

Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Local Government

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21/05/2025

Ms Jen Butler MP  
Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

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

Dear Ms Butler

In the House on 7 May, you asked the following Constituent Question:

*Peter from Westbury asked when the next section of the western Birralelee Road will be reconstructed, and when the reconstruction of the whole of Birralelee Road will be completed.*

*Is there funding allocated for the completion of the next section and the whole of the road?*

*Two people have lost their lives on Birralelee Road since 2018. When Peter raised concerns about that section with State Growth in 2018, he was told that significant stabilisation, patching and sealing was undertaken on the section of the road. It was terrible then, and even worse now. It requires a complete rebuild, not further repatching.*

*Despite the poor condition, Birralelee Road was approved for B-double use and categorised as category 2, Tasmania's major regional road for carrying heavy freight. It was later assessed as substandard in terms of width for intended operation as 26M, B-double and freight route by a highly qualified and experienced traffic engineer. What Austar rating is the completed section rated, and will the rest of the reconstruction be category 3 or better?*

The Birralelee Road upgrades are part of the \$55 million Northern Roads Package, which also includes upgrades to the Batman Highway and Frankford Road. The entire 18km length of Birralelee Rd will be upgraded as part of this package, and will ensure the road is better able to accommodate B-double trucks.

The sealed road width is to be increased from the current 6.1 metres (or less in some places) to 8 metres, with additional curve widening and safety barriers installed at locations and adjustments to horizontal and vertical geometry. The increased road width is in accordance with Austroads and Vic Roads design guidelines and is consistent with traffic volumes and the types of vehicle using the road. Realignment of Birralelee Road is not within the scope of the project due to the cost and impact of these works on existing properties along the road.

Work is underway to design and program the rest of the upgrades into staged packages of work. Construction on the next stage of works is expected to start in the summer of 2025-26, with the overall schedule of works for the entire road still being developed as the designs progress.

Regarding rating assessments, the first stage of this year's AusRAP assessments in Tasmania is focused on the State's Category 1 road network, which includes roads carrying high traffic volumes. An AusRAP assessment of Birralelee Road is proposed as part of a future Stage 2 AusRAP assessment.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Infrastructure**