

Respondent No: 30

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Member Username: [REDACTED]

Member Postcode: 3233

Member Email: [REDACTED]

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

Primary residence

Local business owner/operator

Employment

Recreation

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 weeks

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

Unique coastline, Foothills, Ranges, Rainforest, environment for endangered wildlife, access to recreational activities (swimming, surfing, walking, diving, sailing, etc), unique, quality towns the road travels through.

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

The integrity of the road condition. Regional and rural areas protected environmentally, socially and economically. On the most basic level, the GOR is an access route from one side of Victoria to the other (and needless to say the stops all along the way). It is a road that locals and visitors need to use. Beaches, rainforests, flora and fauna all need protection. Most importantly, communities along the GOR need to protect their identity and have a meaningful input into the direction any state or federal government might want to take.

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

It's not going to be enough to "protect" the GOR - it needs massive commitment and funds to repair it - to make it safe and adequate for the needs of our growing population and tourism market. A simple drive down it and the side roads clearly demonstrates a degraded, sub-standard road in shocking disrepair. In Apollo Bay the Great Ocean Road is the reason we receive so many visitors however when they arrive - there is inadequate infrastructure - overflowing bins, inadequate parking, BBQ and toilet facilities to name a few. The actual Twelve Apostles viewing area is a disgrace - not enough parking or facilities and packed full of tourists all jostling for a position to view the apostles.. In my experience, many visitors complain about the crowds, busy roads, buses etc. Although there are massive expectations of what they will be visiting - it is often not a pleasant experience. Europeans in particular find it far too crowded.

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?

[REDACTED] I have raised our children, invested time and effort to almost all the volunteer organisations in town. Visitors to this town enable our local economy to grow, young families to move here, schools to continue, businesses to thrive, and are partially the reason for our current health and emergency services resources that locals have access to. Unfortunately the condition of the GOR and inadequate facilities along the road are a major deterrent to tourism.

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

This is touched on in the paper - there are many competing government agencies with conflicting agenda's involved in the upkeep, traffic and condition of the GOR. On one hand we have Visit Victoria with an aim to increase tourism/visitor numbers and so is supporting the build of a mega resort in the foothills of Apollo Bay - and there is your taskforce that clearly finds that the GOR is not coping with current traffic. How can the GOR cope with heavy vehicles/trucks involved in the build of the resort, and the massive increase in traffic?

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

Only that this is an urgent matter I dont get any sense of the urgency of the situation from reading the publication. The tipping point was a long time ago. Just drive the road and see for yourself. Another study and community input etc is all great but it doesnt take a committee of experts to see what needs to be done immediately - improve road surface, increase facilities, increase safety with signage - there is no need to consult with everyone to just get the job done. The disjoint between local, state and federal government slows all progress down to the point that by the time studies are done, reports discussed, agencies consulted - it's too late. We recently lost a toilet block on the side of the road between Apollo Bay town and marengo. Wave activity basically washed it away. Why hasnt it been replaced already? Photos of overflowing bins and disgusting toilet facilities were all over our local community facebook page last summer - there are no new bins (although I think they are emptied on public hols now). Where are the new toilet blocks and additional BBQ facilities? Our foreshore is a disgrace. My only suggestion is to actually get the job done.

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

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?

Any new organisation needs to have the funds and authority to do what needs to be done.

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

I dont even know what these following questions are asking. I'm not familiar with any management models - but would suggest one that gets the job done!!

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?

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