

QUESTION ON NOTICE – PAEC 2011-12 – MINISTER FOR BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

1. Please provide details of the timelines for the repair and opening of the roads in and around the 52 more high risk townships that are currently closed due to the flood events in January 2011.

(Pages 12 of the Bushfire Response portfolio transcript)

Response:

VicRoads advise that works are continuing to repair flood damaged arterial roads across the State. The majority of arterial roads should be reopened before the upcoming bushfire season.

In the Metropolitan South East region, although all roads will be open to traffic, there may still be traffic management in place on Healesville- Koo Wee Rup Rd (at Shepherds Creek) due to bridge reinstatement works.

- The road is currently down to one lane over the bridge, using temporary traffic signals.
- It is unlikely that this will be an evacuation route for Gembrook residents, in the case of a bushfire.
- However, with the onset of bushfire season, VicRoads will ensure that the traffic management does not impede traffic flow (for which ever the priority movement may be), should the need arise.
- At this stage, early December 2011 is the proposed finish date, but alternative designs for the rectification works are being explored, which may help bring forward the completion date.

One local road, Linton Piggoreet Road, in Golden Plains Shire is currently closed on a long term basis. This road closure will not effect access to or egress from any of the 52 Identified High Bushfire risk areas.

Silverband Road, which services the town of Halls Gap, will not be reopened by the beginning of the fire season. There will be access to the town from Grampians Road and Northern Grampians Road - but Silverband Road will remain closed in the middle.

The town of Dunkeld has good options for access and egress east/west along the Glenelg Highway as well as south to Penshurst or north west to Cavendish.