

Minister for Housing and Planning  
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Minister for Local Government

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19 JUN 2026

Ms Jen Butler MP  
Member for Lyons

c/- haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms ~~Butler~~<sup>Jen</sup>

On 18 June 2026 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

*This question is from the landowners along Illawarra Road, stage 2B. Minister, why have you withheld risk analysis documents from landowners affected by road project risk? To quote your lame excuse from 18 May: There was no requirement for a pre-construction road safety audit given the nature of the project being a typical road upgrade.*

*Seriously, Minister, how do you reconcile an \$80 million-plus conversion of a B road into a major freight highway as a typical road upgrade? Landowners feel you are expecting all road users to run the proverbial gauntlet blindfold by refusing point-blank to release the risk assessments pertaining to a G-turn access for farm vehicles within an overtaking lane area and wish to know if you were responsible for signing off this current design? If not you, then who?*

Firstly, I reject your offensive and unproductive categorisation of my correspondence on 18 May, and the inferred slight on the hard-working public servants who undertake our road infrastructure projects. It is utterly unnecessary and does nothing to improve debate on Tasmania's infrastructure projects.

My previous statement of there being no requirement for a pre-construction road safety audit given the nature of the project being a typical road upgrade is correct.

I am also able to advise design approval for our road projects sits with the department as the asset owner, and the responsible minister is then advised.

In further response to your question, I will reference conclusions of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works following its consideration of this project in 2022. The Committee scrutinises major government public works projects, and in particular reports on the necessity or advisability of carrying the project out, and on the present and prospective public value of the work.

Specifically, on your question in relation to farm vehicles and turning opportunities, the Public Works Committee concluded that while it held concerns with respect to

the road width being sufficient to cater for large vehicles and agricultural machinery, *“the Committee is now satisfied that the clarification provided on the road cross section and the inclusion of slow-vehicle turnouts on single lane sections of the road has resulted in a design that will be safe and functional for all road users”*.

More broadly, in its report the Committee states *“the proposed works will contribute to improved safety, productivity and efficiency on what is a key part of the Tasmanian freight network”*.

It goes on to say *“the project is expected to enhance freight productivity, connectivity and efficiency by providing better connections between agricultural regions and ports, airports and other transport hubs and provide better access for tourism, mining and other sectors. It will also upgrade the road network to a Category 1 Road under the Tasmanian State Road Hierarchy and achieve an AusRap 3 star safety rating, which will provide a safer and more efficient travel environment for all road users.”*

These are the objectives we set out to achieve on this road project, and I thank you and your fellow committee members for sharing our view.

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments are committed to completing improvements to Illawarra Road in the best interests of all Tasmanians. I look forward to its completion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

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