

3/2/2022

Chief Executive Officer  
South Gippsland Shire Council  
9 Smith Street,  
Leongatha, VIC 3953

I am writing about the need for a permanent solution to the poor condition of Canavans Road, Mount Eccles.

In 2021, the potholes reappeared on the unsealed, narrow road and were left there for months. Drivers were forced to drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid them, vehicles were damaged, and there were many near misses.

In November, I drove from McKeans Rd to Bells Rd (4km) and counted 326 potholes (photos of some of the potholes attached).

This is not a new problem; the potholes reappear every year during winter and spring and remain until the road is eventually graded by the South Gippsland Shire Council – usually after a local property owner calls the maintenance department in frustration, demanding something to be done.

The unsealed road also becomes greasy and muddy after frequent rainfall in the area.

Canavans Rd is a windy road with many blind corners and is therefore risky for drivers at the best of time. Allowing it to remain unsealed and riddled with large potholes for months of end – especially when a school bus uses it on a twice daily basis – is hard to comprehend.

South Gippsland Shire Council resheeted the road in 2019 at a cost of \$120,000. While this was welcomed, it clearly wasn't a lasting solution - and the band-aid 'fix' of grading the road and filling in the potholes with dirt since hasn't improved matters with everyone back to driving in dangerous conditions when winter hits and the road breaks down again.

Mount Eccles property owners have raised the problem with council numerous times over the years, yet they always receive the same responses - 'it will never happen in your lifetime', 'we have one grader for the entire shire', 'there are 1000km of dirt roads in the shire and Canavans Rd isn't the busiest'.

Surely it is time to provide a permanent solution by sealing the road. Otherwise, what will it take – a head-on accident caused by someone swerving to avoid the potholes on one of the blind spots? Someone driving off the road and crashing down one of the many steep embankments due to the poor conditions?

Mount Eccles residents believe the South Gippsland Shire Council has a duty of care to provide them with a safe road to travel on, and look forward to hearing your response. A petition is attached with this submission.

Regards

Felicity Hetherington

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