

Port Campbell Community Group Inc. A0051688U

Submission to the proposed Great Ocean Road Authority

The Port Campbell Community Group Inc. discussed the proposed Great Ocean Road Authority at its last meeting and does not support the implementation of the Authority.

Concerns include:

1. Consultation

- Inadequate consultation - October 2018 only given 5 days' notice, and as a stakeholder was not advised about any consultation in April 2018.
- Participants - Booklet Community Views Report shows: 24 people in Port Campbell made face to face responses (this could be in the street), and only 2 written submissions. At the 12 Apostles there were 153 face to face responses (the most responses between Port Fairy and Melbourne). It appears tourist visitors were asked their thoughts on this authority. How would they know what it will do, when we cannot be sure what it will do – see below. This is not meaningful consultation and the results are skewed by a lack of knowledge.
- The booklet including Community Engagement statistics shows 780 were face to face conversations (as above – unlikely to know what the GORA is about) and there were only 57 submissions.
- Link into the website is difficult and not user friendly.

2. Role & Powers

- The powers of this proposed authority are unknown – the legislation has not been presented. We have been told it will be \$1.3m to get authority organised, and it will be a 12 to 13 member board and no one in current roles will lose jobs.
- It seems to be duplicating current roles and adding greater expenses.
- It seems to be diverting from its original idea to make governance more efficient for maintaining the GOR so costs are not pushed back onto rate payers. Its direction now seems to be a complete take-over of the coastline along the GOR – we cannot support this.
- Its purported 'independence' is unlikely.

3. An unnecessary layer of bureaucracy

- The GOR Authority will add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.
- Better to make current authorities more efficient rather than add another authority including:
 - Parks Vic needs to be an independent body solely for conserving and protecting national parks.
 - Parks Victoria must become independent of Tourism bodies.
 - Parks Vic should not be managing tourists or car parks.

- Parks Vic may be best to take on other small reserves under the National Parks Act.
- Parks Vic needs better funding.

4. Legislation

- The GOR Authority is said to be implementing a strategic framework. We already have lots of strategic frameworks which should protect the coast: Victorian Coastal Strategy, Coastal Spaces, the GOR Regional Strategy, Western Regional Coastal Plan... But strategies lack legislated protection for the coast and fail to hold up when challenged.
- If the government's goal is "Protecting the Great Ocean Road" as it states then we just need stronger protective legislation.
- A legislated "Distinctive Area and Landscape' Overlay for the Great Ocean Road and adjoining National Parks with specific and mandatory policies would be appropriate, but it does not need a GOR Authority to implement this.

5. Sustainable tourism

- Tourism on the Port Campbell coast is currently out of control due to over media advertising and a quick turn-around for Melbourne bus companies doing day trips of the Great Ocean Road.
- The PCCG Inc. has long advocated easing the advertising of the 12 Apostles and greater promotion of other areas such as the Glenelg, the Grampians, Kanawinka Geopark and other inland areas – these areas need more visitors, the GOR does not.


Secretary on behalf of the
Port Campbell Community Group Inc.
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