

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

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23 DEC 2025

Ms Jen Butler MP
Member for Lyons
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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

Dear Ms Butler

On 4 December 2025 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

Bridgewater and Gagebrook community members have raised the lack of lighting along the East Derwent Highway. We understand that the department is aware of the matter. Can the Minister please prioritise the lighting along the East Derwent Highway? We have had a fatality there and it may have something to do with poor lighting.

Thank you for your question.

I am aware of the tragic death a young girl on the East Derwent Highway at Bridgewater on 20 May 2025. At the outset it is important to note deaths on the Tasmanian road network become the subject of coronial investigations and it is not at all appropriate to speculate on causality. The Department of State Growth will closely observe the findings and any recommendations from the Coroner in relation to this incident.

The East Derwent Highway through Bridgewater is not continuously illuminated. Instead, a targeted approach to street lighting is used to ensure lighting at intersections and pedestrian crossings where there is the highest likelihood of conflicting movements between road users and pedestrians. This approach aligns the cost of installing, operating and maintaining street lighting with where it provides the highest benefits.

Street lighting is located at the East Derwent Highway / Cove Hill Road roundabout, the East Derwent Highway / Scott Road / Paice Street roundabout, and the pedestrian crossing near the bus stops.

The Department will continue to monitor safety performance on the East Derwent Highway and will provide advice, as required, as part of the coronial investigation. It will also respond to coronial recommendations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport