

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/the-abc-the-money-is-there-to-fund-our-broadcaster-20200625-h1oziv.html>

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Just keep your distance

Ben Groundwater – "I'm truly sorry, regional Australia" (Comment, 25/6) – forgot one crucial, annoying factor when outlining the impact of visitors flocking to regional areas. Most of them will not abide by social distancing measures.

COVID-19 has barely visited regional areas. This will change when mainly city-based visitors swarm there, bringing with them their shopping-centre mentality. In fact, visitors may find "the friendly folk in hats" are not so friendly or that they have bunkered down at home waiting for the school holidays to finish. Country people will implore the visitors to maintain social distancing protocols. Sadly, a visit to Daylesford any weekend has demonstrated this is unlikely.

Rohan Wightman, Castlemaine

Please stay at home

Ben Groundwater announces that city-dwellers denied the opportunity to travel overseas are heading to regional locations instead, probably within their own states. I will not be the only person to find this presumptuous.

Firstly, not all regional centres, many with very few COVID-19 cases so far, will welcome visitors from hotspots in the capitals. Secondly, I think such travel is frowned on by medical experts and health authorities, especially given the recent spike in cases in Victoria. Sure, the boost to local tourism would be welcome but not at the expense of lives and the disruption caused by isolation, school closures etc. Better take up a few hobbies instead, Ben, to while away the time.

Richard Trembath, Mount Pleasant