



DERRYN HINCH'S
**JUSTICE
PARTY**

Grimley Pushing to Reduce Financial Impacts on Great Ocean Road Communities

Member for Western Victoria Stuart Grimley's amendment to the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2021 has passed.

The amendment will mandate the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (the Authority) to assess any financial impacts on locals when bringing in new tolls, fees and charges along the Coast and in National Parks that the Authority will become the manager for following the passage of the Bill.

Currently, the Act allows the Authority to exempt certain people from tolls, fees and charges (such as – theoretically – local people from being charged to enter the Twelve Apostles, for example).

The problem Mr Grimley sees, however, is that there is no mandate for the Authority to consider what financial implications new tolls, fees or charges might have on local people.

An example might be introducing car parking meters in Lorne. This amendment would require the Authority to give advice to the Minister before they prescribe regulations about the impact of car parking meters on local communities.

Mr Grimley has heard from local Councils, including Corangamite Shire Council, Surf Coast Shire Council, the Greater Torquay Alliance and local community members that they do not want to be financially impacted by car parking fees and entry fees to local attractions such as coastal trails, football ovals, the Twelve Apostles and others.

The Authority will take over all Crown Land and National Park land, Land Act land and Wildlife Act land by 1 November 2025, if not agreed to take over management earlier.

Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

“This is a small way of making sure the Authority consider any implications that introducing tolls, fees and charges on the Great Ocean Road will have on local communities.

For example, if the Authority introduce new car parking meters in Torquay or Lorne, they should have to at least consider the financial burden it may place on locals.

This is all about making sure that locals are not penalised for accessing the things they've moved to the Coast to do, like going to the beach, walking the trails and seeing our great sights.”

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