

State of Roads

Written by Basil Cambanis
Saturday, 15 February 2014 07:33

Update 22 September 2016 :

Great news, the R74 has been completely redone and is now in perfect condition. Pity that it took almost a decade to sort out but better late than never.

They are now busy redoing the road from Harrismith to Bethlehem. Nice to see.

The state of non-toll roads are in constant decline through lack of maintenance; the R74 which links the Highveld with KZN is a prime example.

Tender "irregularities" have been blamed for this, but the rot must surely go deeper than this. I have a friend that owned a B&B along this alternate route which is now laid to ruin, and many businesses along this route have been forced to close or downsize.

This road used to be in excellent condition and runs through beautiful terrain; but visitors dare not take their eyes off the road to avoid having an accident or damaging their vehicle.

The road is now a mine field that has led to numerous deaths and accidents over the past few years.

The poor state of this road has been covered in Newspapers and on "[Carte Blanche](#)" to no avail.

Year after year of complaints has yielded nothing to date, it leaves one with a feeling of anger and regret.

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In the Free State near Sterkfontein Dam, there is some road in the potholes.



The new national symbol of South Africa?

Free State road is in a shocking state

WE have just returned from one of many trips to our favourite holiday destination in the Drakensberg, the Cavern, which is in the northern Berg near the Royal National Park, a World Heritage Site.

Enclosed are some photos taken, after rain, on the infamous R74.

The road is in an absolutely shocking condition and it is a disgrace that visitors to this beautiful area have to be subjected to travelling on such a road.

I know that the state of this road (particularly the stretch in the Free State, alongside the Sterkfontein Dam) was covered in the press about a year ago, but it has deteriorated since then.

Not even our beloved Subaru could negotiate the potholes without picking up two punctures, despite the fact that we travelled at a snail's pace.

The state of this road is affecting many of the resorts in the area as going the long way round through Ladysmith and Bergville adds an extra hour to the journey from Joburg, which no longer makes this area an attractive weekend getaway.

Apparently buses and caravans can also not travel this route.

Thank you again for your interesting and informative columns - especially those which feature the Subaru!

Respones: Royinn-Lee



The Drakensberg is an area of outstanding natural beauty - but getting there is a nightmare.

[The Times 8 February 2012 \(later section\)](#)
PROVINCIAL AND OTHER ROUTES

	R74	Harrismith / Bergville
	Potholes	

The road is in a severely poor condition and very potholed. Motorists are advised to exercise extreme caution when using this road. It is recommended that motorists travel on the N3 Highway and take the Ladysmith/ Bergville turn off.

Attention: "Automobile Association" comment

[Alternate Routes](#)

[Rhino Club Blog](#)