Congestion Charge Targets Tripods

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From the majestic tripod stalker of the sulphur wastes to the humble pogo-beetle and the breathtaking wedding-dances of the Squirm, the tripod is a familiar sight to travellers throughout the Imbroglio. But it is also something likely to become all the rarer on Dryzandia, if proposed changes to the congestion charge go into effect.

"Dryzandian roads just weren't designed for tripods," Minister for Travel Ssi Lrirrk told the Sun, "and in the current economic climate they won't be suitable for them for many years yet. Rather than expect the owners of more traditional vehicles to suffer the cost of these ungainly contraptions stumbling over them, I think it's only fair that the people who wish to operate tripods contribute more to the system they're straining."

But Plob Billopusop, spokesperson for the Dryzandia Octopode Community Centre disagrees. "The idea that tripods cause traffic jams is a popular one among people with a certain mindset, but there's no evidence to support it. If anything, the narrow legs of a tripod take up less space than a wheeled vehicle."

And Billopusop has his own ideas about the reasons for this proposed change. "Dryzandia has a deserved reputation as an unfriendly world for immigrants. Laws like this are clearly intended to reduce the visibility of other species - tripods being, of course, an especially popular vehicle among octopodes."

But Lrirrk accuses detractors of playing the race card. "No species should get special treatment. If you want to operate a vehicle that causes traffic jams and breaks up the road surface, you should be prepared to pay for the disruption you cause."

The High Council votes on the amended charge today, with the motion expected to pass by a slim margin.