

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

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Ms Jen Butler MP
Member for Lyons

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

Dear Jen

On 6 November 2025 you asked Minister Vincent the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

The Bass Highway is laden with potholes. Numerous constituents who have sustained damage to their vehicles have reported difficulty in seeking compensation for out-of-cost expenses due to damage incurred from potholes. One constituent has reported \$20,000 of damage over four pothole incidents. Constituents report the process for compensation for vehicle damage does not include the towing fees or inconvenience caused. Can the Minister provide to the House the amount of compensation paid to vehicle owners between Westbury and Devonport by the external contractor for vehicle damage caused by potholes over the last two years? It is not good enough that pothole-dodging under this Liberal-Greens government is now a statewide sport. When are you finally going to fix the Bass Highway?

In response to your question, the Department of State Growth has advised claims for damages are a matter for the regional contractors and this information is not shared with the Department.

When the Department receives a claim for damage or loss on the State Road Network it is referred to the relevant contractor for assessment and response. Once the Department hands over a claim to a contractor to manage, it takes no further part in the claims process.

Maintenance contractors are required to hold relevant insurance policies, and the contractor determines whether they will pay a claim for damage and the elements of the claim they will pay. This information is not provided to State Growth and remains between the contractor and the claimant.

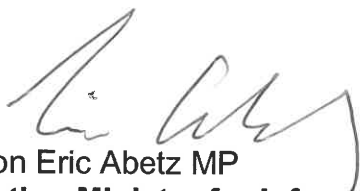
In relation to claims for the Bass Highway, Westbury to Devonport, the Department has received about 131 claims for compensation for damage and loss associated with potholes on the Bass Highway between Westbury and Devonport since January 2024.

About 76 claims were made in the 2024 calendar year, and about 55 claims have been made to date (9 December) for the 2025 calendar year. These claims have been referred to the appropriate contractor for assessment and response.

I am pleased to report, according to the latest information from the Department, our maintenance contractors have made considerable progress with pothole repairs on the Bass Highway.

In the period from 1 July to 3 December, 96.4 per cent of identified potholes on the Bass Highway have been repaired. The Department will continue to monitor and respond to identified road surface issues on this critical link to the North-West Coast.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written over the printed name.

Hon Eric Abetz MP

Acting Minister for Infrastructure and Transport