

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

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Email: Minister.Vincent@dpac.tas.gov.au



12 NOV 2025

Mr Michael Ferguson
Member for Bass
53 St John Street
LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

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

Dear Mr Ferguson

In Parliament on 11 November this year you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents in Bass:

My constituents in the North East of Tasmania are extremely supportive of the Government's plan to undertake the next stage of the Tasman Highway upgrade between Scottsdale and St Patricks River. Would the Minister please advise me on next steps to achieve this once in a lifetime upgrade?

In response I can advise following the completion of the Stage One works between the Sideling Lookout and Whish-Wilson Road, the next construction package for Stage 1 work is a 2 km section between Whish-Wilson Road and Minstone Road which will be tendered in early 2026. Construction is anticipated to commence in the second quarter of 2026.

Design and investigation on the Stage 2 work was completed in April 2025 on the review of alternate alignments and option analysis for upgrades between Minstone Road and St Patricks River, noting the challenging terrain and geology.

The concept design was presented to the newly appointed Dorset Council on 19 May 2025 with Council advising its continued support for the Corkerys Road option in preference to the proposed upgrades to the existing Tasman Highway alignment.

Community consultation commenced on 20 May 2025 which included asking for feedback on the Corkerys Road option. Due to the significant interest in the project, the consultation was extended to include more detail in relation to the Corkerys Road option, and to allow more discussion on the proposed alignment options over the Sideling.

Feedback from the consultation is now being used to finalise the priority of upgrades to be delivered along this section of the Tasman Highway, and to progress with the designs.

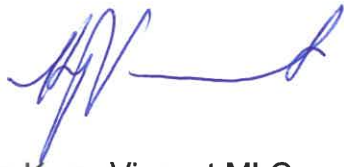
The Department is undertaking a detailed options assessment to include potential routes (including Corkerys Road) over the Sideling, prior to the Tasmanian

Government making a final decision on the proposed alignment and funding required to upgrade this section.

The Department has started the process to engage a consultant to complete the options assessment and this work will be finalised in 2026. This additional assessment work for Stage 2 has meant there is a delay in constructing further upgrade works on the Sideling between the lookout and St Patricks River.

Further consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders including Dorset Council, the heavy vehicle industry and the community, once this additional assessment work has been completed.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport