

3

Scott Hennessy

From: Edwin Batt <edwincbatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 September 2015 10:29 PM
To: Scott Hennessy
Subject: Midland Highway Kempton to Melton Mowbray Stage 1: Submission to PSC on Public Works: from EDWIN BATT

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
Tasmania

Dear Sir

I am the property owner on the east side of the Midlands Hwy south of the Lakes Highway intersection.

Firstly I would like to commend the team charged with designing and implementing these works in so far as they are required to interface with the affected community. They have been polite and generally punctual and responsive to correspondence. The worst I ever got was "You can write to whatever politician you like but you will never get the wire rope divide beginning south of your entrance". This merely reaffirms the well known order of things that bureaucrats not politicians run the world.

I would urge your Committee to consider some of these general comments about the wire rope divide. These public works are facilitating the fast transport route Hobart to Launceston. Infrastructure development should consider in greater depth the infrastructure requirements of the rural communities through which this road passes. Where farm access point are shut off and heavy vehicles and machinery are forced to travel long distances in the 'wrong' direction to begin their journey, great costs and inconvenience to road users and farmers alike occurs

The wire is of itself dangerous as an obstacle on the road. This area of roadway is not a blackspot for head on collisions..

At Spring Hill base the divide has already been damaged which shows its use as a 'road safety device' is problematic.

At Constitution Hill it has already caused traffic mayhem when a large truck lost traction going up, and again when an oversized house carrying truck couldn't proceed. Traffic at a standstill for hours in one case.

Its proposed placement south of the Lakes highway intersection, driving initial (slow moving) turning traffic into a fenced single lane will create a bottle neck of inconvenience for speeding southbound traffic.

Cutting off the north bound licensed access point for the Joneses and the Batts at 'Woodlands' (who both operate farms to the north of this point) will create expensive inconvenience to them.

The widening of the road outside the Woodlands gate will bring its edge dangerously close to the Woodlands gateway, creating situations of danger when Semis and B Doubles hang out on to the roadway whilst their drivers leave the truck to open the gate.

Creating an overtaking lane in this Melton Mowbray straight is dangerous as it is too short and it runs into a significant left bend, shortly after which it is proposed to erect a turning circle point. The resultant traffic build up will create situations of danger.

There is no compensation being offered to landowners who are losing their access rights. Offers to landowners where property acquisition is required is not proceeding in an orderly fashion and negotiations are too informal.

I appreciate these are point form 'submissions' only however if required I would be happy to enlarge on them at the public hearing.

Yours truly

Edwin Batt
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