

Respondent No: 78

Submitted Date: 2018-05-01 21:37:38

Member Username: [REDACTED]

Member Postcode: 3193

Member Email: [REDACTED]

1. What is your interest in the Great Ocean Road Region?

Secondary residence

Regular visitor

2. Are you completing this survey on behalf of an organisation?

no

3. How many times did you travel along the Great Ocean Road (any section between Torquay and Allansford) in the last 6 months?

Most months

4. What do you love most about the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes?

The forest with many great walking tracks and the magnificent ocean vistas and beaches.

Flora and fauna, creeks and waterfalls in spectacular settings with accessible areas largely unspoiled by human intervention.

5. What aspect of the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes would you most like to see protected?

We are fortunate that development has been confined to accessible areas and not permitted to sprawl along the many hills and roads through the forest. The vistas of forest, gorges, beaches etc must not be invaded by development including housing, public and private facilities, car parks, land clearing and vegetation removal.

6. What aspect of the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes would you most like to see changed?

As the ocean road is at capacity and unsafe for bicycles, pedestrians etc I would like to see a Shared User Path separate from the road along sections where the road cannot be widened. This could be a truss and cantilever structure anchored into the rock below the existing road. Minimal cut and fill, no concrete or bitumen paving. With current digital survey and computer design much of the structure could be pre fabricated and rock anchored in sections. The work may be no more difficult than much of the cliff mesh and cable covering with rock anchors currently being installed. The SUP would have limited access points so that it is not crowded with visitors from buses using as a viewing platform. It would cater for bikes, electric scooters and pedestrians and hikers, and not fast bicycle riders unless they were content with lower speeds. It would also provide an emergency access when the road is blocked.

For future housing and accommodation I think this could be set back behind trees and hills so that we don't have rows of houses facing the road. With careful planning this could be done in areas like Skenes creek. Revegetation of hillsides, gullies and former farmland and weed removal is essential.

7. Do you work for, own or operate a business, or are you a member of a community organisation, that benefits from visitors to the Great Ocean Road Region?

No Member of various community groups but not directly benefiting from visitors

8. Is there any critical issue or opportunity that we have missed (in chapter 3 of the Issues Paper)?

Every issue in 3 is critical and solutions must be found. Integrated planning is essential, however I do not profess to know what sort of governance or authority model with the necessary powers would work. Even the Great Barrier Reef Marine park has failed on some levels, particularly landside management of development, pollution and vegetation and clashes with state and local governments, major infrastructure developers ports and gas plants etc.

One issue not really addressed is response to loss of facilities and infrastructure by sudden event such as fire, storms, torrential rain, landslides etc.

The Wye river fire- which affected us and 116 other owners of destroyed houses showed some deficiencies in peoples understanding of climate impacts (fire, heavy rain, landslides etc) and rebuild challenges. Notwithstanding the generous and ongoing state government support the outcomes are risk adverse over engineered, very expensive and somewhat environmentally destructive. Default to human life comes first and protection of assets overwhelms all environment concerns and trees go, massive concrete and steel structures built to minimise landslide, excavation and installation of concrete drains, half of a block taken up with effluent outfall terraces and walls etc turning the bush retreats into a totally modified built environment.

Perhaps planning overlays for post emergency large scale events recovery should be developed so that lessons learned can be agreed across DELWP, Vic roads, council response etc. with environment and sustainable outcomes prioritised.

9. Do you have any suggested changes to the overarching policy, goals and principles (pages 40 - 41) in the Issues Paper?

The management model key areas including strategic framework providing direction to agencies and local government is certainly needed and work on this should commence as soon as a governing board and resources can be put in place. Climate change risks and impacts are understated, as is the case with most infrastructure and planning by all governments. For the ocean road there is sea level rise and storm surge, torrential rain storms and general drying out of the forest as overall rainfall declines. Fires may become a regular feature, with Ocean road closed for more hot days even when there is not actual fire at the time. The vulnerability of thousands of tourists with only one way out and many thousands of buildings not built to BAL standards means a too late to leave broadcast would cause a panic.

10. What elements would you like to see covered in a Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road Region?

Under infrastructure is the road itself. It may require full camera monitoring and speed control in certain sections (Angelsea to Wongarra) to deal with continuing dangerous and inconsiderate driving and passing on the narrow road. Tolling or permit system may also be required.

11. What are your thoughts about establishing a new organisation to oversee the development, and coordinate implementation, of a Strategic Framework Plan for the Great Ocean Road Region?

A new body (Lead Agency) within existing agency should be able to develop and implement the strategic framework. Has to be accountable to the Minister and hopefully shielded from government changes and funding cuts and political influence to suit the agenda of party politics. Councils should be resourced to educate and represent local communities to avoid the idea that the plan being pushed from Spring street or subject to developer lobbyists.

12. What current constraints need to be addressed in the future governance arrangements?

The obvious constraint is that the lead agency does not have powers and authority to implement strategic plan. It is then just another bureaucratic advisory body to be worked around or ignored.

A second constraint will be over expectation and under delivery. No one will get everything they want, and some may get nothing out of it.

Environment is at the top of the issues, however this is often compromised when big projects and cost issues emerge. The road itself is a constraint and solutions have to be found for multiple and safe access via different routes and transport options with tolling or other control mechanisms to limit adverse impacts and poor visitor experience

13. Are there any other management models /options we should consider?

14. What key criteria should the Taskforce use to evaluate the management model options?

1. Environment- protection and enhancement of forest and ocean areas including public accessible areas
2. Powers to plan and manage development to prevent sprawl of unsightly buildings and other facilities.
3. Capability to identify development areas and infrastructure with least environmental impact.

co ordinate across shires and regions so that coordinated and compatible infrastructure providing top visitor and resident experience highlighting the historical (including indigenous) aspects and tapping people into the unique land and seascapes, flora and fauna.

4. organisational structure and funding for at 25 years so that short term solutions are balanced with long term plans.
5. Rigorous and transparent reporting and review process

What is your age range?



Please provide your country of residence if you are not an Australian resident

I agree to the privacy statement

yes