

The Road Management Act

at a glance for the community

The Road Management Act 2004 was passed on 11 May 2004. The Act was developed to provide a more efficient and safer Victorian road network, and is the result of extensive stakeholder and community consultation.

The Road Management Act is based on the following key principles:

- clear allocation of road asset ownership and management;
- established processes and accountabilities for policy decisions and performance standards;
- provision of operational powers to achieve targets and performance standards; and
- clarification of civil liability laws for the management of roads.

Effect on the Community

The Road Management Act will affect the Victorian community in the following ways:

- Confirm the right of members of the public to travel on roads, and the right of property owners or occupiers of adjoining land to have access to the road.
 - Provide a more efficient and safer road network across Victoria.
 - Provide roads that best meet the needs and priorities of the community.
 - Clarify the allocation of responsibility between road authorities (eg. VicRoads and a municipality) for managing the different parts of the road reserve (eg. roadway, footpath, service road).
 - Clearly define powers and obligations in regard to traffic management (including clearways), the management of access to roads, road works by service authorities and others.
 - Continue to provide municipalities with responsibility for parking on arterial roads.
 - Provide for VicRoads to implement clearways on declared arterial roads, subject to consultation with councils, affected land owners / occupiers, traders and the community in accordance with a Code of Practice.
 - Impose an 'excess' of \$1000 on financial claims against a road authority for property damage that has resulted from road conditions.
 - Minimise disruption to traffic and ensure the safety of road users as a result of service authorities and others undertaking works on roads.
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Requirements of Individuals

The Road Management Act sets down specific requirements for individuals, including the following:

- Road users are required to drive safely having regard to the road, weather and traffic conditions, and to avoid unreasonable risks to other road users.
- Individuals are required to give notice of an incident to a road authority within 30 days where there is an intention to make a claim for property damage.
- Road authorities will not be responsible for private driveways on road reserves that provide access to land adjoining a road.
- Management of private roads is not covered in this legislation and will remain the responsibility of private owners.
- Notify and obtain consent from the coordinating road authority where works will be undertaken in the road reserve, except for mowing nature strips and driveway works.
- Obtain a permit from the coordinating road authority, where a non-road activity will occur in the road reserve such as a street party.

More Information

This fact sheet has been prepared for the Victorian community to provide a brief snapshot of a complicated, and important, piece of legislation.

Further information about the Road Management Act 2004, including a copy of the Act, regulations and Codes of Practice is available on the VicRoads website at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/rmb.

Alternatively, email: RMBresponses@roads.vic.gov.au, or phone 9854 2666, or write to: VicRoads General Manager, Road System Management, VicRoads, 60 Denmark Street, Kew VIC 3101.
