

Councillor Alex Green
Deputy Mayor
Southern Midlands Council
PO Box 21
OATLANDS TAS 7120

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Sirs,

Re - Midland Highway, Mangalore to Bagdad Stage 1 and Kempton to Melton Mowbray Stage 1

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission regarding the above public works.

Safety improvements to the Midland Highway are to be welcomed. The benefits of a wire-rope barrier separating opposing traffic streams in preventing head-on collisions are obvious.

I wish to bring to your attention the safety issues presented by breaks or "gaps" in the barrier at junction and turning points.

Jurisdictions in Britain and Ireland have found that they have experienced increased accidents at these breaks in the wire barrier - fatal accidents involving head on and side-impacts. The Midland Irrigation scheme is going to see increased usage by slower moving vehicles (laden trucks and agricultural tractors for instance) of entry points to the 110 km/h Midland Highway. Cars competing with bicycles and tractors at "gaps" in the wire is a potentially deadly combination.

The fewer the "gaps" in the wire, the better. In Britain and Ireland at major junctions engineering solutions adopted on similar low traffic volume highways include left-in and left-out only roads, and round-a-bouts. Round-a-bouts have a significant safety advantage in bringing all traffic to a similar, slower speed, reducing severity of road accidents.

With regard to the proposed works in question, I would suggest that a round-a-bout providing access to Mood Food and the northern entrance to Kempton should be considered as a design option. This would provide a safe exit and entry point for the relatively high volume of traffic using this service centre. Integrating the northern entrance to Kempton into the round-a-bout would also provide a safe entry point into this village.

Similarly, a round-a-about should be considered for the Midland Highway-Highland Lakes Road junction.

Given the purpose of the Midland Highway improvements is to increase safety, I would urge the Public Works Committee to further investigate safer alternatives to the current proposed "gaps" in the wire barrier.

I hope these suggestions are considered as part of your deliberations.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Green'.

Councillor Alex Green
Deputy Mayor
Southern Midlands Council