EFFECTIVE ROAD MAINTENANCE ON LIMITED BUDGETS

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Abstract
Droughts, flood, fire, increase in heavy trucks, loss of road maintenance knowledge, rising community expectations and shrinking road maintenance budgets are all taking their toll on our road networks. IPWEA Vic held a series of forums during 2012 on effective road maintenance on limited budgets giving the opportunity for close on 200 participants and over 30 organisations to discuss ideas, problems and find possible efficiencies in rural road maintenance. Through a combination of presentation of case studies, practitioner giving several tips in road maintenance and workshopping ideas it was found that with limited budgets, efficiency gains in the road network are centred around three key areas:-

- Innovative use of new technology, recycling of road materials and product usage
- Communicating the need for lower standards in road maintenance and communicating to road users via signage advising road condition and reduced speed limits
- Considering systems and processes of organisations such as more effort “first time round” eliminating need to go back to rectify problems, resource sharing, type of contracts used, bundled services arrangements, working with local industry players in rural areas, integration of organisations customer service, asset management and maintenance systems, maintaining regular maintenance programs through droughts and floods

Key Words: Road Maintenance, Management, Funding