

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources  
Minister for Transport  
Leader of the House

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Michael Ferguson MP  
Member for Bass  
Email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Ferguson *Michael*,

Thank you for your constituency question in Parliament, asked on 1 April 2025, regarding the West Tamar Council request for a speed limit reduction on the West Tamar Highway between Riverside and Acropolis Drive.

The concerns raised by your constituents and the importance of ensuring both safety and efficiency on our highways are appreciated.

The Department of State Growth recently conducted a speed review in 2024 for the West Tamar Highway between Legana and Riverside as part of the West Tamar Highway Corridor Strategy (Launceston to Beauty Point). This review considered multiple factors and concluded that a speed limit reduction was not warranted at this time. The Department received a significant amount of correspondence from the community, with the majority opposing a speed reduction in this area.

The Department advises that the three-kilometre section of the highway between Acropolis Drive, Legana, and Cormiston Road, Riverside, is relatively flat and straight, with clear sight lines for properties that have direct access to the highway. There are fewer direct property accesses compared to other sections of the highway, and residences and businesses are set back from the roadway. Additionally, there are no facilities on the eastern side of the highway, resulting in fewer pedestrians crossing. While cycling groups use this section, the overall level of use by vulnerable road users is low.

The highway is equipped with multiple safety features, including a central median with a safety barrier, marked turning lanes, and a good road surface due to resealing in 2022. These measures have contributed to a relatively low number of crashes, with only eight injury crashes (none serious) and 34 total crashes over the past five years, mostly resulting in property damage.

The Minister for Infrastructure has provided additional insights. The section between Freshwater Point Road and Acropolis Drive has more direct property accesses, closer proximity of residents and businesses to the highway, and higher pedestrian activity due to nearby facilities. In contrast, the section between Acropolis Drive and Cormiston Road has fewer direct accesses, is flatter and straighter, and has minimal pedestrian activity.

The Department has advised that there is no specific classification system for designating roads as rural or urban on the State Road Network. The terms are used to describe the environment the road passes through and do not influence speed limit recommendations. While the current assessment does not support a speed limit reduction, speed limits are regularly reviewed as road conditions and circumstances change.

As Transport Minister I will continue to liaise with my the Minister for Infrastructure and continue to explore any possible improvements that may address safety concerns raised by the community. The commitment remains to ensure that our highways are both safe and efficient for all users.

Thank you for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents in the Parliament.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Eric Abetz MP  
**Minister for Transport**