

Road Management Plan Recommendations 2025



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1. Introduction

The purpose of the *Road Management Act 2004* is to reform the law in relation to road management in Victoria. It establishes principles relating to the management of roads by Road Authorities and sets out the rights and duties of road users. The Act imposes several specific obligations on Council as a “Road Authority”. Council is required to establish appropriate asset management practices for its asset portfolio and needs to define and apply targets for asset maintenance. These include:

- Establishing appropriate and affordable condition standards
- Identifying and assessing needs and setting priorities and
- Allocating public money to meet those needs and priorities.

These standards and targets may be included in a Road Management Plan and the plan may be used as evidence of the reasonableness of a road authority’s position. The intention of the plan is to communicate with the community on Council’s responsibility for the management, maintenance and repair of the assets forming the road network, footpath & trail network and related infrastructure.

The existing Road Management Plan 2021 (Version 7.1) was adopted by Council on 13 December 2021 (R78/21). Section 54 of the *Road Management Act 2004* and Part 3 of the *Road Management (General) Regulations 2016* require Council to conduct regular reviews of its Road Management Plan.

The purpose of this review includes: updating the plan to meet current organisational resources; redefining and clarifying Councils’ obligations under the Act; and undertaking an analysis of road inspection frequencies, maintenance intervention levels and response times.

Changes to the plan have been proposed to allow for greater consistency with similar sized Councils, and reviews of intervention response times to allow for greater compliance relative to available resources.

2. Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	RMPRC COMMENT	IMPACT ON RMP
1. Adoption of the new Road Management Plan template endorsed by MAV.	Adoption of the new template ensures consistency across all Councils across the state of Victoria. Extensive legal review, benchmarking and working group consultation was completed prior to the completion of the MAV Road Management Plan Template. The working group consisted of 10 different Council members across both regional and metro areas to gain insight on the most reasonable plan for 2025. Extensive consultation and forums were held after the release of the template ensuring the consultation process was completed across all Councils within the State.	Minor-Administrative Change

RECOMMENDATION	RMPRC COMMENT	IMPACT ON RMP
2. A change in the intervention level for kerb and channel defects.	Both the horizontal and vertical defect intervention levels have been amended from >25mm to >50mm in accordance with MAV Insurance recommendations. In applying this amendment, City of Ballarat Officers are able to allocate resources to higher risk areas. The current intervention level for these defects was previously considered conservative. By changing the intervention level, City of Ballarat's standards are considered more reasonable in line with other regional Councils.	Moderate – Standard variation
3. The removal of proactive grinding note from the Road Management Plan 2025 (Version 8).	This process was not incorporated as part of the MAV Road Management Plan Template and considered to be procedural, City of Ballarat will still continue to complete proactive grinding on footpaths, but there is no requirement for this to be disclosed within the Road Management Plan.	Minor- Administrative Change
4. The removal of bluestone gutter condition inspections from the Road Management Plan 2025 (Version 8).	This process was not incorporated as part of the MAV Road Management Plan Template and considered to be procedural, City of Ballarat will still continue to complete condition inspections on bluestone gutters on a 4 yearly basis, but there is no requirement for this to be disclosed within the Road Management Plan.	Minor- Administrative Change