

ROAD FACTS

- 1 COUNCIL HAS 3,237 KM OF ROADS TO LOOK AFTER. ONE BIGGEST COUNCIL RURAL ROAD NETWORKS IN THE STATE
- 2 LAST YEAR 80% OF ROADWORKS WAS FUNDED BY NSW AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT MONIES
- 3 CURRENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT GRANT MONIES IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS WILL NOT INCREASE, AND MAY GO DOWN
- 4 THE AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP STATES THAT The relatively lower incomes and lack of fines and parking revenue in rural councils compared with urban councils means rural local governments cannot raise enough revenue from their ratepayers to fund their roads, yet the heavy vehicles and car fuel excise that they generate on their roads disappears to Canberra and rarely returns as rural road spending;
- 5 THEREFORE AN INCREASE IN COUNCIL RATES CAN NOT FUND THE ENORMITY OF FUNDS NEEDED FOR ROADS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO INCREASE RATES BY APPROX \$3,000 PER PERSON TO MEET CURRENT COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE WISHES.
- 6 THEREFORE CURRENTLY NO MORE MONIES ARE AVIALABLE FOR ROADWORKS
- 7 COUNCILS ARE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN WITH CURRENT GRANT MONEY LEVELS
- 8 AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - Higher government grant funding processes are too small and not targeted at rural productivity: between 2001-2008, Australia produced over \$250 billion in gross agricultural production, yet over the same 7-year period all local roads - urban, regional, rural and remote combined - received only \$3.3 billion in Commonwealth road grants.
- 9 AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - Each year, local governments nationwide are together falling up to \$2.8 billion short of the funds needed simply to maintain the current local road network roads in a safe condition;
- 10 AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - This estimate, built on detailed NSW engineering assessments of 89% of NSW councils, is nearly *7 times bigger* than the Federal Government's own assessment of the size of the problem, and reveals how poorly understood local road infrastructure is at a national level;
- 11 AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - Nobody in Canberra or elsewhere keeps any accurate nationwide picture of the state of Australia's local roads, despite the fact that measured by kilometres local roads make up almost 80% of all roads in Australia, which local governments are left to manage as best they can;
- 12 AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - The current road funding system does not give local rural governments and their businesses and communities any say in strategic upgrades to roads to meet future road challenges like the challenge of dying rail branch lines for grain movement;

AUSTRALIAN RURAL ROADS GROUP - "We were clear with the Federal Ministers – we advised them this *would* take more money to solve"

THEREFORE THE STATE OF COUNCIL'S RURAL ROADS IS DUE TO LACK OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON ROADS THAT ARE, AUSTRALIA WIDE, SERVICING AREAS WHICH PRODUCE OVER \$250 BILLION IN GROSS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION BETWEEN 2001 - 2008

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