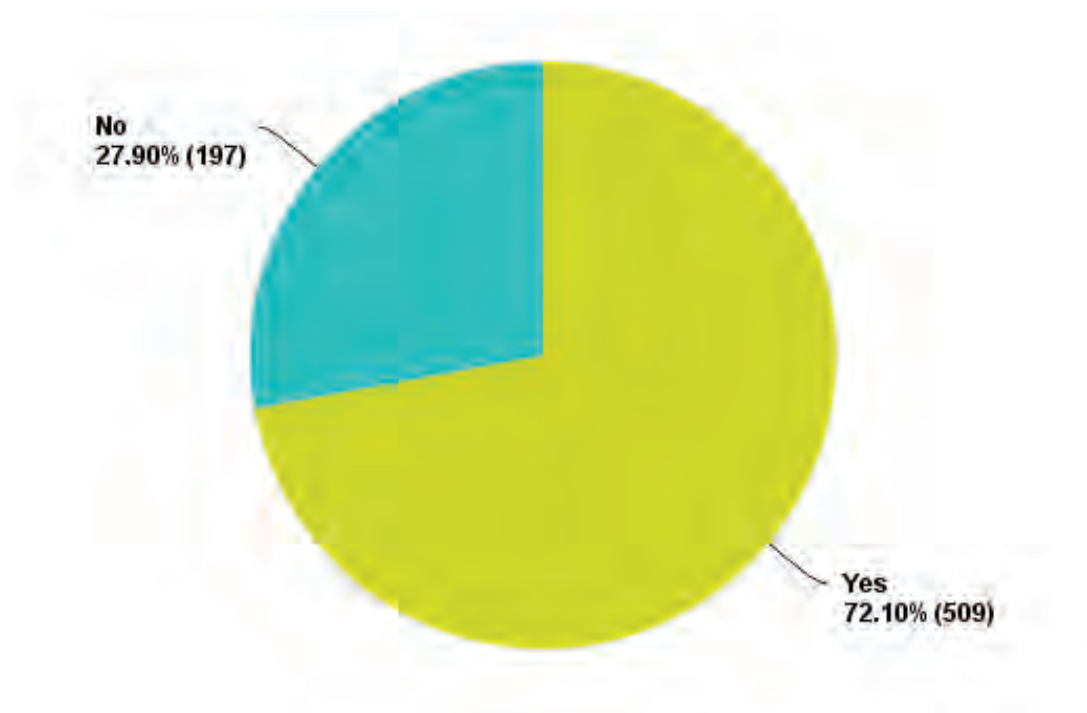


Answered: 706  
Skipped: 140



## Question 4:

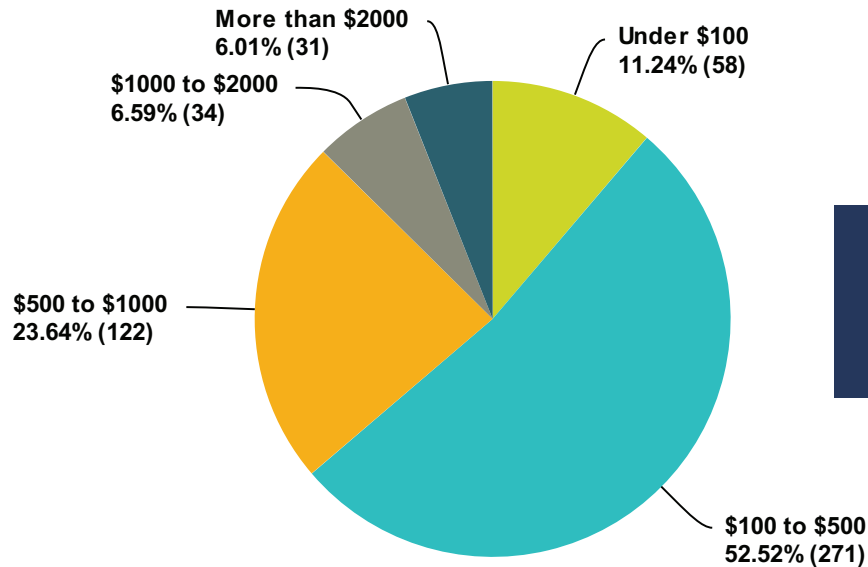
In the last two years have you sustained any damage to your vehicle that was directly caused by the condition of the road on which you were driving?



Answered: 706  
Skipped: 140

## Question 5:

What was the cost of repairing the damage to your vehicle?



Answered: 516  
Skipped: 330

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under \$100	11.24%	58
\$100 to \$500	52.52%	271
\$500 to \$1000	23.64%	122
\$1000 to \$2000	6.59%	34
More than \$2000	6.01%	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>516</b>

### Sample Comments (37 comments received)

Unknown as haven't bothered getting damaged fixed as only more will occur with the current road conditions.	Windscreen chip - not yet repaired - anticipated \$400 repair.
\$7500 car damage and personal injury,	Slipped on Love's Lane. Was towed. Tire blew on pothole.
Write off.	No direct damage, increased wear and tear and suspension wearing out before it should.
Wheel damage.	Boat trailer springs (left hand side).
New tyre.	Front end alignment damage & suspension wear & tear.
Not sure. flat tyres, damaged suspension etc (mainly due to pot holes).	Popped a shock in my car.
Not repaired yet (windscreen damage 3 large chips) from flying debris from other cars passing.	Wheel alignment and bent tyre rim
Ongoing damage to tyres/rims and suspension.	I was lucky enough to have my rim fixed for nothing.
Car write-off and replaced.	3 separate incidents.

## Question 6:

On which road was the damage sustained?

### Comment:

474 responses were received for this question.

To provide additional context, answers were broken down into categories and tallied.

The most common roads where damage was sustained were:

- South Gippsland Highway 277
- Bass Highway 63
- Meeniyah-Prom Road 45
- Strzelecki Highway 24
- Foster-Fish Creek Road 44
- Foster-Prom Road 21
- Korumburra-Warragul Road 11

There were 39 responses to damage on Council managed roads.

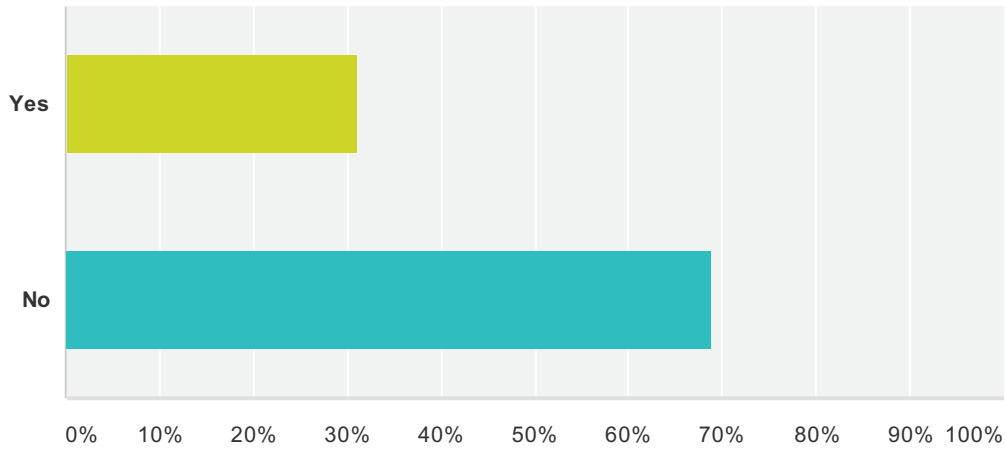
The most popular roads identified were:

- Nippards Track (3)
- Walkerville-Fish Creek Road (2)

Answered: 474  
Skipped: 372

## Question 7:

Other than vehicle damage, has there been any other economic impact to you, or your business as a result of the road conditions?



Answered: 697  
Skipped: 149

	Responses
	31.13% 217
	68.87% 480
	697

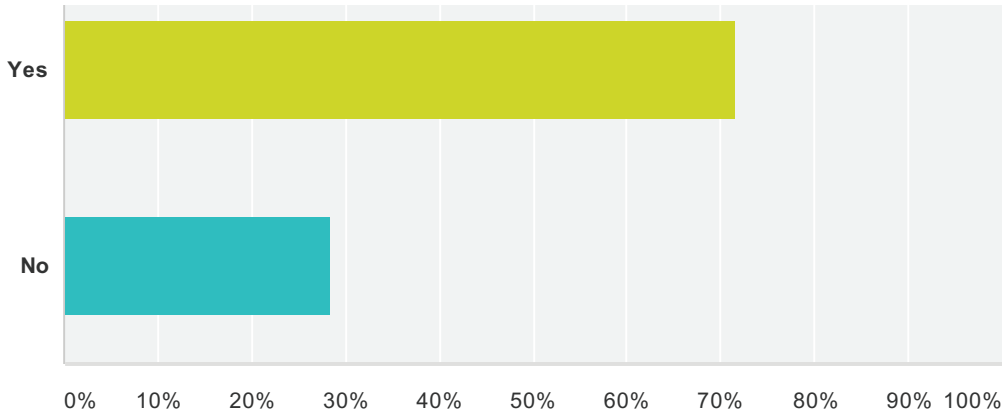
### Sample Comments (218 comments received)

As a major tourist destination, the condition of South Gippsland Roads are the poorest in the State especially the major highways and tourist routes. This may not have an immediate impact but may mean visitors do not return to the Region because they have had a negative experience on the roads and go elsewhere.	The constant delays for repair work, and work to be done. This I know must happen but when the quality of repairs is so low that within a week they are back to fix it again, you have to wonder is this the best use of your time and money. The contractors who do the work have no pride at all, just do what they are told and go home to reap the funds that should help fix our roads.
Delivery time of olive oil for processing was longer. Transportation of oil was also slower. Just driving to destinations where that highway was essential was slower and hazardous.	The main issue is vehicles dodging potholes and creating dangerous conditions by swerving in front of oncoming traffic. This will only get worse in the holiday period with many people visiting the region
Longer travelling time.	The constant removal of bitumen from the trucks in the fleet that I drive.
Load restricted bridges raise the cost of milk collection off farms directly affecting the milk price paid to farmers as these costs reduce the factory profits to be paid back to farmers.	My sister was involved in a serious car accident due to a dirt road not being maintained and it was causing a river across a road. She lost control of the car and thankfully only collided with a tree... it could have been a lot worse. We have been supporting her ever since.
Lost money due to vehicle repairs unable to attend work.	No direct damage, increased wear and tear and suspension wearing out before it should.
Wheel damage.	Hogans road is full of pothole and is rarely graded vehicles come around the corner off yanathan road on the opposite side of the road to avoid the large potholes.this is a major hazard and an incident waiting to occur!
Extra time needed to navigate the potholes and poor surfaces.	Tourists turn around and drive away because of the state of our road.

<p>My house valuation from an estate agent is badly affected due to the poor condition of the road.</p>	<p>No not yet. But do travel slower to work between towns. Worried about the way cars and trucks swerve to avoid "road hazards", and in one place travel down the middle of the road.</p>
<p>Need to talk alternative routes, excess time.</p>	<p>Added costs to bussing students to Foster from Fish Creek.</p>
<p>It is unsafe to be dodging pot holes when driving and unless you know they are there when you drive in the dark you hit them and cause damage to your vehicle so I avoid driving in the dark when I can this should not be the case.</p>	<p>Had to take alternate routes on back roads to avoid massive pot holes = spending more money on fuel.</p>
<p>Its nerve wrecking to drive these roads, I have a learner driver, its hard enough for me to navigate these pot holes, try teaching a new driver! We need to allow extra travel time, our vehicles are suffering terribly under the conditions and it wont be long before it lives are lost. Its scary.</p>	<p>Extra time taken to travel along road due to reduced speeds - travel regularly and may only be couple minutes each trip, but over weeks/months etc of travel - adds up. Impact is over \$300/hr, we have about 20 vehicles on road, and each would be affected by a few minutes each day in SG travels.</p>
<p>People not wanting to travel outside of major townships, off major roads.</p>	<p>I believe reduced visitor numbers as a result of roads has led to fewer hours of casual work for my son.</p>
<p>Road closures due to repair are a problem when a detour adds an additional 10 mins on to a journey and uses unsealed roads as part of that detour.</p>	<p>Of course! To maintain your car with having wheels replaced, balanced, aligned and all the tar that sticks to the car. The costs are there but how do I prove these happened on a particular area or time? We've been here for 5-6 years and have to fix our car more often due to the conditions it has to drive in. The worst is when its wet and at night.....the pot hole that was filled in the week before is now double the size and you go straight through it because you don't see it. Going around bends there are potholes on the edges too.</p>
<p>The discomfort and potential injury of cattle being transported from farm to market. I have seen animals being hit by overhanging branches as well as trucks swerving to avoid and hitting potholes. The animals do not have to comfort of a cabin to cushion the impact.</p>	<p>I prefer not to drive in South Gippsland because the roads are too bad. If you drive on them frequently, you remember they're bad and know where the bad spots are. When I come back from East Gippsland, I forget the road conditions are poor and get caught out. The road from Leongatha to Inverloch was embarrassing (for the State Govt) last time I went on it. No point in paying millions for road barriers on dual-lane freeways with shoulders and minimal bends, when country drivers don't have a shoulder to avoid massive potholes.</p>
<p>As a non resident but enjoy frequenting the area I find that using a risk assessment type thinking I am reluctant to travel in the area. Mainly due to the condition of the roads. Maybe as a cost cutting measure the removal of all rough surface signs they could be replaced with smooth surface signs, thereby saving a lot of money. It puts tourist off with the main arterial road through the area no better than a goat track.</p>	<p>The long term neglect of these roads now puts an impost on all residents of SG through increased rates and taxes that would not have been necessary if proper road maintenance had been carried out in a timely manner in past years.</p>
<p>We do run a business in Mirboo North and our customers are most upset with the condition off our roads It doesn't matter from which way they travel Morwell, Trafalgar (Melbourne) or from the Leongatha side all of these roads are in a bad and dangerous way.</p>	<p>Having to continually make phone calls to the Shire to ask them to please, please, please repair the potholes in my road.</p>

## Question 8:

Have you experienced (or witnessed) a road safety incident/issue directly related to the road conditions?



Answered: 689  
Skipped: 157

	Responses
	71.55% 493
	28.45% 196
	689

### Sample Comments (470 comments)

Six cars with blown tyres , being attended to by Bearepairs Leongatha callout vehicle, between Korumburra and Leongatha.	Vehicles swerving towards oncoming traffic to avoid severe potholes.
A fatal accident out the front of my property.	Too many to detail. - my sisters car accident - pot hole incidences - no signage around dangerous conditions.
Friends car tyre blew and wheel damaged as result of hitting an unsigned pothole.	People overtaking in areas sign posted at 'Roadworks 40kmh'
I have had near misses with cars coming onto the wrong side of the road to avoid major potholes. In particular between Korumburra and Leongatha, people are used to the speed restrictions being in place around the major potholes and therefore ignore them. I often have irate drivers attempting to overtake in these areas because I am obeying the speed limit set by the temporary signs.	A vehicle in front of me swerved dangerously towards the opposite side of the road to avoid a pothole. Fortunately, the oncoming traffic was still some distance away.
Car getting 2 flat tyres after hitting a very large potholed section of road. She had children in the car. It could have been very serious..	Several "near miss" incidents where cars have been on the wrong side of the road to avoid a large pothole/road in poor condition.
Several pile ups of dented rims resulting in flat tyres on south gippsland hwy it's like we don't exist in gippsland . Shire roads are in much better condition and are fixed to a high standard , shires should be funded to fix vic roads also	Water over the road (Bass Hwy), cars aquaplaning, running off the road and into the drains/ditches. Also car running off the road to avoid a pothole when oncoming traffic meant they couldn't go into other carriageway to avoid it. This car hit a tree.
Drivers swerving into oncoming traffic to avoid potholes.	Cars crossing double lines to miss pothole outside of Leongatha.

<p>Saw a car lose a wheel. Have seen many cars swerving dangerously to miss pot holes.</p>	<p>Serious accident on Anderson Inlet Road late in 2013 caused (I believe) by loose stones left after a patch job. Not sure why the patch was required in the first place. There has been some seemingly unnecessary works done on Anderson Inlet Road lately. Especially when there are more urgent/dangerous issues with outer roads, both sealed and unsealed.</p>
<p>Tyre blow out and bent wheel due to ditch in road.</p>	<p>A young girl on P plates drifted onto the side of the road (dirt edge) lost control in the dirt and rolled her car.</p>
<p>Milk tanker crossing double whit lines onto my side of the road to avoid hole in the road near Ruby.</p>	<p>On my last trip towing a large caravan I was confronted with a motorist who had to swerve over the road centre due to a large pot hole.</p>
<p>Yes People are dangerously swerving to avoid these potholes/craters. also on many occasions ive seen people hit the potholes doing the speed limit of 100 hub caps flying off half loosing control before pulling over to change there punctured tire or ruin rim.</p>	<p>No actual accidents, but many near misses (eg cars pulling over double lines to miss big pothole and oncoming car having to brake hard and swerve onto shoulder to miss head on). This is apart from witnessing broken wheels/tyres, cracked windscreens from rocks thrown up, brokwn trailer axles (boats, caravans etc) around the badly potholed areas.</p>
<p>Whilst traveling to Wilsons' Prom from Melbourne on the Fish Creek to Yanakie rd I had to move on to the wrong side of the road to doge a road hazard (large pothole and raised bitumen combined) as there was no road shoulder , this put me in line with oncoming traffic.</p>	<p>I believe reduced visitor numbers as a result of roads has led to fewer hours of casual work for my son.</p>
<p>My daughter is my learner driver, dodging pot holes has seen her in clear view of a head on collision had she not had her wits about her. I have seen other cars dodging pot holes, moving to the centre of the road in their panic rather to the left. Its an accident waiting to happen. I myself during night driving came within centimetres of losing my car into such a huge hole that could only been seen when nearly in it.....I had 4 teens in the car and I screamed hang on ! as I saw it at the last minute and managed to get a tyre either side of it. It was the width of my car between the two tyres either side! If I had ended up with a tyre in there I believe that doing the 100km hour on the highway that I would have rolled my car and all those 4 teens would have been injured.</p>	<p>Driving on Strzelecki Highway from Morwell to Mirboo North. with the afternoon light filtered through trees, I wasn't sure if what I saw ahead was a pothole or just shadow. Lucky I assumed it was a pothole, it was massive. Came around the curve and two young women in a ute flagged me down. They had punctured their tyre (and possibly twisted the axle) because they hit the pothole. It was a mobile deadspot, so I had to drive 7 mins up the road to get reception and call for help. As I couldn't contact them by phone to let them know I'd reached their father, I had to drive back to them to pass on the message. It was a sharp, deep pothole that looked about a foot deep. I noticed it was patched when I drove past a couple of days later, which is even more frustrating - repair before damage when the pot-holes are small, not when they get to the stage of damaging the structure of vehicles. I could have come around that bend in the road to find seriously injured people if the girls had been unable to control the car. Why should I be exposed to that trauma so the State Government can claim a budget surplus by cutting essential road maintenance. State Govt has put country drivers' lives at risk with their cost cutting. It will now cost more to get the roads back up to scratch than if they had continued with maintenance. Shameful.</p>
<p>On the Strzelicki Hwy a person lost control of his car due to hitting a very bad pothole.</p>	<p>South gippsland hwy out side " Claire de lune" vineyard four flat tires in fifteen minuets and a near miss.</p>

## Question 9:

Which roads do you believe require the most urgent attention and why? If you know recurring trouble spots (or potential future issues), please list.

Answered: 623  
Skipped: 223

### Comment:

623 responses were received for this question.

To provide additional context, answers were broken into categories and tallied.

The roads that require the most urgent attention were identified as these VicRoads managed roads:

- South Gippsland Highway 430
- Bass Highway 120
- Meeniyah-Prom Road 120
- Strzelecki Highway 43
- Foster-Fish Creek Road 44
- Foster-Prom Road 21
- Korumburra-Warragul Road 11

Ninety four Council managed roads were identified, with the most common being:

- Walkerville-Fish Creek Road (5)
- Old Thorpdale Road (5)
- Waratah Bay Road (4)
- Nippards Track (4)

### Sample Comment:

Complete renewal of South Gippsland Hwy from the intersection of Old Ruby Rd for approximately 2 km to the east, this is very rough both sides. I drive on the paved shoulders on both sides to try to get a smoother ride.	The highway between Korumburra and Meeniyah requires complete reconstruction because the pothole patches aren't lasting. It carries so much traffic that they just redevelop over night or the underlying problem has not been sufficiently resolved and the potholes/traffic hazards are reforming.
Bass Highway.	Drainage clearing along highway and Meeniyah Promontory Road is required as it is preventative maintenance and water will not run onto the road.
The Korumburra-Leongatha Highway. The spots which are always full of pot holes.	South Gippsland Highway, between Foster & Toora, and also between Welshpool & Wellington Shire boundary. Potholes continuing to surface & then being fixed, but breaking down again.
Scott and Fahey's Rd (near #90) large hole on sothern side. Clancy's Rd bitumen just prior to McMillan's Rd. Road has severe undulations and numerous hles on verge - no good if you have to move over to pass another vehicle. Silkstone Straight recurring holes in Highway.	All of South Gippsland Highway, especially between Welshpool & Leongatha - very dangerous conditions at the moment & only getting worse.



I'm sure when your team audit them you can determine which require higher priority.	South Gippsland Highway especially from Korumburra to Leongatha. Also the Leongatha Inverloch road, which is appalling.
South Gippsland hwy between Yarram and Loch.	Prom Road is a disgrace Lester Road, Yanakie (grading is not working, this road has been done twice in 1 month and we listen to too many complaints).
All unsealed roads. They have- No safety barriers. Unsafe , eg loose gravel, potholes, washouts, washboard surfaces, sharp blind bends, tall roadside vegetation etc. 100kph speed limits. I am particularly concerned with both Fairbank Road and McNaughtons road, and have written twice to the council regarding this. In my opinion unsealed roads are the most dangerous of all, and as such, should be constantly maintained in the best condition possible.	South Gippsland Highway near Stony Creek - I can avoid the potholes because I know where they are now. Falls Road, near Fish Creek end - pothole was patched up several times, I don't expect this latest job will last either before it breaks up again!
South gippsland hwy urgent it's now willful neglect by our state government !	Tarwin Meenyan Rd Lower Tarwin Rd Inverloch Tarwin Lower Rd.
South Gippsland Highway, the section between Korumburra and Meenyan. This is a major. All the roads are suffering in the heat and the great rains. Why? They have these conditions in Darwin, Ive been there and their roads are amazing. Especially the highways and you can travel at 110km on them and do it safely???????	Leongatha Korumburra Road dangerous pot holes have that have been repaired to many times. The entire of South Gippsland needs new roads they are shocking. Maybe get some one that knows how to do the job properly go to Germany of Europe and see how there roads are and take a leaf outta there book!!!
They all need \$\$\$ spent on them. Worst is sg hwy overtaking lanes at korumburra.	South Gippsland Highway From Loch to Foster
GrandRidge Road has landlips poor drainage, pot holes & poor reconstruction of seal. This is poor for a TOURIST road which is meant to entice visitors to our area. A grader needs to clean out gutters & fix road edges & culverts need cleaning to keep water off the sand roads & reduce the water degradation. Many roads in the hallston/allambee areas have poor drainage which leads to running water on the road surfaces causing more damage allowing water to weaken the road base & probably costing more for repairs!	Mainly use main roads (Sth Gippy Hwy, Strz Hwy, Mardan Rd, Farmers Rd, Bass Hwy) - all have issues that appear to be due to water (making potholes which go for too long without attention, and become big holes). All require action asap.
South Gippsland Highway. Falls Road from Fish Creek to the Highway - the extra load carried during the Fish Creek - Foster road reconstruction caused significant deterioration of the edges and some spots where the surface is breaking up. One corner at 95 Falls road now has a lip from the bitumen to gravel of many centimetres. On a sharp corner with no visibility cars and trucks drive off the edge for safety. The edge is now starting to break up and if not remediated will end up breaking up across the road. There are other corners up the highway end that have the same issues but not to quite the same extent. Some remediation now will save major repairs at a later date.	All of them! Especially south gippy highway between loch and leongatha, near condalucis is very the hole keeps on getting patched up but after rain the Crater appears again, and you have to go on the wrong side of the road to avoid it, On the way to the prom near fish creek and Yanakie is awful as well. After our recent heat wave the poowong loch road has melted, this. Will get slippery in winter.
South gippsland hwy between foster and yarram the asphalt is very bad state with a lot of potholes and cracking letting water enter pavement and causing more potholes will be a never ending repair road needs upgrading and more drainage installed	As a tourist to the area going from Melbourne to Wilsons Prom and towing a camper trailer, I feel that for me the main route from Tidal river to Yanakie to Fish Creek to Meniyan is the most important part due to the high volume of travelers to the prom. not only is it us Melbournians it is also visitors for other parts of Australia and international tourists.