



ROADS GOVERNANCE

*A one-day professional development
course from
The Public Land Consultancy*

Tues 2 December 2025
Gateway Motel, Wangaratta

Session One 9am – 12:30 pm

What is (and what's not) a Road

- Roads as road-users know them
- Roads as property lawyers know them
- 'Public Highways' and the common law
- Easements and common property roadways
- Physical roads on land other than road reserves
- Road reserves with no physical road on them
- Closed roads, discontinued roads, unused roads

How Roads are Owned and Managed

- Disaggregating ownership, control, management
- The roles of councils, DTP (VicRoads) and utilities

Session Two 1pm – 4 pm

- Road Authorities and the Road Register
- A road authority's duty of care and risk exposure
- Ownership of unused roads in old subdivisions
- Encroachments and 'adverse possession'

Dealings with Roads

- How roads are created and discontinued
- How they may be used for non-road purposes
- When and how they should be named
- Unused rural roads held under grazing licences
- Controls over vegetation, heritage, aboriginal sites
- How planning schemes deal with roads

And through day ...

Acts of Parliament governing Roads

- The *Road Safety Act 1986* and the Road Rules
- The *Land Act 1958* and other Crown land acts
- The *Local Government Acts 1989 and 2020*
- The *Subdivision Act 1988* and its predecessors
- The *Road Management Act 2004 and Codes*
- The *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Roads we have advised on in the North-East

- **Alpine Shire** – the road which wasn't where it should have been
- **Benalla** – the footpath around Lake Benalla – scene of a nasty accident
- **Indigo** – three back lanes – and three related disputes.
- **Moir** – an unused road claimed by abutting farmers
- **Wangaratta** – a private balcony overhanging a busy footpath
- **Wodonga** – a playground reserve which might or might not actually be a road

Presenter –

David Gabriel-Jones

MPP (hons)(Melb), Dip.Civ.Eng.(RMIT)

Enquiries and Registrations

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Cost: \$550 *including GST,
Course notes, working lunch
and certificate of attendance*