

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure

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Ms Anita Dow MP
Member for Braddon
PO Box 495
Burnie TAS 7320

10 July 2024

Dear Ms Dow

On Thursday, 13 June, you asked the following question in Parliament on behalf of Smithton constituents:

"My constituents from Smithton want to know when the long-awaited road upgrades between Smithton and Marawah will be completed and I note that there is significant community concern about the safety of this road corridor."

In response to your question I can advise that the *Bass Highway – Wynyard to Marawah Corridor Strategy* was developed following an extensive engineering assessment of the road environment and consultation with the community.

The Corridor Strategy identified the following of key issues and opportunities for improvement of the Bass Highway between Wynyard and Marawah:

- Four new overtaking lanes.
- 10 sections of road to be realigned, with potential for realigning an additional five sections.
- 15 junction upgrades with potential for upgrading an additional 51 junctions.
- Up to 60 km of shoulder widening, with 25 km identified as a high priority.

The Corridor Strategy sets out our long-term upgrade plans for the highway, to be delivered over 20 years. The projects are being delivered in order of priority with the highest priority projects delivered first. In response to the Corridor Strategy, the Tasmanian and Australian Governments have jointly committed \$100 million to provide upgrades to the Bass Highway between Wynyard and Marawah.

To date, \$48 million has been spent on planning, design and construction of the highest priority projects, with construction ongoing since 2020. Eleven projects have so far been completed including three between Smithton and Marawah as follows:

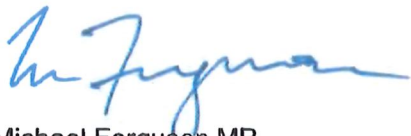
- Brittons Swamp road rehabilitation and shoulder widening.
- Mella Road, Broadmeadows junction upgrade.
- Salmon River Road to Park/Paceys Road, Togari safety improvements including junction upgrades, and new Montagu River bridge.

I am advised that the following projects are currently in design and will be delivered over the longer term:

- Smithton junction Improvements - Brittons Road junction & Bacon Factory Road junction.
- Alignment Improvements east of Schuurings Road, Christmas Hills.
- Improvements to the junction of Christmas Hills and Dunns Road.

Future improvements also identified in the strategy and subject to future funding include junction improvements at Kubanks Road and Ida Scott Crescent at Smithton; and Blameys Road, Tabbys Road/Dixons Road, and Fagans Road at Christmas Hills.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson', is written above the printed name.

Michael Ferguson MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure