

Subject: Ideas for enquiry

To Victorian Parliament Road toll enquiry.

Thank you for this opportunity

My name is Neil and I have been involved in farming all my life (75 years) plus a B&B the past 22 years.

My interest is in the safety of our roads for all users as we have a large number of people travelling the Great Ocean Road. There is a great variation of driving skills from mainly overseas that we need to contend with. Largely the accidents occur from lack of driving ability and language barriers, reading signs or just stopping in the middle of the road while they google their phones for directions, also some drive on the wrong side of the road, especially just after turning. Direction arrows are being painted on the lanes, this I believe helps but more are needed.

I also think that Rental Car agencies should make sure they provide a book in the appropriate language and impress upon them the need to read it. Maybe for ten minutes before they receive their vehicle. Most locals have memories of near misses and some fatal accidents, and are always wary when travelling on these roads.

The Great Ocean Road has been upgraded in our area with wire barriers being erected on the sides around corners. The majority of travellers are in a great hurry and will pass a slow cyclist, Farm equipment or road maintenance gear on these bends and the barriers give no room to get out of the way because they are so close to the traffic lane, one day a major accident will happen when too many vehicles meet on a corner, cars, campervans etc, and 20 seater buses are the main offenders, Large bus companies I find have well trained and courteous drivers.

Stop Signs are also a major concern. Travellers, or tourists both Australian and Overseas, driving throughout the region on rural roads come across intersections that unexpectedly have Stop Signs erected and we have seen some extremely serious accidents. I often wonder why with the Tech Knowledge today that these intersections are not made more visible with a sensor controlled, solar powered red light, that would flash on the sign when a vehicle approaches.

I wish everyone the privilege of a safe driving experience.

Neil Boxshall