

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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4 DEC 2025

Ms Jen Butler MP
Member for Lyons

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler

On 3 December 2025 you asked me the following constituent question in the House:

My constituent question is from Illawarra Road landowners. The 2015 reclassification of Illawarra Road into the highway network occurred without consultation or assessment of suitability and prior to the Perth Bypass. Perth Bypass travel time savings are negligible. Illawarra Road is primarily a working rural corridor used daily for moving machinery and stock. Overtaking lanes across property entrances and G-turns will force tractors and stock trucks to cross three lanes in 100 kph traffic. The large increase in heavy freight vehicles on this road greatly increases collision risk. On 30 October, the Illawarra Road landowners wrote to the minister requesting an onsite ministerial review to understand the dangers with farm access. Will the Minister meet with landowners on site and review the project safety, risk and cost benefit to determine whether continuing this project remains viable?

The Illawarra Road corridor was indeed included in the National Highway Network by the Australian Government in March 2015.

National Highway status is confirmation of Illawarra Road's function as a direct connection between the Midland Highway and the Bass Highway. For many years it has been used as a time-saving route between these two highways, and the staged upgrades being delivered will improve the safety, amenity and efficiency of this route to a standard which is appropriate for a section of the National Highway Network.

It is acknowledged Illawarra Road also serves a number of rural properties and a range of measures have been incorporated into the designs for the staged upgrades of this road, including changes to speed limits.

Tasmanian Transport Association Executive Officer Michelle Harwood has publicly estimated the time saving for heavy vehicles due to these improvements at 10 minutes, due to the ability of vehicles to bypass greater Launceston.

The Department of State Growth is developing revised design options for Stage 2A of the project to consider the concerns of adjoining landowners. The revisions followed an onsite meeting with landowners in March 2025.

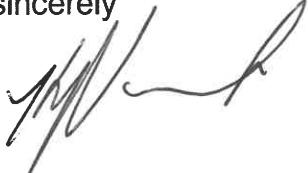
The Department has reached out to these landowners to arrange face-to-face meetings to present the preferred design options, however at the time of writing I am advised a date has not been agreed upon with the landowners. I have also met onsite with a number of these landowners and both I and my office have been in direct communication with those who have raised concerns.

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments are committed to completing improvements to Illawarra Road to bring it to a category 1 standard and achieve a three-star AusRap safety rating.

As Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, I have a responsibility to act in the interests of all road users and I will ensure the Government continues to interact respectfully and responsibly with directly affected property owners.

I trust this information assists you in responding to your constituent's concerns.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**