

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

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03 NOV 2025

Mr Michael Ferguson MP
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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

Dear Mr Ferguson

In Parliament on 24 September, you asked the following question of me as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport on behalf of a constituent:

Several of my constituents in Kings Meadows have raised concerns with me about the impact of the Kings Meadows heavy vehicle rest area. This is a tremendous government initiative, very important for our truckies, and it's going to really support safety in the transport industry.

However, my constituents, including Angela, Kirsty, Margaret and Kerry, are also keen to see the Government succeed with its plan to build a barrier to address sound and light spillover that is expected to affect nearby homes. While the department's efforts with progressing a development application to Launceston City Council are appreciated, I'm asking for the Minister to please provide an update on how and when this issue is likely to be satisfactorily resolved with the City Council.

In response to your question, I share the frustrations of your constituents in relation to the construction of an appropriate sound wall at the Kings Meadows Heavy Vehicle Driver Rest Area to maintain their residential amenity. This is a project which is supported by the Government but was refused on planning grounds by the City of Launceston.

Design and stakeholder engagement for this \$5.4 million project began in October 2020 and in 2021 the Department of State Growth amended the design to include a noise mitigation wall at your direction as former Minister for Infrastructure. The Council did not agree the structure was exempt from the planning scheme and would require a development application, which it rejected in September 2024, despite the design being reduced in height from 4 metres to 2.5 metres.

Following advice from the Council that no design would be recommended for approval, I engaged the Department of State Growth's planning division for advice on a way forward. Given the Tasmanian Government has no ability to direct the Council in making decisions on development applications, it is my intention to amend the State Planning Provisions to clarify acoustic walls are exempt under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Launceston Local Provisions Schedule for the relevant Specific Area Plan.

It should be noted this process will require up to nine months to finalise, depending on whether it can be dealt with as a minor or a full amendment to the State Planning Provisions.

I am advised the Department's project team will provide a letter to residents updating them on this process.

I am pleased to hear the heavy vehicle industry is accepting of the delays to the project.

I trust this information helps and I thank you for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport