

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the Increase in Victoria's Road Toll

Mr Peter Eberbach
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SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Wire rope barriers. Living in a regional area (Bendigo) whenever I ride my motorcycle on many major roads I'm in proximity to WRB; and I most certainly feel constricted by them. They offer more of a danger to me than comfort, because they don't allow any escape route off the road. The WRB upright posts, placed only metres apart are extremely dangerous and WILL cause fatal injuries to a riders body. This is exactly what happened to a motorcyclist friend, Phil White (Bendigo resident), who died from injuries sustained when he collided with a WRB. In many cases, e.g. Calder Hwy, the WRB are too close to the road, thus not allowing a safe zone for breakdown; particularly for wide loads such as articulated vehicles. The Auditor General's recent review concluded that the increased expense of (a) erecting WRB , and (b) the substantial repair and maintenance costs are excessive. If a barrier is to be used, and I don't advocate that, a concrete or double rail Armco barrier would be my preference as a motorcyclist and car driver. It is still unclear if VICPOL and VicRoads are accurately reporting collisions with WRB's. If the real data is not available how can the Victorian Government and their agencies realistically justify the continued erection of WRB. There is evidence that some Scandinavian countries are stopping WRB erection and even removal. Why hasn't the Victorian Government considered this? As a vulnerable road user (motorcyclists) I find WRB particularly intimidating, as i know they 'fence' me in and negate any escape route; particularly on roads with side and centre road WRB, e.g. Midland Hwy west of Shepparton, and Calder Hwy. The advertising slogan that WRB 'Save Lives' is inappropriate given that my friend died from a collision with WRB. There are less aggressive and cost effective barriers systems available. Barriers of any type don't need to be placed/erected on straight roads with little or no roadside obstacles e.g. trees/culverts/poles.

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File1:

File2:

File3: