



16<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## Media Release

### **Harvest Trucks Pulverise Horrocks Highway**

A section of road 7 kilometers south of Laura is in such disrepair it has become an extremely dangerous situation.

Concerned residents in the district brought to Geoff's attention the current situation. Geoff undertook to personally inspect the road and was appalled at the poor condition especially a two kilometre section just north of Gladstone.

With the increase of trucks using it over the harvesting season the surface has now been reduced to patches of loose gravel. Some areas have had the bitumen stripped completely.

Although it has been continually patched up and repaired, this work is ineffective in the long term. Further dangers are created when a build-up of bitumen occurs on the vehicle passageway of the road.

Hot weather anticipated this week, an increase of traffic over the holiday period, and continued use by heavy vehicles (still harvesting) will only further add to the extremely poor and dangerous condition.

We are already seeing further deterioration to the road after a week-end without continual repairs being done. What will happen over the Christmas Holiday period?

This could have been prevented if appropriate risk management of this road was undertaken before harvest season.

Now it has escalated to a dangerous and undesirable situation and Geoff has grave concerns for the safety of road users. Geoff fears it is only a matter of time before there is an accident caused due the condition of this section of road.

Geoff has written to the Minister for Transport requesting that this section of road be given urgent priority for major improvement and reconstruction.

Geoff Brock MP  
Member for Frome