

1253 Arthur Hwy  
Forcett. 7173.

11<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works – Arthur Highway:**

I have resided at the above address for the past 25 years and am still amazed how this sealed stretch of road is adorned with the name “highway.”

This stretch of road from Sorell to the Tasman Peninsula must surely be the worst highway anywhere in Australia. It is sub-standard and totally unsafe.

“ Highway” as a highway is totally inadequate for:

- Future development resulting from water/sewerage in Southern Beaches area
- World heritage area of Port Arthur
- Continued development of aqua culture e.g. oysters at Dunalley
- Expansion of agriculture in Forcett area due to irrigation pipeline
- Copping tip – lead to continual increase in trucks due to this site
- Sorell continue to develop as a shopping centre site for the peninsula
- Sorell municipality is one of the most rapidly developing municipalities in Tasmania.

The Arthur Highway is the link between all these sites/industries/tourist attractions and it is not developing/evolving at the same rate. This Highway when viewed in conjunction with those constructed in the north of this State or indeed anywhere else in Australia is **sub-standard**. It is no more than a sealed road that has been designated “highway.”

DIER during the past 3 years has continually informed the Sorell Council that it has no plans to upgrade or improve the standard of this Highway. The residents who travel this highway from Port Arthur, Dunalley, Copping, Forcett to Hobart each day do so at their own peril, particularly in winter months.

The Arthur “Highway” in most places can be likened to a patch work quilt. For approximately 6 months last year the road surface between Forcett and the Primrose Sands turnoff was continually lifting and the Government did nothing to improve the situation. For many residents the Arthur “Highway” is the only means they can access their home – there exists no alternate route. I believe because this is the only means of access we as tax payers are entitled to far better.

At the time of writing this letter the same stretch of road mentioned above has white paint all over it where it requires repair. This “highway” doesn’t need continual repairing it needs:

- A complete resurface
- Where possible 2 lanes in either direction.

Unfortunately budget restraints won't allow these suggestions to be implemented but many more passing lanes of an adequate length to relieve the frustration that travelling behind a large truck, a caravan or simply a very slow driver cause is needed.

Another aspect of this "Highway" that deeply concerns me is the fact that if the bridge coming out of Sorell is closed due to flooding or a serious or fatal accident residents beyond this point have no way of accessing their homes. This is the only point of access to the entire peninsula. This situation is totally inappropriate and should be remedied immediately.

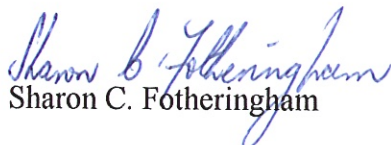
Since the "highway" reopened after the Forcett fire in January I have observed a huge increase in traffic flow and an increase in driver frustration due to increased levels of larger vehicles and slower speeds. Only improvement in road infrastructure will solve these problems. I believe if DIER is requested to record vehicular movements on the "highway" these stated facts will be supported.

There have been many deaths on the Arthur "Highway" and I believe the State Government should be applying for more grants to get rid of the many black spots and I also believe more Federal funding should be sought to upgrade this "Highway" that provides the only access to Port Arthur – a World Heritage Site.

This Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works on the Arthur "Highway" is long, long overdue and I hope you will listen, heed and follow through on recommendations to improve this pitiful "highway."

I would like to address you in person on this issue.

Thankyou for your attention.

  
Sharon C. Fotheringham