



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

### Ensuring Community Involvement in New Great Ocean Road Authority

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley MP will introduce an amendment this week to the *Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2019* Bill to increase community involvement and representation on the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCPA) board.

The amendment would see half of the GORCPA board made up of local business owners and community members, to ensure it reflected the values and knowledge of those with connection and familiarity with the Great Ocean Road and its landscapes.

Currently, the Bill establishes a (no more than) 12-person board appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister but Mr Grimley expressed concern that the composition of the board could consist of “a majority with no connection or history with the Great Ocean Road.”

The six community members and business owners would need to live within the municipalities along the Great Ocean Road and carry out the necessary functions of a board member.

This amendment would also still stipulate that all board members must have skills, knowledge or experience relevant to the functions of GORCPA.

The proposal put forward by Mr Grimley also aims to ensure that GORCPA consults with the public before making major decisions. He says this is about “making decisions with people, not on behalf of them.”

In his speech, Mr Grimley will say that without this inclusion of locals on the board “based on past experiences, the public will likely be largely ignored, and the plans and strategies will likely be formulated prior to the public consultation process”.

Mr Grimley welcomes the establishment of the Authority, which he hopes will reduce bureaucracy and allow for long-term strategic planning for the country’s most visited tourist destination.

### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“This is about everyday locals being part of the Authority that will oversee decision-making for the area they live, breathe and love. As businesses and residents are primary stakeholders in the region, they should be represented in the new board which is going to perform a central role in decision-making for the region.

GORCPA will be making decisions about the townships along the Great Ocean Road, for the people along the Great Ocean Road but possibly *without* representation of those who actually live there, which to me makes no sense. And that’s why I’ve introduced this amendment.

Being ‘tourist towns’, there is special emphasis on tourism and business operations so as part of my amendment, I’m also asking that three small business owners be part of the GORCPA board.”

### Office of Stuart Grimley Media Contact:

Olivia Nicholls / 0459 419 755 / [olivia.nicholls@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:olivia.nicholls@parliament.vic.gov.au)