

Bill Sagers



The Secretary  
Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 (by Email)

Dear Madam/Sir

## **INQUIRY INTO THE INCREASE IN VICTORIA'S ROAD TOLL**

Our group of mostly retired professional colleagues with experiences in road safety and related fields (see page 3), who meet regularly, are pleased to have the opportunity to make this submission to your inquiry.

The group supports strongly the thrust of the submissions by Robert Morgan,<sup>1</sup> and Andrew O'Brien,<sup>2</sup> given their recognised expertise and proven track record in the field of road safety. In particular, we draw attention to, and support, Morgan's and O'Brien's evidence on shortcomings with the current strategy in Victoria that is based on the narrow "Safe System approach to Vision Zero"<sup>3, 4</sup>. Also, we wish to support the submission from Deakin University<sup>5</sup>, which outlines a major shortcoming in the Safe System strategy.<sup>6</sup>

Accordingly, we recommend the following key actions that should be taken to effect community gains in road safety in Victoria:

1. ***The need to address the shortcomings in the current strategy based on the Safe System approach to a "Vision Zero" the outcomes of which have not met sought-after reductions in fatal crashes and especially resultant serious injury levels.***<sup>7, 8</sup>

It has not addressed the issue of serious injuries adequately, the numbers of which have not reduced but have increased markedly. Also, the strategy's four-pronged approach discloses an apparent ignorance of the actual importance of human behaviour in causal factors in crashes.

2. ***Comprehensive data collection of physical and contributing causal factors relating to fatal, personal injury and non-injury crashes, this data being available under licence to road safety practitioners and the wider research community for determining appropriate counter-measures.***<sup>9, 10, 11</sup>

This recommendation will enable much needed, more comprehensive analyses that, in addition, can give credence to contributing physical, behavioural and other causal factors that are missing in the current approach.<sup>12, 13, 14</sup>

3. ***Undertake positive and concerted action to rebuild centralised technical leadership and overall staff experience and skills in a distinctly designated, independent, overarching***

*road safety entity to build evidence-based action frameworks and ensure cost-effective road safety counter-measures.*<sup>15, 16, 17</sup>

This would establish the necessary central focus for a business-specific Road Safety entity to deliver cost-effective direction on this important safety and expenditure issue.

Essential to this rebuild of expertise is to include practitioners with proven pertinent skills and qualifications including in Behavioural Psychology, Statistical Analysis, Road Safety Engineering, and Traffic Engineering.

A centralised, dedicated entity would provide the focus and a co-ordinating platform for effective integration and mutual understanding with associated activities of enforcement, legal services, accident insurance, vehicle standards, liaison with emergency services, trauma specialists and national bodies.

It would be better placed to lead development of a wider range of “preventive frameworks”<sup>18</sup> for walking, cycling, vehicle users (including motorcyclists), vehicle features and standards and, safe street layouts.

Yours faithfully,



Bill Saggars

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## Submission References

- 1 Submission 101, Robert Morgan (S 101)
- 2 Submission 144, O'Brien Traffic (S 144)
- 3 S 101, pp 4-18
- 4 S 144, pp 3-5; p17
- 5 Submission 133, Deakin University (S 133)
- 6 S 133, pp 3-4; Figure 1, p 4
- 7 S 101, pp 3-7
- 8 S 144, pp 8-9
- 9 S 101, pp 29-30
- 10 S 144, p 18
- 11 S 133, p 5
- 12 S 101, pp 7-13
- 13 S 144, p 16
- 14 S 133, pp 3-6; p 15
- 15 S 101, pp 31-35

16 S 144, pp 16-17

17 S 133, Implied by the overall submission

18 S 133, pp 4-5; pp 4-8

## Members of the Retired Group of Professionals Supporting this Submission

### Listing shows:

#### Name & Qualifications

##### Executive positions that members have held.

(focusing on a relevant position or experience with respect to this issue)

Ken McNamara, Dip. Civ. Eng.; B. App Sc. (Planning); Mun. Eng. Cert; Qualified Company Director.

Chief Exec Officer, Hobsons Bay City Council.

Peter Akers, Dip. C. E.; Mun. Eng. Cert.; Qualified Company Director.

Chief Executive Officer Bayside City Council;

Chairman State Emergency Service Board.

Nigel Ashton, B. Sc (Eng); M.Eng.Sc (Transport); Dip.T & R P; D

Manager Crash Data, Road Safety & Traffic Authority, Victoria.

Dr Ray Brindle, B.E. (Civil); M. Eng. Sc (Tranp.); Dip.T & R P; D. Eng.

Chief Scientist, Australian Road Research Board.

Ross Currie, Dip Civ. Eng.; B.E. (Civil); Mun. Eng. Cert.

General Manager, Twigg Group (Civil Engineering & Waste Management).

Joe Delaney, AO; B.C.E.; C.H.T. (Yale); Dip.T & R P.

Director (Research & Development) Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Tony Fry, BE (Civil), M. Eng. Sc (Traffic).

Deputy Chairman, Road Safety & Traffic Authority, Victoria.

Dr Brian Harper, B.E.; M, Sc.; C.H.T. (Yale); Ph D.

Chief Executive Officer, City of Doncaster & Templestowe.

David Rex Hopkins, Dip.T & R P; Dip. Civ. Eng.; Mun. Eng. Cert.

City Engineer, Box Hill Council.

David Jellie, Dip. Civ. Eng.

General Manager, Overseas Projects Corporation of Victoria.

Rob Mitchell, Dip. C.E.; C.P. Eng.

Managing Director, WBCM Group.

Dr Ken Ogden, M.Eng.Sc., Ph D.

Professor of Transport Engineering, Dept of Civil Engineering, Monash University;

General Manager, Public Policy, RACV.

Ian Robins, B E.(Civil); M. Urb, Planning; P.G.; Dip Ind Mgt.

Chief Executive Officer, Wyndham City Council.

Bill Saggars, Dip Civ. Eng.; B.E. (Civil), Cert T P & C.

Manager Traffic Planning, Road Traffic Authority, Victoria.

Peter Seamer, AM; B.Eng.; M.Eng. Sci.

Hon. Fellow, Centre for Urban Research, RMIT.

Professor John Stanley, B. Com (Hons); M Phil.

Deputy Chair, National Road Transport Commission.

Henry Turnbull, B.E. (Civil).

Consulting Engineer..

Jim Webber, M. Eng. Sc, BE (Civil), Dip T & RP, Grad Dip (Organization Behaviour).

Assistant Director General, Planning & Evaluation, Ministry of Transport, Victoria.