



My Country Road

2026

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Executive General Manager
Insurance and Roadside

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Cover image: Midland Highway,
Ballarat to Daylesford (A300)

All photography courtesy of Matt Harvey

Loddon Valley Highway,
Bendigo to Kerang (B260)





Foreword

This year's *My Country Road* survey reflects the growing concern Victorians have about the state of our regional roads.

Every two years we ask respondents to have their say, and deteriorating roads continues to be the biggest road safety concern, with 71 per cent of respondents identifying potholes and rough surfaces as the number one issue – an increase from 64 per cent in 2024.

This increased concern is also reflected in the rise of number of tyre related breakdowns our emergency roadside assist network has seen recently.

The 2026 *My Country Road* survey has been a collaborative effort and I would like to thank the 6,000 road users who took the time to provide us with their feedback, many of whom travel these roads on a daily basis.

This is a unique road safety campaign because it is both evidence-based and reflective of community concerns. RACV worked with the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) to review the safety standard of 20,000 kilometres of regional roads – using Australian Road Assessment Program (AusRAP) data – to shortlist 52 most hazardous roads based on design features such as narrow lanes, poor visibility, and lack of overtaking opportunities and crash barriers. RACV then asked Victorians to provide their feedback on the shortlisted roads, or to nominate their own road and tell us why.

While each region raised distinct local concerns, the results show consistent demand for practical investment that improves the condition, capacity and safety of Victoria's regional road network.

Once again, I'd like to thank everyone who responded to the survey, as well as the AAA for assisting us with the analysis. This campaign has demonstrated the value of listening to those who know our roads best.

Phil Turnbull
Executive General Manager
Insurance and Roadside

How we listened to you

My Country Road gave road users the opportunity to provide feedback on roads shortlisted by RACV, or to identify other regional roads to be prioritised for improvement.

Respondents were invited to nominate a regional road or road section, and to identify the issues and tell us what improvements they would like to see.

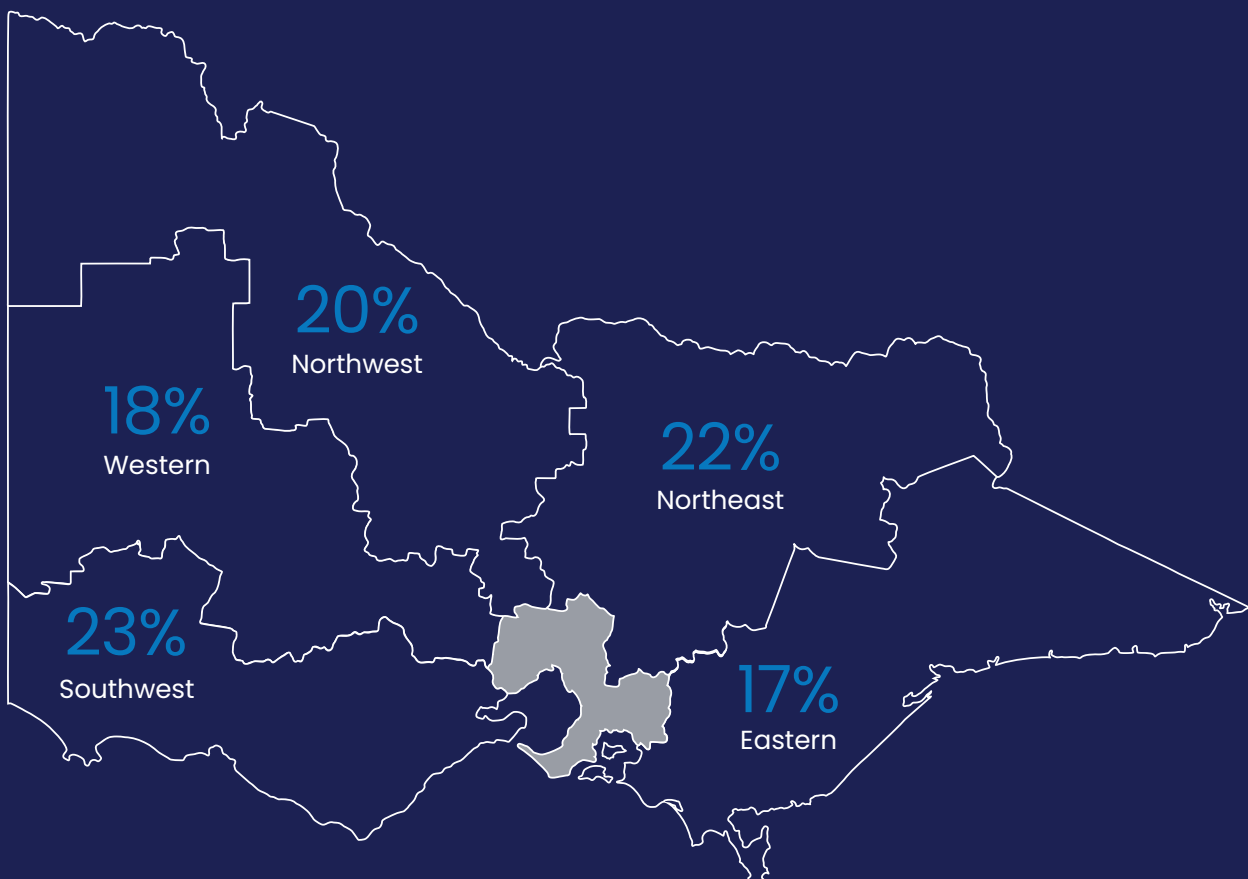
The survey was structured around five regions of Victoria – Southwest, Western, Northwest, Northeast and Eastern – allowing participants to identify the roads and issues most important to their local communities.

In total, 6,143 respondents submitted 10,048 requests for road improvements across the five regions.

The Southwest generated the highest share of nominations (23.0%), closely followed by the Northeast (22%). Together, these two regions accounted for almost half of all nominations received during the campaign. Northwest Victoria contributed 20% of nominations, while Western and Eastern Victoria accounted for 18% and 17% respectively.

Participation levels across all regions demonstrates consistent concerns about the conditions and safety of regional roads experienced throughout Victoria. The results provide an important community perspective combined with evidence-based analysis of high-risk road sections.

Share of statewide nominations for road improvements



What you told us

Across the five regions, many participants described roads where maintenance issues had become an ongoing concern rather than isolated defects.

Respondents reported recurring potholes, uneven pavement and deteriorating shoulders that affected comfort, reliability and confidence when travelling. Many also described changing their driving behaviour to avoid damaged sections of road or adjusting travel routes altogether.

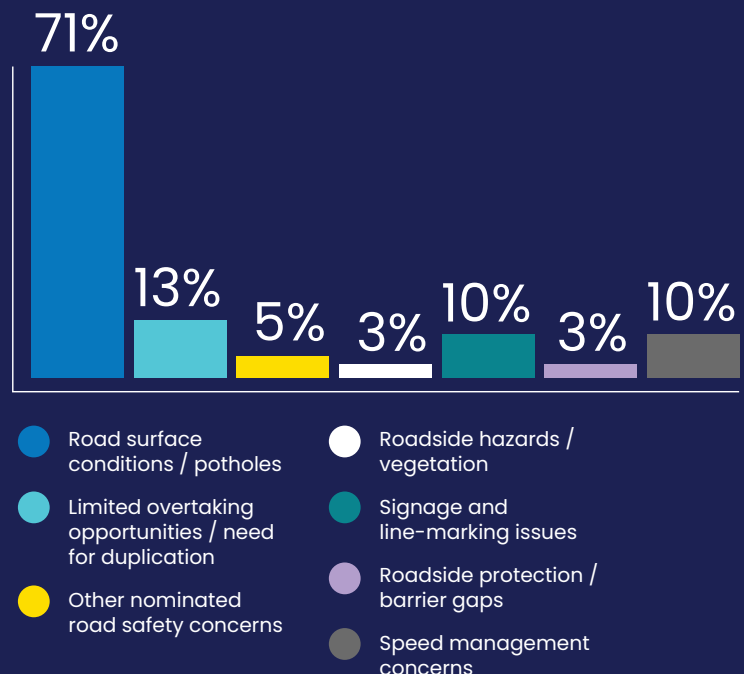
Respondents frequently described roads as no longer built to a standard that can meet growing demand, particularly on routes carrying a mix of local traffic, freight, visitors and long-distance travellers. Respondents commonly referenced the cumulative impact of deteriorating surfaces, narrow shoulders, restricted visibility and limited opportunities to overtake safely.

While these findings highlight an enduring community concern about potholes, other safety issues in relation to road design and driver behaviour remain.

6,143
responses

10,048
requests for road
improvements

Top road issues identified



Deteriorating road conditions is the number one concern

Respondents logged 10,048 requests for road improvements across the regions.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents nominated road resurfacing as the highest priority improvement (71%), reflecting the widespread concern about road quality and potholes.

Lane duplication was the second most requested improvement (13%), reinforcing the importance of providing safe overtaking opportunities on principal routes. Other commonly requested improvements

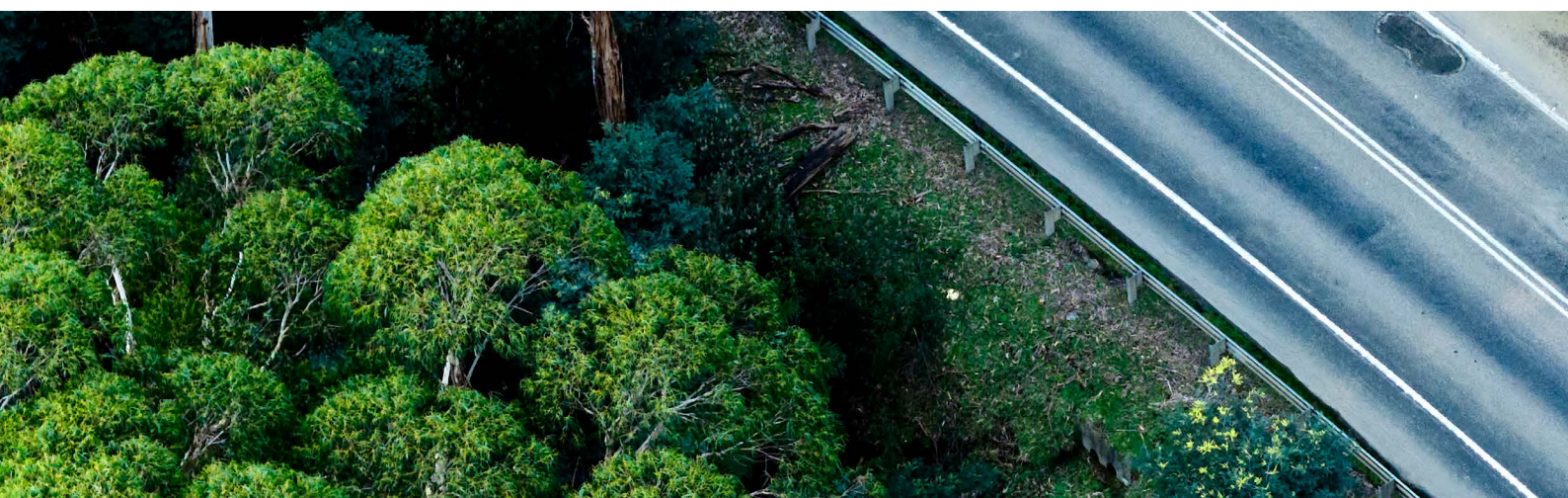
included vegetation management, improved signage and line marking, and targeted safety treatments.

Respondents generally perceive speed management as one element of a broader road safety response. Across Victoria, respondents prioritised road improvements over speed reductions, and concerns were expressed that too often temporary speed limit reductions become a permanent solution to rough surfaces or poor road conditions.

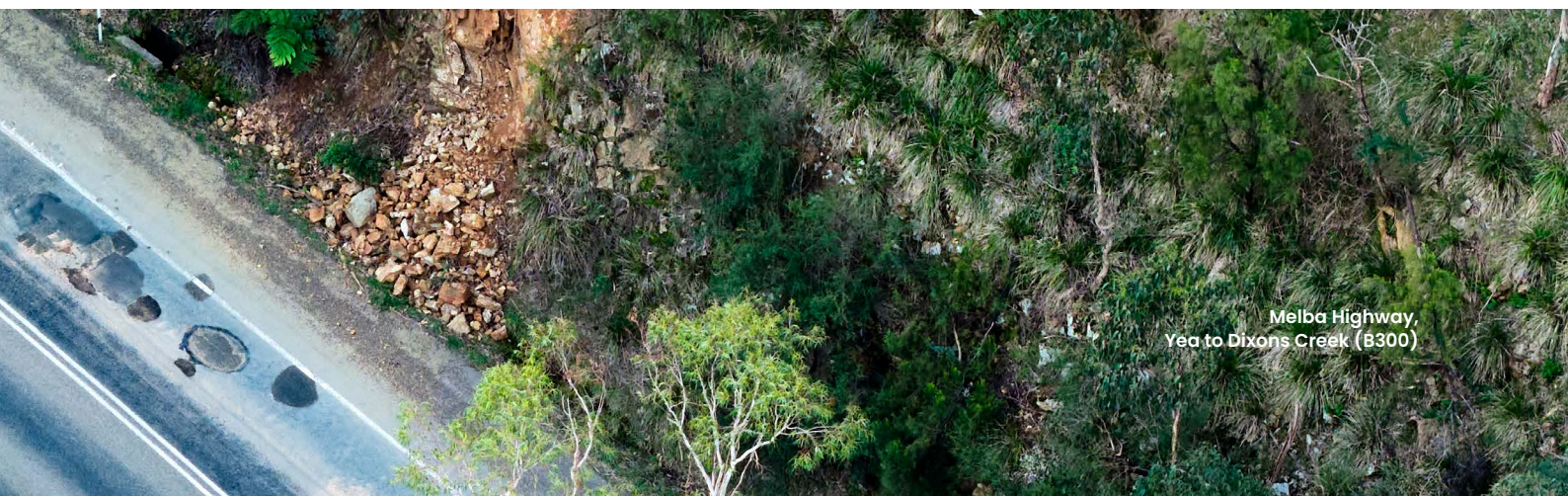
Together, these findings demonstrate a strong and consistent community expectation for ongoing investment in Victoria's regional road network.

Top 20 roads with safety concerns

Rank	Road	Region	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Princes Highway West, Colac to Camperdown (A1)	Southwest	Colac Otway Shire Council / Corangamite Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
2	Princes Highway West, Portland to Port Fairy (A1)	Southwest	Glenelg Shire Council / Moyne Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
3	Loddon Valley Highway, Bendigo to Kerang (B260)	Northwest	Greater Bendigo City Council / Loddon Shire Council / Gannawarra Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues
4	Midland Highway, Ballarat to Daylesford (A300)	Western	City of Ballarat / Hepburn Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, speed management
5	Western Highway, Ararat to Stawell (A8)	Western	Ararat Rural City Council / Northern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, speed management
6	Melba Highway, Yea to Dixons Creek (B300)	Northeast	Murrindindi Shire Council / Yarra Ranges Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
7	Goulburn Valley Highway and Maroondah Highway, Yea to Mansfield (B300/B340)	Northeast	Murrindindi Shire Council / Mansfield Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
8	Western Highway, Ballarat to Trawalla (M8)	Western	City of Ballarat / Pyrenees Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, speed management
9	Murray Valley Highway, Wodonga to Tallangatta (B400)	Northeast	Wodonga Council / Towong Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
10	Northern Highway, Echuca to Heathcote (B75)	Northwest	Campaspe Shire Council / Greater Bendigo City Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues



Rank	Road	Region	Local Government area	Issues raised
11	Western Highway, Horsham to Stawell (A8)	Western	Horsham Rural City Council / Northern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, roadside protection or barrier treatment
12	Henty Highway, Portland to Hamilton (A200)	Southwest	Glenelg Shire Council / Southern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
13	Northern Highway and McIvor Highway, Wallan to Bendigo (B75)	Northwest	Mitchell Shire Council / Greater Bendigo City Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues
14	Midland Highway, Benalla to Mansfield (B300 – C518)	Northeast	Benalla Rural City Council / Mansfield Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, roadside hazards or vegetation
15	Hamilton Highway, Mortlake to Hamilton (B140)	Southwest	Moynes Shire Council / Southern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
16	Murray Valley Highway, Corryong to Tallangatta (B400)	Northeast	Towong Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication
17	Strzelecki Highway, Leongatha to Mirboo North (B460)	Eastern	South Gippsland Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, speed management
18	Murray Valley Highway, Swan Hill to Robinvale (B400)	Northwest	Swan Hill Rural City Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues
19	Calder Highway, Ouyen to Charlton (A79)	Northwest	Mildura Rural City Council / Buloke Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues
20	Princes Highway East, Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance (A1)	Eastern	East Gippsland Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues



Regional results

Southwest

Top three roads with safety concerns in the Southwest region

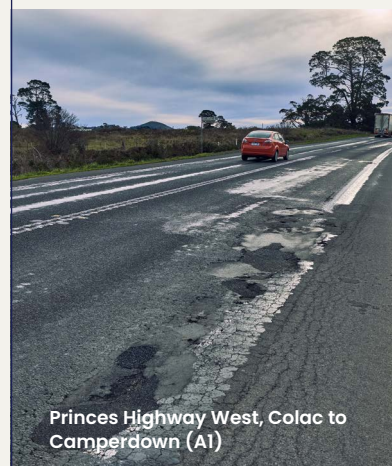
Rank	Road	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Princes Highway West, Colac to Camperdown (A1)	Colac Otway Shire Council / Corangamite Shire Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking lanes or duplication, roadside vegetation management, intersection upgrades, improved line-marking and signage
2	Princes Highway West, Portland to Port Fairy (A1)	Glenelg Shire Council / Moyne Shire Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking opportunities, safer intersections, improved signage and line-marking, road shoulder widening
3	Henty Highway, Portland to Hamilton (A200)	Glenelg Shire Council / Southern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, heavy vehicle safety improvements, additional overtaking lanes, shoulder widening, improved signage and line-marking



What we heard

"It takes so much longer to travel to Port Fairy at this current time with the amount of potholes and hazards. There needs to be a serious fix for this road."

"A fatal accident waiting to happen due to giant potholes."



Princes Highway West, Colac to Camperdown (A1)



Western

Top three roads with safety concerns in the Western region

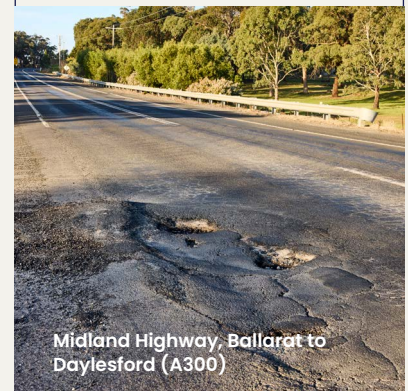
Rank	Road	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Midland Highway, Ballarat to Daylesford (A300)	City of Ballarat / Hepburn Shire Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking opportunities, intersection upgrades, shoulder widening, improved signage and line-marking
2	Western Highway, Ararat to Stawell (A8)	Ararat Rural City Council / Northern Grampians Shire Council	Road surface condition, duplication or additional overtaking lanes, safer intersections, heavy vehicle safety improvements, improved signage and line-marking
3	Western Highway, Ballarat to Trawalla (M8)	City of Ballarat / Pyrenees Shire Council	Duplication and capacity upgrades, safer intersections and interchanges, road surface improvements, heavy vehicle safety improvements, improved signage and line-marking



What we heard

"This highway carries hundreds of trucks a day and needs to be duplicated immediately. The shoulders are crumbling and potholes are dangerous."

"The lack of speed-limit signage combined with the unsafe state of the road leads to motorists taking unsafe risks, and both need to be addressed."



Midland Highway, Ballarat to Daylesford (A300)



Northwest

Top three roads with safety concerns in the Northwest region

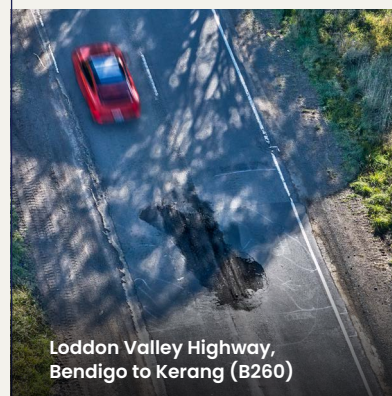
Rank	Road	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Loddon Valley Highway, Bendigo to Kerang (B260)	Greater Bendigo City Council / Loddon Shire Council / Gannawarra Shire Council	Road surface condition, shoulder widening, additional overtaking opportunities, improved signage and line-marking, intersection safety improvements
2	Northern Highway, Echuca to Heathcote (B75)	Campaspe Shire Council / Greater Bendigo City Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking lanes, shoulder widening, heavy vehicle safety improvements, improved signage and line-marking
3	Northern Highway and McIvor Highway, Wallan to Bendigo (B75)	Mitchell Shire Council / Greater Bendigo City Council	Duplication and capacity upgrades, safer intersections, road surface improvements, additional overtaking opportunities, improved signage and line-marking



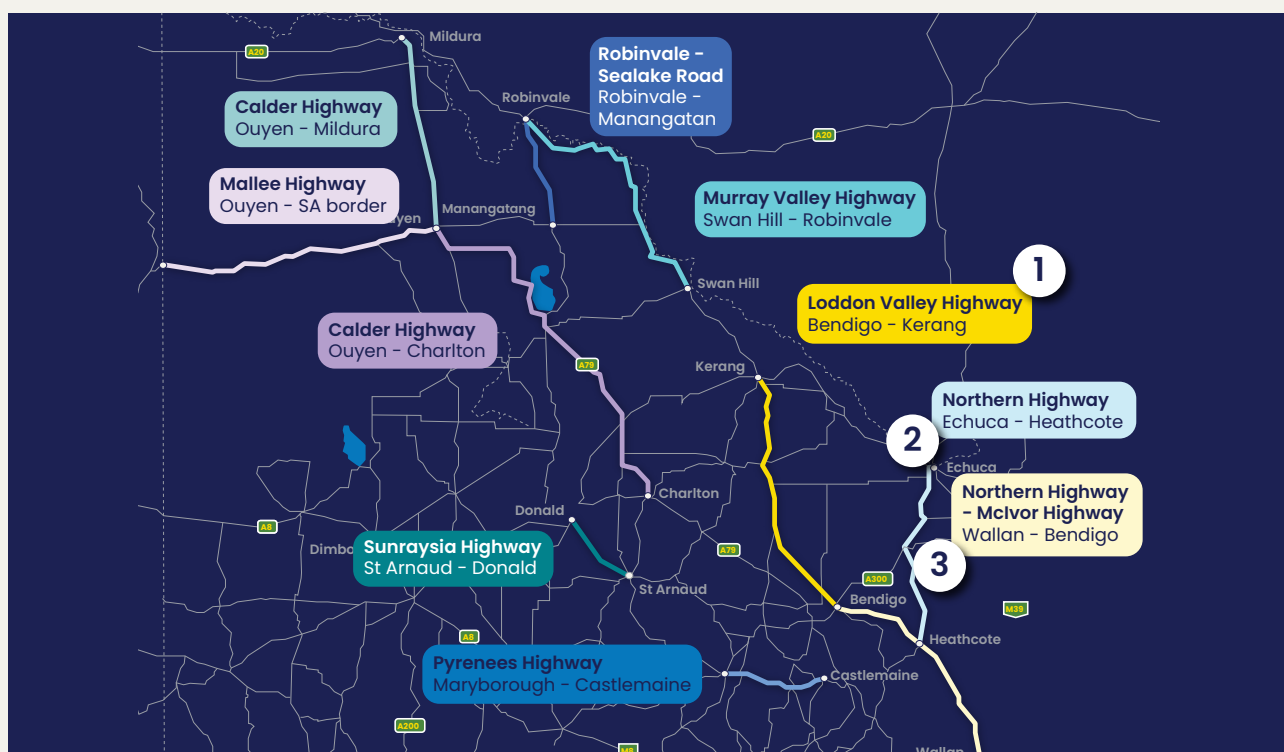
What we heard

"No overtaking lanes on this highway before the South Australian border. I travel this road often and many accidents could be avoided with these."

"This road is heavily trafficked with no duplication of lanes. Due to this, all vehicle categories take high risks to overtake slower-moving vehicles."



Loddon Valley Highway, Bendigo to Kerang (B260)



Northeast

Top three roads with safety concerns in the Northeast region

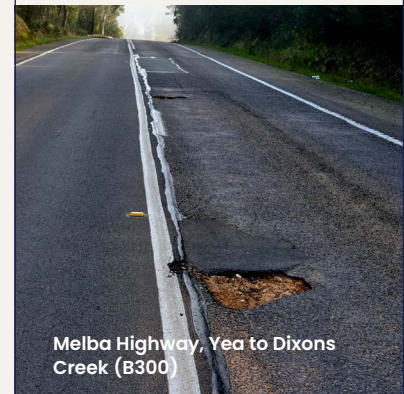
Rank	Road	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Melba Highway, Yea to Dixons Creek (B300)	Murrindindi Shire Council / Yarra Ranges Council	Road surface condition, shoulder widening, roadside vegetation management, curve and safety improvements, improved signage and line-marking
2	Goulburn Valley Highway and Maroondah Highway, Yea to Mansfield (B300/B340)	Murrindindi Shire Council / Mansfield Shire Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking opportunities, shoulder widening, intersection upgrades, improved signage and line-marking
3	Murray Valley Highway, Wodonga to Tallangatta (B400)	Wodonga Council / Towong Shire Council	Road surface condition, shoulder widening, additional overtaking opportunities, roadside hazard removal, improved signage and line-marking



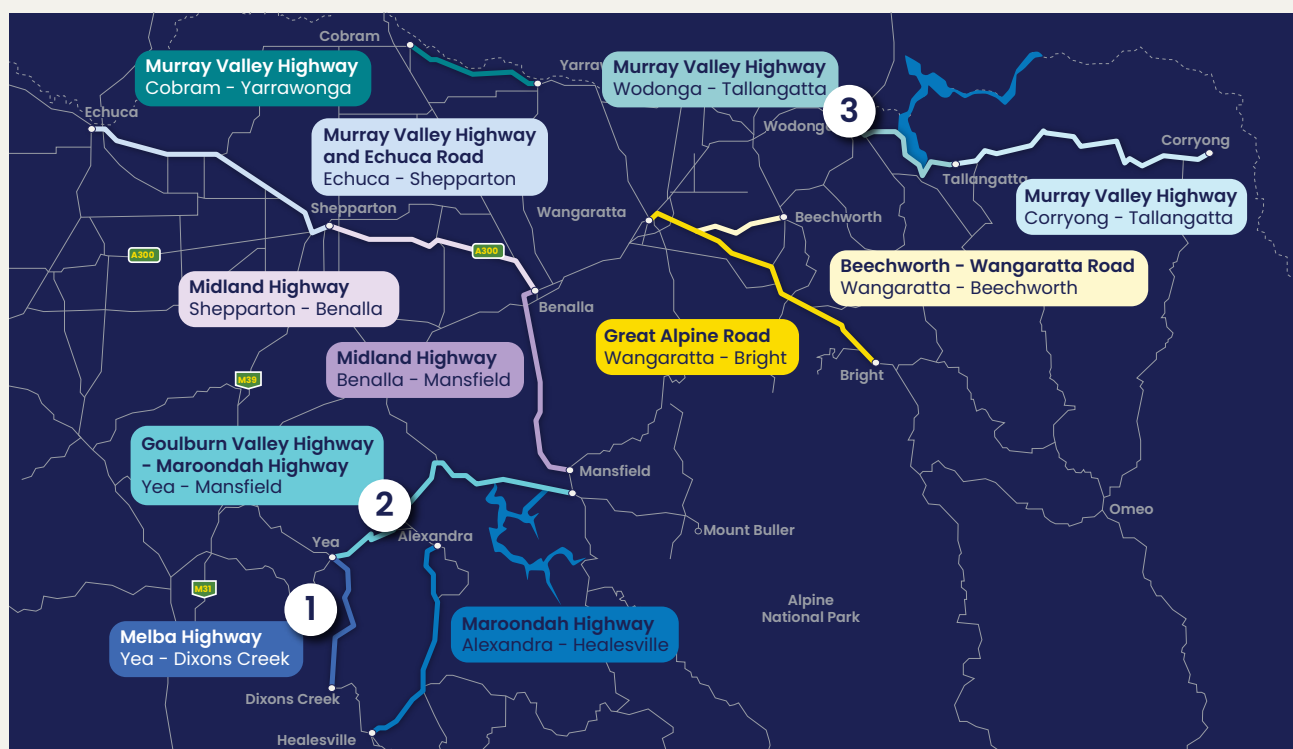
What we heard

"The potholes are so deep and need resurfacing. Patching is not an option. The holes are causing damage and an increasing accident risk, with cars swerving to miss them."

"For a main freeway and traffic numbers, potholes are a danger to all vehicles"



Melba Highway, Yea to Dixons Creek (B300)



Eastern

Top three roads with safety concerns in the Eastern region

Rank	Road	Local Government area	Issues raised
1	Strzelecki Highway, Leongatha to Mirboo North (B460)	South Gippsland Shire Council	Road surface condition, shoulder widening, roadside vegetation management, curve safety improvements, improved signage and line-marking
2	Princes Highway East, Bairnsdale to Lakes Entrance (A1)	East Gippsland Shire Council	Road surface condition, limited overtaking opportunities or need for duplication, signage and line-marking issues
3	South Gippsland Highway, Loch to Leongatha (A440)	South Gippsland Shire Council	Road surface condition, additional overtaking opportunities, safer intersections, shoulder widening, improved signage and line-marking



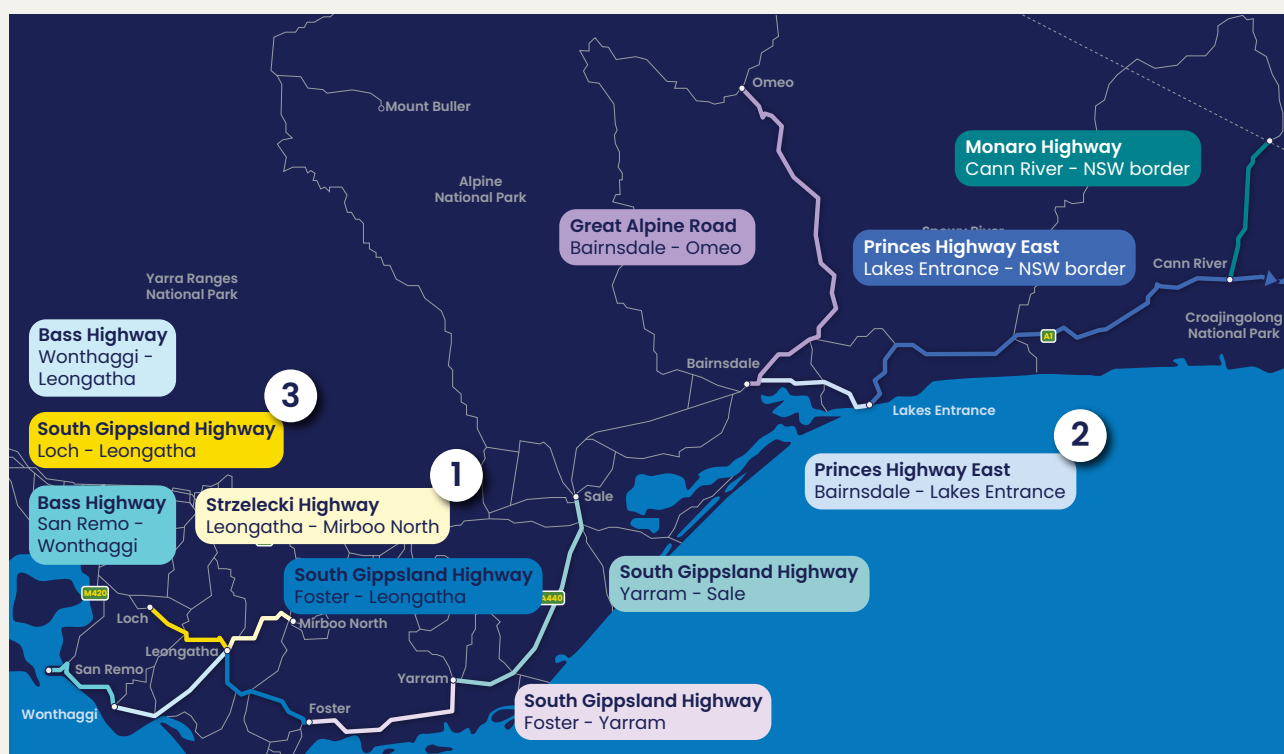
What we heard

"Add clear signage and lighting along the whole road. My car has been written-off from hitting roos here."

"Maintain the pavement to 100 km/h standards."



Strzelecki Highway, Leongatha to Mirboo North (B460)



Midland Highway,
Ballarat to Daylesford (A300)

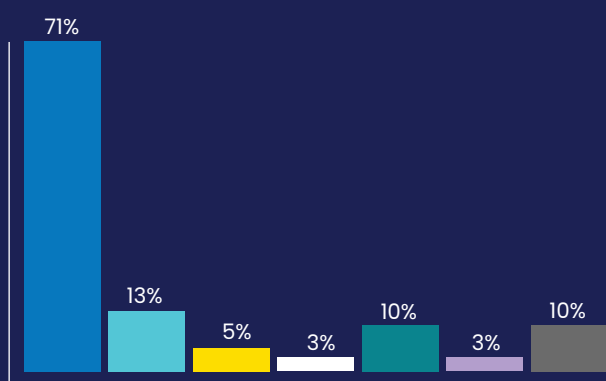
Nearly three-quarters of respondents nominated road resurfacing as the highest priority improvement (73%), reflecting the widespread concern about road quality and potholes.



State insights

While each region raised distinct local concerns, the results show consistent demand for practical investment that improves the condition, capacity and safety of Victoria's regional road network.

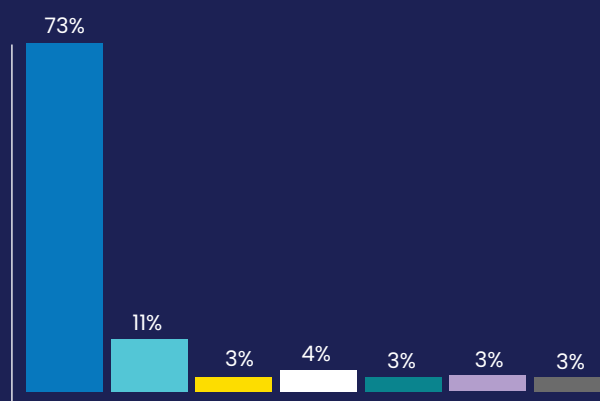
Top road issues identified



- Road surface conditions / potholes
- Limited overtaking opportunities / need for duplication
- Other nominated road safety concerns

- Roadside hazards / vegetation
- Signage and line-marking issues
- Roadside protection / barrier gaps
- Speed management concerns

Top requested improvements



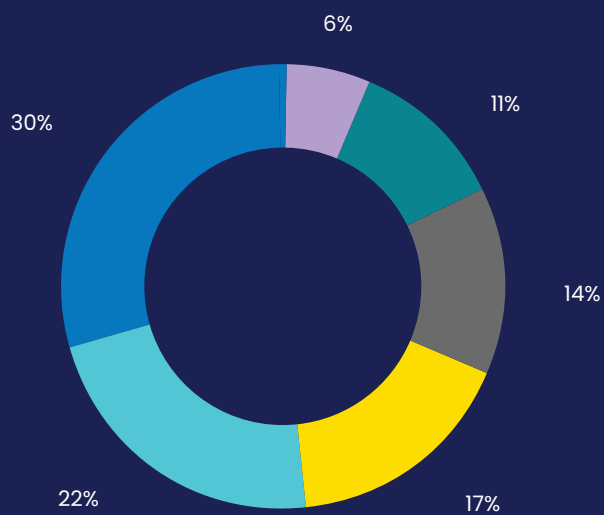
- Resurfacing roads
- Duplicating lanes
- Removing vegetation or other hazards
- Other improvements

- Improving signage or line markings
- Lowering speed limits
- Installing crash-resistant barriers



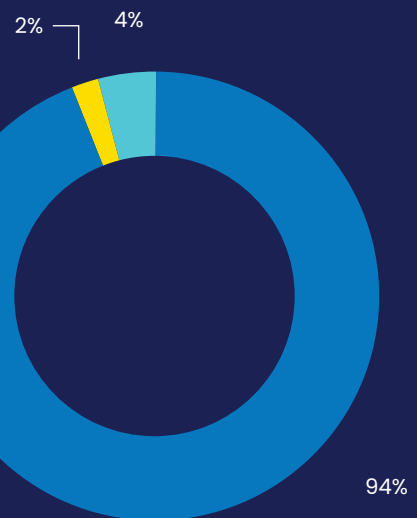
Princes Highway West, Colac to Camperdown (A1)

Ages of respondents



- 18-24
- 45-54
- 25-34
- 55-64
- 35-44
- 65+

Method of travel



- Car or Light vehicle
- Heavy Vehicle
- Motorcycle, bicycle, farm vehicle, walking and other modes

My Country Road is part of the RACV
Have Your Say survey series.

Together with the My Melbourne Road and Home
Safety Pulse surveys, *My Country Road* helps
RACV to continue to advocate for Victorians on
the issues that are most important to them.

To view the RACV Have Your Say survey series visit
racv.com.au/haveyoursay



racv.com.au