

Thiessen, Sam

From: damien codognotto <damienkcodognotto@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2020 2:39 PM
To: secretariat.PESRAC
Subject: FREE FERRIES AND TOURISM JOBS 1 OF 3

*The Economic & Social Recovery Council
Hobart, Tasmania.*

There is a campaign to review fares on TT Line ferries when the pandemic border restrictions are lifted. Premier Gutwein supported the Tasmanian Tourism Industry Council (TTIC) suggestion that TT Line ferries be free for private vehicles. You do not have to pay to cross any other borders within Australia. He said tourism was crucial to rebuilding Tasmania's economy. The high cost of ferry travel causes many tourists to go elsewhere and makes seeing family and friends divided by Bass Strait less affordable.

The Motorcycle Riders Association (MRA Vic) supports the TTIC's suggestion that private vehicles travel free across Bass Strait. This has several benefits. Two stand out.

First, free Bass Strait ferry travel encourages tourism which is good for Tasmania's economy. More travellers means more ferry trips which means more jobs on the ferries. Holiday dollars saved getting here may be spent on the Island and that means more jobs in Tasmania.

Second, free travel allows Tasmanians with family and loved ones on the mainland able to afford visiting their kin more often.

There are over 1,000,000 Australians licenced to ride road bikes on the mainland. There are more than 100,000 regular road riders in Victoria alone, a market with potential. Post pandemic, there will be more motorcycles and scooters on mainland roads because household debt and loss of jobs will make a second car less affordable. More riders will go touring but there are fewer choices. Europe and North America will be out of bounds for some time. The October 2020 Phillip Island Moto GP Carnival has been cancelled but many riders will already have trips to Victoria planned. Tourism Tasmania and TT Line should promote riding holidays in the southern state combined with the 2121 Moto GP. Tasmania has many motorcycling attractions including the last MRA TOY RUN left in Australia. It is motorcycle heaven.

The MRA believes two and three wheelers should be carried free because there is no competition with the Fly/Drive industry as there are few hire bikes on the Island and no facilities at airports.

Considering motorbikes weigh less and take up less space than cars, making it less expensive to get to get them here must be good for our economy. Motorcyclists are great tourists. They are often of mature age. They travel light so they buy meals and book accommodation. They visit attractions, buy souvenirs and fuel and papers and post cards and so on. Per head, per kilometre motorcycle and scooter riders contribute more tourist dollars than people in cars or campers.

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Fair go for free

JAMES KITTO

TASMANIA'S depleted economy could "virtually rejuvenate overnight" if a proposed tourism plan is implemented, a long time campaigner for equitable Bass Strait transport says.

Tourism Industry Council Tasmania chief executive Luke Martin is suggesting free passenger travel on the Spirit of Tasmania to relieve Tasmania of its post-pandemic and tourism woes.

Mr Martin last week urged the Federal Government to

consider extending the Bass Strait Passenger Vehicle Equalisation Scheme (BSPVES) to make car trips on the ferry free.

The call has been supported by Premier Peter Gutwein, who said the state's tourism industry was crucial to rebuilding a stronger Tasmania.

"That is why we have submitted the TICT's concept as one of a suite of initiatives to the Federal Government for consideration within the context of its \$1 billion tourism stimulus package available to all states and territories," he

said. "When it is safe, our drive market will be critically important to Tasmania's tourism and hospitality as they spend on average three times longer in the state."

Retired lawyer and the chairman of the former National Sea Highway Committee Peter Brohier said a drop in ferry fares should be regarded as a way forward for Tasmania.

"It's critically important that the passenger fare component of the BSPVES operates effectively to drop the total fare for anybody crossing

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Tasmania a motorcycli

PREMIER Gutwein said tourism was crucial to rebuilding Tasmania's economy (*Mercury*, May 22). He was supporting the Tourism Industry Council's suggestion that TT-Line ferries be free for vehicles.

Tasmania is motorcycle heaven. Motorbikes weigh less and take up less space than cars, making it less expensive to get there, and good for the economy in general and tourism in particular.

Post-pandemic there will be more motorcycles on mainland roads so more riders will want to go touring but there are fewer choices. Europe and North America will be out of bounds for some time.

Motorcyclists are great tourists. They are often mature people. They travel light so they buy meals and book accommodation. They visit attractions, buy souvenirs and fuel and papers and postcards. Per kilometre, motorcycle and scooter riders contribute more dollars than people in cars or campers. With the terminal moving to Geelong, two-wheel touring in Tassie becomes even more attractive. The MRA supports free ferries on Bass Strait.

**Damien Codognotto, Howrah
Motorcycle Riders Association Vic**

Mates would come too

MY husband and I are avid motorcyclists. We first took our bikes on the Spirit of Tasmania for Easter in 2016 where we met a couple of blokes from Burnie. We are now firm friends and frequent motorcycle travel buddies. We have visited twice more with our latest trip in April cancelled due to COVID-19. Our Tassie mates have visited the mainland several times. Our trip last year took us all to Bundaberg. With



TOURISTS: Motorcyclists spend big.

each return trip on the ferry about \$1200 a couple, it limits the number of trips or shortens the time we can afford to spend.

Should the price be further subsidised, and especially if it were free, we would make more frequent trips. It is likely that several of our mates would accompany us. I have also wondered why a car can travel on the ferry for about \$84 while a bike is \$69? You can fit two or more bikes in the space a car would take up.

**Liz Cooper
Horsham, Victoria**

Save us good produce

MUST agree with Brett Robbins, that as soon as the exports open up again the general public of Tasmania will fade into the background as far as price goes (see *Mercury* May 19). There should be a subsidy aside for local produce at a reasonable price.

certainly ear... money to get a catch. The meat industry along with some fruit growers and other consumable industries in Tasmania don't mind charging local consumers higher prices so they can sell their better products offshore at a lower

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WHAT THEY SAID ONLINE

ON CHEAPER SEA TRAVEL

THE day crossing is 10 hours of your life you never get back. Should be a lot cheaper during the day and be used as an incentive to get people on board. The night crossing makes the boat pretty much a motel, and should be priced accordingly.

Mark Newbold

MAYBE just do day trips only. Reconfigure to make more room for car and freight. Treat it like a 14-hour train trip which is not uncommon in other parts of the world. Increased passengers and freight brings down costs.

Gary Price

WENT over last year with the van in tow. It cost \$1800 return. Did a costing for June 2021 and will cost nearly \$3000. They must be trying to make up for what they have lost out on this year.

Scott Elliott

FOR each registered Tasmanian vehicle there should be one free return trip allowed each year.

Anthony Soutar

IT should be heaps

Motorcycling lure

I READ Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania CEO Luke Martin's suggestion of free passenger travel and weight/space billing for travel on the ferry. This would be a great idea and with the ferry terminal moving to Geelong it would see a huge increase in motorcycle tourism. Motorcyclists spend more per kilometre travelled than tourists using other self-owned transport. Tasmania is home to some of the best motorcycling roads in the world. It seems like a no-brainer to promote more motorcyclists heading down to enjoy and invest in your tourism industry.

Rob Sutterby
Geelong Bike Night