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RACV concerned that Election candidates have failed to commit to the Shepparton bypass

Victoria's leading transport advocate, RACV has expressed disappointment that Victoria's major political parties have failed to commit to the Shepparton Bypass, with less than four weeks till the State election.

RACV General Manager Public Policy, Brian Negus said residents in the Greater Shepparton region deserve to feel let down by all politicians, as the proposed Shepparton Bypass is a crucial infrastructure project.

"The Goulbourn Valley Highway which runs through the centre of Shepparton is under significant pressure and can no longer adequately cater for the large and rising traffic volumes that clog the highway every day.

"Construction of the Shepparton Bypass has been on the Victorian Government's agenda for around 20 years and politicians can no longer turn their backs on a project that is long overdue.

"Enabling traffic to safely bypass the city centre will not only relieve congestion; it will increase road safety by reducing accidents, particularly those involving trucks.

"Construction of the Shepparton Bypass will also boost the local economy and ensure freight transport between Australia's eastern capital cities is significantly more efficient.

Mr Negus said with Shepparton's population set to hit almost 78,000 in 2031; future planning is vital.

"Whichever party wins the election on 29 November the new government must ensure that Shepparton's population growth is planned for and infrastructure is upgraded to cater for future needs and liveability."

"Shepparton needs good road and public transport connections within the city as well as to the broader region that Shepparton supports."

Mr Negus also called on the future Victorian Government to tackle the state's crumbling road network.

"RACV has raised significant concerns over a number of years on behalf of our members and all Victorians regarding the deteriorating condition of Victoria's roads.

"While there has been some progress with funding there is still a long way to go.

"Rough, cracked and potholed roads have important safety and economic implications, particularly for rural communities.

"Substandard roads increase the risk of crashes and increase wear and tear on vehicles which leads to higher repair costs, increased fuel consumption and damage to goods being transported," Mr Negus said.

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Fresh fruit, like that produced around Shepparton is particularly at risk of being damaged in transit, Mr Negus said.

RACV's priorities for the Greater Shepparton area include:

- Shepparton Bypass
- Goulburn Valley Highway safety upgrade (minimum 3 star AusRAP standard)
- Midland Highway duplication to Shepparton east
- Shepparton rail line upgrade
- Shepparton bus interchange
- Goulburn Valley Freight Link
- Road maintenance

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