I have just one area to address. From the recent experience on Section 2A of the Western Highway duplication, with the huge loss of native vegetation including many very old and old large hollow bearing trees, it is apparent that the current system is flawed and in this case at least, did not work to protect vegetation or the biodiversity associated with it. LOTS and VLOTs are irreplaceable and the system needs to recognize this and also be able to recognise their high value - whether they are part of a group of trees or classified as "scattered" trees.

Many such trees, along with other high quality remnant vegetation, are by default found growing on road reserves. When road works are planned VicRoads or local govt. should be required to preserve this valuable vegetation as a priority. Alternative routes and roadway designs must be considered to ensure that the valuable and in many cases rare remnants on our roadsides remain intact.