



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

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

## MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 16 September, 2020

### **Grimley Calls on State Government to Fund Virtual Fences on Great Ocean Road's Deadly Marengo Stretch**

Stuart Grimley MP has called on the State Government to fund virtual fences – or modern sound barrier technology – to prevent further wildlife deaths on a deadly 8km stretch of the Great Ocean Road near Marengo.

The State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party said Virtual Wildlife Fencing and sound barrier solutions should be explored for this area, given its high volume of wildlife inhabitants but also high volume of traffic during holiday periods.

In Parliament this week, Mr Grimley asked the Minister for Road Safety if there were “plans to install virtual wildlife fencing to reduce the possible fatality of both wildlife and humans and if not, if a speed reduction is being explored?”

Wallabies, kangaroos and possums were some of the common wildlife that resulted in fatalities on the iconic road.

This followed contact between Mr Grimley and Otway Wildlife Group President Willie Bedford who has been advocating for solutions for this stretch of road for a decade.

The Otway Wildlife Group have pushed to have the 100km/h speed limit dropped to 80km/h on the 8km stretch.

Virtual Wildlife Fencing is currently being trialled on Philip Island with very promising results.

#### **Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:**

“I would like to see a trial of Virtual Wildlife Fencing along this stretch of road. The results look promising in Philip Island.

I'm looking forward to the Minister's response to see if the State Government is planning virtual wildlife fencing rollout in high-risk areas and if not, if they'll be reducing the speed limit.

Not only are wildlife at risk of death but so are drivers, so if the TAC is truly serious about the Towards Zero strategy, funding a solution for this stretch of road will be a no-brainer.

With tourists unable to travel along the Great Ocean Road due to COVID-19, now seems like the perfect time to prioritise safety upgrades while traffic is minimal.”

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