

I travel over 40,000 kms per year throughout Victoria and also 5000kms per year driving in the USA. I believe the current increase in the road toll is directly related to extremely poor policy decisions made by Vic Roads and the Victorian Police.

1. Poor road maintenance, the condition of our rural roads is criminally negligent.
2. Implementation of the wire rope policy. Who ever thought it would be a good idea to line our rural roads with these potential death traps should be dismissed!! I could not believe the first time I drove down the Melba Hwy and saw the wire rope barriers not only on the side of the road but also dividing the lanes. They are an accident waiting to happen. Imagine if a vulnerable road user like a motorcyclist was to hit one, there would be little if no chance of surviving. The wire rope barriers have also been placed too close to the road in many instances not leaving a safe distance should you need to pull over for an emergency.
3. Mobile phone use.
4. The huge increase in large 4 x 4 Utilities and SUV's must be of concern for the welfare of vulnerable road users such as Pedestrians, Cyclists and Motor bike riders. These vehicles are often fitted with gigantic bull bars. This is especially the case in built up areas where there can be little justification for such vehicles to be used.
5. Lack of policing on dangerous roads, I travel on the Western Ring road and driver behaviours is atrocious. Cars and Trucks tail gating other drivers, people traveling at ridiculously high speed, (And always slow down for the speed cameras), unsafe lane changes, the list goes on.
6. The current method of policing our roads is not working, the idea of police sitting on the side of the road checking for speeding drivers then when they see someone speeding taking off like a V8 Supercar driver and then travelling at high speed to catch them is ridiculous. Its not only dangerous but sets a bad example for young drivers. I have many ideas how policing on our roads could be done much better and have a much more positive influence on safer driver behaviour.
7. The current use of speed cameras with low tolerances has made it more important to continually check your speedometer rather than concentrating on driving safely.
8. Finally, why are there so many car accidents on our roads? The number of potentially life threatening accidents seems to increase every day. Has anyone investigated why we are having so many collisions on our roads every day? Surely this is directly related to the increase in our road toll.