

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



The Honourable Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Estimates Committee A

12 JUN 2026

jenny.mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair

I am pleased to provide the following answers to questions taken on notice during the committee's scrutiny of the Infrastructure and Transport ministerial portfolio on 4 June 2026. I apologise for the delay in providing these answers.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE GROWTH
Output Group 2 – Infrastructure and Transport Services
2.1 Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery

1. What is the total cost of Head of Agency and 45 SES positions in the Department of State Growth.

The department has 45 senior executive and equivalent specialist offices, 37 of which are currently occupied. The total annual salaries of the 37 offices and the Head of Agency, as at 4 June 2026, is \$8,305,844.

2. What is the total cost of the 18 Band 9 positions in the Department of State Growth?

The department has 16 band 9 positions, 13 of which are currently occupied. The total annual salaries as at 4 June 2026 is \$2,244,850.

3. How many staff currently process RTI requests in the Department of State Growth? How will the Department improve processing times and comply with the law if with a reduction in jobs as forecast under the Government's planned machinery of government changes?

As at 4 June 2026, the department has four staff within its legal services area who hold a delegation under the RTI Act and deal with RTI applications as part of their roles.

The department takes RTI processing seriously. The timeliness of RTI processing can be affected by the volume and complexity of requests, however every attempt will always be made to ensure applications are processed within the stipulated timeframes.

4. In relation to the road widening of the Tasman Highway at Cambridge as part of the South East Traffic Solution:

a) Please provide a copy of the documentation provided to the Commonwealth for assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Protection (EPBC) Act 1993, including the map of Habitat Critical to the Survival of the Species (HCSS) of two critically endangered orchids.

The original package of formal Preliminary Documents was submitted in July 2021. A copy is attached.

A further submission was lodged in December 2024 following a realignment of the highway to reduce the overall footprint. This is also attached (in three parts).

The department will continue updating reports and assessment documentation in response to Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water requests.

b) Please confirm the DCCEEW has received from DSG an assessable project on the proposed road widening.

Yes, DCCEEW has received an assessable project on the proposed road widening from the department.

c) Has the Department of State Growth produced a map of HCSS of the breeding masked owls in Milford Forest, for submission to the Commonwealth DCCEEW? If so, please provide a copy.

No, a map has not yet been produced. A map of the masked owl habitat will be prepared following completion of the masked owl activity and habitat assessment currently underway for the revised project footprint.

d) The Minister and officials confirmed offsets for any impacts on critically endangered species and habitat are proposed. What are those offsets, and where are they proposed?

The department is currently working with its consultant and the adjacent landowner on an offset proposal.

e) What is the total expenditure on environmental consultants since the project was announced in June 2018, and which consultancies have been contracted to undertake this work?

The department has engaged Pitt and Sherry (Operations) Pty Ltd as head consultant for the project, that has employed North Barker Eco Systems as its environmental consultant.

To-date, approximately \$620,000 has been spent on the environmental assessment.

Output Group 6 - Subsidies and Concessions

6.2 General Access Services

1. Please provide details of the timeline for the delivery of officially trained Transit Officers on buses, and an explanation of the reason why it has taken more than three years to have them authorised and appointed.

A pilot deployment of transit officers in southern Tasmania has been running since April 2023. The transit officers deployed in the pilot are not authorised officers for the purposes of the *Passenger Transport Services Regulations 2023* (Tas).

As part of the process to have the transit officers act as authorised officers under the Regulations, a training package to address the unique competencies associated with the powers available to authorised officers was finalised and approved by the Transport Commission in August 2025.

In the 2025-26 Interim Budget handed down in November 2025, the Tasmanian Government committed \$2.38 million per annum in recurrent funding to support a wider roll-out of transit officer services.

A framework for appointing transit officers as authorised officers under the *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011* (Tas) was approved by the Transport Commission in March 2026.

The department has been preparing tender documentation for the expansion of transit officers on buses across the State, and will be providing advice to the Minister in relation to the potential nature, scope and timing of a tender process.

6.3 School Bus Services

1. How many reports of reaching or exceeding operational or seated capacity as required under contracts has the Department received in the last 12 months?

In the 12 months to June 2026, school bus operators made capacity reports in relation to nine services across the state.

Capital Investment Program

1. Can you please provide a list of bus stops that are going to get an upgrade along the Huon and Channel Highways.

Huon Highway

Status	Location
Complete	3394 Huon Highway, Franklin
Complete	Opposite 3392 Huon Highway, Franklin
Complete	6970 Huon Highway, Dover

Status	Location
Complete	4474 Huon Highway, Port Huon
Complete	Opposite 4478 Huon Highway, Port Huon
Complete	123 Main Street, Huonville
Complete	120 Main Street, Huonville
Complete	83 Main Street, Huonville
Complete	78 Main Street, Huonville
Complete	Opposite 2704 Huon Highway, Huonville
Complete	2710 Huon Highway, Huonville
Complete	6000 Huon Highway, Glendevie
Complete	6019 Huon Highway, Glendevie
Complete	3448 Huon Highway, Franklin
Complete	3445 Huon Highway, Franklin
Expected early 2027*	Just before Mountain River Road, Grove (relocated from 1952 Huon Highway – Grove Store)
Expected early 2027*	Just after Turn Creek Road

* Completed as part of the Mountain River Road Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project

Channel Highway

Status	Location
Complete	Opposite 151 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	145 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	Opposite 184 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	184 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	183 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	162 Channel Highway, Tarroona
Complete	3 Channel Highway, Kingston
Complete	1708 Channel Highway, Margate
Complete	1703 Channel Highway, Margate

Status	Location
Complete	1 Oakleigh Avenue, Tarooma
Complete	Opposite 17 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Complete	45 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Complete	50 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Complete	3518 Channel Highway, Woodbridge
Complete	Opposite 3472 Channel Highway, Woodbridge
Expected end 2026	101 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	68 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	Snug Primary School
Expected end 2026	2199 Channel Highway, Snug
Expected end 2026	231A Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	204 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	3434 Channel Highway, Woodbridge
Expected end 2026	3435 Channel Highway, Woodbridge
Expected end 2026	Opposite 3 Channel Highway, Kingston
Expected end 2026	165 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	140 Channel Highway, Tarooma
Expected end 2026	2962 Channel Highway, Kettering
Expected end 2026	2945 Channel Highway, Kettering
Expected end 2026	Opposite 4804 Channel Highway, Gordon
Expected end 2026	Opposite 145 Channel Highway, Kingston

2. Can you please provide an update of the proposed improvements to the Sandfly Road and Channel Highway intersection, and timeframes for expected completion.

Improvements to the Sandfly Road and Channel Highway intersection are identified in the Channel Highway - Algona Road to Sandfly Road Corridor Study. Delivery of improvements at this intersection is subject to consideration in future state and federal budgets.

3. Please provide the total cost (or estimated cost) of the Southern Outlet fifth lane project, broken down by stage.

Project: Tolman's Hill to Macquarie Street.

Total funding \$39.4 million Tasmanian Government only.

- Stage 1 - Transit Lane Connector added an additional traffic lane on the Southern Outlet between Davey Street and Macquarie Street, construction cost \$7 million. Complete.
- Olinda Grove Roundabout Signalisation, construction cost \$1.1 million (includes City of Hobart contribution of \$150,000). Expected to be completed end of July 2026, weather permitting.
- Stage 2 - Rockface Protection and stabilisation work on the existing embankment between Olinda Grove and Cats Eye Corner, expected construction cost \$4 million. To be tendered mid-2026.
- Stage 3 - Construction of the Transit Lane from Olinda Grove to join the recently completed Transit Lane Connector (Stage 1), expected construction cost including design all stages, acquisition and service relocation estimated \$83 million.

Project shortfall - c.\$55.6 million

Project: Kingston to Tolman's Hill

Total funding \$100 million 80:20 Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

No planning or design work has commenced on the extension of the Southern Outlet Fifth Lane between Kingston and Tolman's Hill and consequently no cost estimate has been prepared at this time.

The Tasmanian Government has requested the Australian Government reallocate some of their Kingston to Tolman's Hill funding allocation to complete the Tolman's Hill to Macquarie Street project. This would allow construction of Stage 3 to proceed on completion of the rockface protection and stabilisation works (Stage 2).

Yours sincerely



Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport