

The Hon. Melissa Horne MP  
Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
Level 2  
1 Spring Street  
Melbourne  
Victoria 3000

31 October 2023

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you as President of VicRoads Association (VRA) regarding the closure of the CRB/RCA/VicRoads/DOT Head Office building at 60 Denmark Street, Kew.

The VRA is an Incorporated Association comprising people who worked for these organisations and our aim is to maintain and grow relationships we made with our colleagues during our careers. We also provide support to fellow members when required.

Specifically, the objects of the Association are to foster fellowship and harmony among members and to assist in the welfare and benefit of retired persons. We also strive to maintain a definite link with the road organisations.

The Association was founded in 1978 and our current membership is over 300 people. We organise activities and excursions each year to provide opportunities for members to catch up with each other. These include lunches and dinners, trips to regional areas to meet with country members and visits of a technical nature to road and transport projects. We also distribute monthly newsletters to our members as a way of keeping in touch with each other.

We have provided assistance from time to time to the road authorities by providing historical information and were major contributors to the VicRoads Centenary book, *Keeping Victorians Connected for 100 Years*, celebrating the formation of the Country Roads Board in 1913 – Australia's first State Road Authority.

We enjoyed considerable support from the management of the CRB, the RCA and VicRoads over the years which contributed to the continuing success of the organisation for retired personnel. Sadly, that support has not continued with the Department of Transport and Planning.

We have been expecting the closure of the Head Office at Kew for some time and are saddened that it seems to be going out with a whimper rather than a celebration of all the achievements of the road authorities of Victoria who served the State with such loyal and professional service.

Victoria could rightly boast that we had the best roads in Australia and we were recognised internationally as a leading authority in many areas of enterprise. Our management of road safety was one example. We introduced many initiatives that were the first in the world and our model of management, coordination and integration was known throughout the world as the 'Victorian Model'. Our expertise in sprayed sealing of pavements was also leading

edge and our involvement in Asia through the REAAA and AusAID, World Bank and Asian Development Bank was greatly appreciated by countries in our region.

We feel very strongly that there should be some acknowledgement of the excellence and service that our members (and non-members) contributed to the State and request that you give thought to how this might be recognised.

One suggestion might be to invite as many ex-members of staff to the office for a morning or afternoon tea and acknowledge their contributions. We would be happy to assist in any arrangements.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

David Jellie  
President, VicRoads Association  
Mob. 0418 105 276