

To whom it may concern,

Please ensure no more funds go into the proliferation of wire rope barriers (WRBs) or other needless ancillaries and instead go into proper road maintenance.

To me, the only advantage of the WRBs is that they allow the Roads Minister and Vicroads to claim that they're 'doing something'. In fact, the WRBs are counterproductive, adding to the hazards faced by drivers.

WRBs make drivers feel 'hemmed in'. Some on the left are so close a driver often subconsciously moves nearer the centre and oncoming traffic, e.g Hyland Highway in Gippsland.

Left side WRBs prevent a vehicle moving safely off the road if it has to stop. It is simply dangerous for a disabled vehicle now.

They're notoriously dangerous for any poor motorcyclist who comes off and into them. Even a relatively harmless slide is impossible now.

This enormous amount of misspent money would be better going straight into proper and lasting repair of our country roads. As a motorcycle rider I've had several near-falls as a direct result of poor surfaces.

There's the bump in the corner that bounces a bike off-line and perhaps into oncoming traffic. There's the pothole hidden in the glare of oncoming lights, the hole in a puddle or the one obscured by the dappled shade of trees and so on. Just watching for hazards in the road surface takes too much attention.

It's not the fault of the 'bloody motorcyclists', it's a real problem for everyone. Bad roads are dangerous. Help everyone by putting some decent money where it really counts - into fixing our roads.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Charles Todd