

Country Roads Board Report on Holiday Road Conditions in Victoria

Summary for Motorists

For the convenience of the huge number of motorists who will use Victorian roads for their holidays, The Country Roads Board each year produces a summary of the condition of roads in this State under its care.

This summary is divided into three sections — State Highways, Tourists' Roads and Roads of tourist interest, and Metropolitan Roads and Bridges.

GENERAL.

The Country Roads Board expects that road conditions over the Christmas holiday period will be generally satisfactory and most popular routes will have sealed pavements. Gravel sections on the more lightly trafficked routes may be dusty in dry weather.

STATE HIGHWAYS

Princes Highway West Footscray City

Roadworks are in progress between Robbs Road and Somerville Road but duplicated road pavements will be open for traffic.

Geelong City

The bridge over the Barwon River in Moorabool Street is being widened. The upstream side will be completed before Christmas and the bridge will then cater for four traffic lanes.

Princes Highway East Berwick Shire

Traffic will be using the recently completed two mile section of Special Project No. 6; between Doveton and east of Hallam. The dual carriageways now terminate at the eastern end of this section and attention should be paid to warning signs.

Drouin-Warragul

Reconstruction between Drouin and Warragul is nearing completion and a sealed surface will be provided. Care should be exercised on the section about one mile west of Warragul.

Morwell

Construction of duplicated pavements between Morwell East and Morwell is in progress over a distance of about 4000 feet. Traffic travelling easterly will use a gravelled section, but Melbourne-bound traffic will be accommodated on the existing sealed highway pavement.

Genoa

Care should be exercised on the narrow section between Genoa and the border — a distance of about 8 miles.

CALDER HIGHWAY

Essendon

Some work may be in progress on the reconstruction of the shoulder on the west side of Bulla Road near Woodland Street, but traffic will not be affected.

Malmsbury

The bridge and approaches at Malmsbury will be completed.

Harcourt

Widening of eight miles between Harcourt and Bendigo is in progress but the existing sealed pavement will not be affected.



Calder Highway at Big Hill south of Bendigo, Shire of Marong.

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A Christmas Message from the Chairman



There will be many appeals to you, the general public, to drive safely over the Christmas holiday period. Some of the appeals will refer to accident statistics and causes of accidents. I will merely suggest that you use the roads with care and consideration for others.

There must be very few people in the State who do not have some contact with the Country Roads Board either directly with one or more of the 4150 people employed by the Board or indirectly through travelling on the 14,502 miles of the Board's State highways, main roads, tourists' roads, forest roads and by-pass roads which make up the primary road network of Victoria.

The task of maintaining and developing our roads for the ever-increasing traffic is a substantial one and the Board has made steady progress during the year on the planned programme of roadworks. Inevitably, it is not possible to complete all jobs in time for holiday traffic, but where works are in progress the Board's engineers have made provision to assist travellers by the erection of special signs, watering and grading temporary surfaces and the construction of short deviations where appropriate. Care will be necessary when negotiating sections under reconstruction and the signs placed for your guidance should be obeyed.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

I. J. O'Donnell

WESTERN HIGHWAY

Sunshine City

Duplication between Kororoit Creek and Deer Park has been completed and a divided highway is now available from Ashley Street to west of Deer Park.

Ballan

A new deviation is being constructed near Pykes Creek Reservoir, east of Ballan, but the works are clear of the existing road.

Buangor

Widening and resheeting of the road pavement west of Buangor has been completed.

Dobie

The new bridge with realigned approaches over the Hopkins River has been completed and will be open to traffic.

Kaniva

The road over rail overpass at Kaniva is under construction and traffic will use a sealed side track which crosses the Melbourne-Adelaide railway line. The side track is well lit and flashing lights have been installed at the crossing. Motorists are requested to use caution.

Continued overleaf

HUME HIGHWAY

Craigieburn-Beveridge

Duplication of the roadway is nearing completion on the two sections from Craigieburn to Kalkallo and Kalkallo to Beveridge, a distance of 8½ miles. The new carriageways will not be available before Christmas and the existing roadway will be in use. Care is advised near Malcolm's Creek and the cross roads at Donnybrook Lane.

Broadford-Tallarook

Reconstruction of the northern approach to the Broadford railway overpass is expected to be sealed. The recently completed divided roadway south of Tallarook will be in use.

Seymour

A short section of the reconstruction work in Seymour township may be unsealed.

MAROONDAH HIGHWAY

Ringwood

Duplication work between Ringwood and Croydon is in progress over a distance of two miles. Traffic will use the existing pavement.

BURWOOD HIGHWAY

Box Hill

Roadworks between Somers Street and Edwards Street are nearing completion and the full width of the pavement is open to traffic.

Nunawading

Duplication east of Blackburn Road for two miles to Morack Road is in progress. Traffic using the existing pavement will not be affected.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY

Cranbourne

Reconstruction is in progress north of Cranbourne, and warning signs have been erected.

Meeniyah

Approximately one and a half miles of the highway are under construction. Part of the work may be sealed but any lengths remaining unsealed over the holiday period will be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Foster

West of Foster township the construction of a one and three quarter mile deviation is in progress and will not be completed for holiday traffic.

Traffic will use a short length of gravel pavement at the western end of the deviation and this will be maintained by watering and grading.

NEPEAN HIGHWAY

Duplication of the pavement is in progress over two miles to Mt. Eliza. Care should be exercised on the section from the Old Mornington Road intersection for about one mile towards Mt. Eliza.

MIDLAND HIGHWAY

Gheringhap

A concrete structure is being constructed over the railway line at Gheringhap and a sealed side track has been provided for road traffic.

Benalla

Bridge works are in progress at Broken Creek, six and a half miles from Benalla, and a side track with a speed limit of 15 m.p.h. is in use.

GLENELG HIGHWAY

Glenthompson-Dunkeld

Over the past 12 months, nine of the eleven miles of the highway between these towns has been widened from 13 feet to 22 feet sealed width.

Hamilton

The road over rail overpass at French Street should be open for traffic.

NORTHERN HIGHWAY

Work is in progress on three miles of unsealed road pavement between Heathcote and Elmore, but conditions will be satisfactory for traffic.

NORTH WESTERN HIGHWAY

Avoca

Construction of a new bridge over the Avoca River with realigned approaches has recently been completed.

The 16 feet wide sealed pavement is being widened between the recently widened bridges north of Avoca but the existing pavement will be unaffected.

MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY

Lake Powell

The recent sealing of approximately six miles south of Lake Powell completed the sealed pavement between Swan Hill and Robinvale.

Bannerton

The sealing of approximately one and a half miles has completed the sealed pavement between Sea Lake and Robinvale.

Wemen

Approximately four miles of roadway between Wemen and Bannerton have been sealed.

OVENS HIGHWAY

Wangaratta

Bridgeworks are in progress at Burgooyne Creek, 17 miles from Wangaratta and a side track will be available.

OMELO HIGHWAY

Tambo Crossing

Bridgework is in progress at Tambo Crossing, 45 miles from Omeo, but conditions will be satisfactory for traffic.

Glen Valley

Widening is in progress near Glen Valley and care should be taken by traffic negotiating this section.

CANN VALLEY HIGHWAY

Cann River

Construction work is in progress between Cann River and Noorinbee.

BONANG HIGHWAY

The highway has a gravel surface and is likely to be dusty in dry conditions.

PYRENEES HIGHWAY

Moorlort

Widening and reconstruction over a distance of three miles has been completed.

Carisbrook

The bridge over Deep Creek, together with realigned approaches has recently been completed.

OUYEN HIGHWAY

Murrayville

The recent sealing of the last 5 miles east of Murrayville completed the sealing of the full length of this highway.

TOURISTS' ROADS AND ROADS OF TOURIST INTEREST

ACHERON WAY

Warburton

A new bridge is under construction over the Yarra River at the start of the Acheron Way east of Warburton. Care should be exercised at the approaches to the bridge.

MOUNT DONNA BUANG ROAD

Cement Creek

Construction work is in progress in the vicinity of Cement Creek where the road will not be sealed. This section should be negotiated with care.

OCEAN ROAD

Torquay

Minor reconstruction and sealing between Torquay and Bellbrae has been completed.

Cinema Point

Work is in progress between Cinema Point and Big Hill Creek near the 82 mile post for a distance of about half a mile. Caution is advised when negotiating this section.

Princetown

Between Princetown and Lower Gellibrand the road follows a new route for 8 miles eliminating a rough and tortuous section along the Gellibrand River. The alignment is greatly improved but the road is not yet sealed and drivers should exercise caution.

The new route goes partly through the Heytesbury Settlement Scheme under development by the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission.

Lavers Hill

Drivers should exercise care on the remaining 5 miles of narrow winding, sealed road immediately west of Lavers Hill.

MALLACOOTA ROAD

Genoa

About ¾ mile of road one and a half miles from Genoa is under construction and should be negotiated with care.

BENALLA SHIRE

Tatong-Tolmie Road

Construction work is in progress from a point 7 miles from Tatong and Fords Bridge. The road may be slippery in wet conditions.

METCALFE SHIRE

Mt. Alexander Road

A new road has been constructed giving access from the summit of Mt. Alexander to the north to join with the Harcourt-Sutton Grange Road.

OTWAY SHIRE

Colac Forrest Road

Work is in progress near Forrest and drivers should exercise care.

METROPOLITAN ROADS AND BRIDGES

BURKE ROAD

Heidelberg City

Work is in progress on the approaches to the duplicate bridge over the Yarra River. The existing road bridge are not affected, but care is needed by drivers.

RALEIGH ROAD

Essendon City

Bridge work is in progress on the new bridge over the Marybyrnong River and traffic is still required to use the old bridge.

DYNON ROAD

North Melbourne

A side track is in operation at the site of the new bridge and care should be exercised by drivers.

ALBERT PARK

St. Kilda

Reconstruction of Queens Road Drive and the southern end of Aughtie Drive is in progress. Traffic will not be inconvenienced but care is needed.

LANCEFIELD ROAD

Near Essendon Airport

Roadworks are in progress northerly from Vaughan Street. A diversion is in operation and drivers should exercise care.

NORTH ROAD

Moorabbin City

Roadworks have been almost completed between Tyrone Street and East Boundary Road. The duplicated pavements are fully open to traffic but care should be exercised by drivers.

DONCASTER-MORDIALLOC ROAD

(Clayton Road)

Oakleigh City

Roadworks are in progress between the Princes Highway East and Fern Tree Gully Road. This section should be negotiated carefully.

WHITTLESEA ROAD

(Plenty Road)

Preston City

Roadworks are in progress between Darebin Creek and just north of Dunne Street. Drivers should exercise care on this section.

CANTERBURY ROAD

Camberwell City

Roadworks are in progress, but the full pavement width will be open to traffic.