

(No. 60.)



1873.

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TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

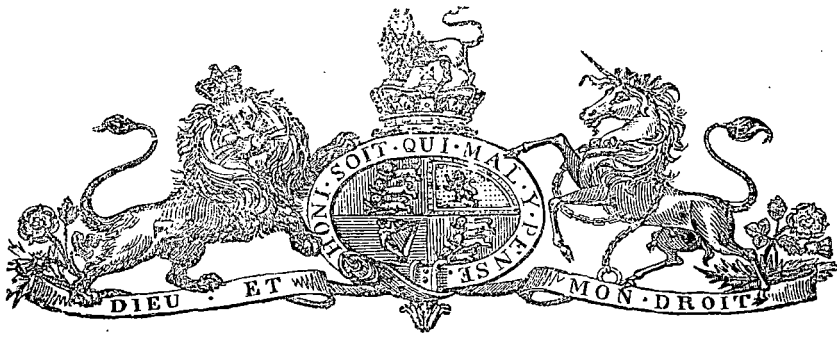
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ROAD POLICY.

PETITION FROM EAST AND WEST DEVON, AND WELLINGTON.

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Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 3, 1873.



*To His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania and the Honorable the Members of the Executive Council.*

The Petition of the undersigned Inhabitants of the Electoral Districts of East Devon, West Devon, and Wellington.

1. THAT your Petitioners, principally new Settlers on heavily timbered lands, purchased from the Crown under the Credit Clauses of the various "Waste Lands Acts," at an average price exceeding One pound per acre with interest for deferred payments added, have great difficulties and privations to contend with, such as heavy and expensive clearing operations, unremunerative prices for produce, but principally inadequate road accommodation, to which many have succumbed, abandoned their holdings, and left the Colony.

2. That the funds arising from local taxation, although they swell to the maximum allowed by law, are altogether insufficient to meet the outlay required for the construction of a main line of road. The bye roads of our districts absorb all the funds that can be raised by the several Road Trusts, and the funds formerly granted to Local Boards of Works are now diverted to other purposes.

3. That your Petitioners deem the route between Deloraine and Circular Head more essentially a public road than any in Tasmania, inasmuch as very little thereof is used by the Settlers for the transport of produce, but is principally used for general public purposes.

4. That your Petitioners, whilst labouring under these disadvantages, view with alarm and dismay the Acts of your Legislature imposing on them undue, oppressive, and intolerable burthens, by rendering them equally liable with other parts of the Colony for the construction of what is termed the Main Line of Railway between Hobart Town and Launceston, and partially so for the Launceston and Western Railway, notwithstanding that these districts already enjoy the advantages of first-class macadamised roads.

5. That your Petitioners deem it their duty not to conceal the consequences. They are—a general desire for closer commercial relations with the neighbouring colony of Victoria, to whence our able-bodied male population are being rapidly attracted, and those left yearn to follow or be attached as an integral part of that colony.

6. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that your Excellency will, by and with the advice of your honorable Council, adopt such measures as will speedily ensure a general and equitable Road Policy, and thereby avert the inevitable spectacle of a deserted or a divided Colony.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

[Here follow 102 Signatures.]