

Road Toll Enquiry.

Personal submission-Graham Holland

To whom it may concern,

I would like to make a submission to the current road toll enquiry, with particular respect to the Wire Rope Barrier systems that have been rolled out in recent years.

I am a 59 year old driver and I am concerned about the Wire Rope Barrier devices that are installed along the roadsides in my local area, as well the "centre of road" installations in other parts of the state of Victoria. Aside from my personal concerns in this area, there seems to be a lack of reasonable information available from specialists with regard to studies that may (or may not) have been done into the effects of crashing into a barrier whilst riding a motorcycle. ABC radio has interviewed Vicroads representative Steve Bowmaker twice in a month and both times he has fended public comments on WRB safety when motorcycles are concerned. He has publicly stated that there are existing study's on this, but has not as yet provided this information. Has anyone seen the reports he refers to?

The Hume Highway that runs through my local area has many kilometres of Wire rope barriers along the left and right side of the dual lane freeway. My own casual observations are that the barriers are incapable of stopping the large trucks that frequent this road, with obvious evidence left behind when trucks have been involved in accidents. Meter upon meter of destroyed barriers with clear evidence that a truck has continued on the other side of the barrier until coming to rest at the end of deep/muddy tyre tracks. If there has been any study into the effects of wire rope barriers when heavy transport trucks are concerned, then I have to question the validity of the study.

In finishing my submission, I make the following personal observations.

- Wire rope barriers do not stop Trucks from leaving the road during accidents.
- No study has been performed on the (seemingly obvious) effect of hitting a Wire rope barrier whilst riding a motorcycle.
- It seem that changes to traffic flow caused by road works or extreme events like fires or floods were not taken in to account.
- "Centre of road" wire rope barriers present a clear obstacle to vehicles using the road.
- The VicRoads/TAC claims that casualty crashes have been reduced by the VicRoads/TAC barrier program. Four Parliamentary Inquiries have documented the fact that road crash data is inadequate. And, there is little mention of the times that new barrier sites were surveyed. It seems to be a very short and extraordinary few years since these massive barriers works began. The claim they obtained meaningful data from such a small sample is not convincing.

Regards,

Graham A Holland

