

I have been asked to contribute to this enquiry due to my involvement with volunteer emergency services. I am a member of the Port Campbell SES, CFA and SLSC with 30 plus years of involvement.

As a member of the SES and CFA I have attended too many road accidents to list them and frankly if you believe a description of those confronting details is required I would suggest counselling. I prefer, mainly for my mental health wellbeing not to go there. Having said that if I am asked to recall a particular incident I have no trouble remembering it.

In my other life I have, among other things owned and run a motel in Port Campbell for 15 years, owned and run the Petrol station in Port Campbell for 7 years. I own a restaurant in town and I run scenic boat tours along the coast. From several perspectives I have had a long association with people who travel along the great ocean road.

I see tired and frustrated drivers on a daily basis. Fatigue is a major contributor to road fatalities and I think it is disproportionately high around here. The Ocean road to the 12 apostles is not an easy road to drive. To expect someone arriving at the airport in Melbourne to hire a car, drive on the opposite side of the road to the 12 apostles, return to Phillip Island, see the Penguins and then return to Melbourne for accommodation all in one day is just so wrong on so many levels it's hard to know where to start. I have seen many packages put together by travel agents for overseas visitors which include this and other fatigue inducing travel plans. Several have allowed me to photo copy them because I found it so incredibly deceptive. Invariably they ask directions to the "Quick" way back to Melbourne, and is it lite and is it duel carriageway. It's not their fault, they have been sold a bad deal which at the least is a bad experience and too often ends in tragedy.

The government policy that promotes a visit to the 12 apostles as a day trip must be changed. It benefits few people and has a negative out come for many. The visitor experience is extremely narrow. They have very little time or no time to enjoy everything that is available and when they eventually do get to the 12 apostles lookout it is quite often overcrowded and poorly managed . Businesses that rely on the tourist trade also suffer for the same reasons.

Unfortunately the current COVID-19 crisis has opened up an opportunity to introduce a cultural change that in the short and long term will have significant benefits for many component of the tourism industry along the great Ocean Road and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the enquiry and I hope it helps in some way.

Phillip Younis

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