

25 November 2025

The Hon. Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Level 22, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
By email: minister.horne@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Horne

Subject: Urgent Review of Arterial Road Median Maintenance in Knox

Knox City Council writes to express its serious concern regarding the current standard of maintenance undertaken by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on arterial road medians within our municipality.

Council acknowledges advice from DTP that its maintenance regime consists of three scheduled grass cuts per annum, with indicative timing as follows:

- First cut: between 1 August 2025 and 31 October 2025
- Second cut: between 1 November 2025 and 24 December 2025
- Third cut: between 1 April 2026 and 30 July 2026

This level of maintenance is wholly inadequate to manage vegetation growth during peak periods. It does not control grass length throughout the summer months, fails to address significant safety and fire risks posed by overgrown vegetation, and does not maintain acceptable visual amenity across Knox.

Council strongly urges the Department to take immediate action to rectify this situation. Specifically, we request that DTP review and substantially increase the frequency of mowing activities, provide Council with a detailed and publicly accessible schedule of mowing within Knox, and establish a collaborative approach with Council and emergency services to ensure mowing activities are responsive to local conditions and risk assessments.

The current regime compromises community safety and amenity. Council considers this matter urgent and seeks your commitment to implementing a revised maintenance program without delay.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Please contact me directly should you require further information or wish to discuss this matter.

Yours sincerely



Cr Paige Kennett
Mayor

Enquiries: Cr Paige Kennett
Document ID: D25-362733

Cc Jackson Taylor MP
Daniela De Martino MP
The Hon Kim Wells MP



The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Health Infrastructure
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

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Ref: CMIN-1-25-7832

Cr Paige Kennett
Mayor
Knox City Council
511 Burwood Highway
WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152
Eleonore.Smith@knox.vic.gov.au

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for your email of 9 December 2025 regarding vegetation maintenance concerns in Knox.

In 2025-26, the Allan Labor Government is investing \$976 million in a Better Roads Blitz to fix potholes and upgrade road surfaces – this is the largest single-year investment in Victorian history. It will also allow the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to maintain vital transport infrastructure such as bridges and traffic lights, mow, slash and spray grass and weeds along roadsides, and repair or replace thousands of road signs.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) plan and deliver a program of works that aims to ensure the roadside is safe. This includes making sure vegetation does not block drivers' views and is in preparation for the fire season by reducing fuels along roadsides.

The timing of grass cutting differs each year, based on rainfall, temperature, spring growth and advice from other authorities.

DTP has a strategic plan to undertake three grass cuts, with two scheduled in the lead up to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) declared fire season to help mitigate bushfire risk. Grass mowing activities focus on bushfire prevention in the lead up to the fire season and on maintaining road safety by ensuring adequate sight distances during other times of the year.

If you would like to discuss this further, Alex Green, Executive Director Greater Metro can be contacted on 0428 369 886 or at Alex.Green@roads.vic.gov.au.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. Your feedback is important to the Allan Labor Government as it continues to work hard to improve road maintenance in Victoria.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Horne', with a stylized, flowing script.

Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Roads and Road Safety

09/02/2026