



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

13 September 2024

Ms Janie Finlay MP
Labor Member for Bass
By email: Janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Finlay

In Parliament on Tuesday the 10th of September you asked a constituent question of me as Minister for Infrastructure in relation to the impacts of Batman Highway roadworks on the Sidmouth store as follows:

“Shane from Beauty Point would like an update on the road between Sidmouth and Batman Bridge. He says it was supposed to be finished in July. Can you advise when the works will be finished?”

Joseph at the Sidmouth store would like to know why, when trucks used to park in front of his business, the truck parking area has been relocated further down the road?

Why water now floods towards his entrance when works have been done on the road in front of his store?

What consideration will there be for compensation for the incredible impacts that have occurred at his store throughout the delayed roadworks?

As the new Minister for Infrastructure, will you visit Joseph to firsthand understand the impacts on him and the community?”

In response, I can advise that the Department of State Growths' Project Manager and a Project Manager from the contractor Hazell Bros have been in regular contact with the store owner, Mr D'Costa, regarding works and impact on the Sidmouth store access, and have worked to minimise impact where possible.

Pavement works which required excavation of the full width of the road were completed at night to reduce impact on the Sidmouth store. As well, extra traffic control personnel were provided by the contractor when working in front of the Sidmouth store to ensure access was safely maintained. These measures were urged by the former Minister for Infrastructure the Hon Michael Ferguson MP.

Asphalting works were completed in front of the Sidmouth store, which includes a heavy vehicle rest area and parking for heavy vehicles, on the 2nd of August 2024. The contractor has been completing sealing works to the east and west of the Sidmouth Store in the weeks beginning 2 and 9 September. There was no impact on access to the store.

The design of the heavy vehicle parking area was discussed with the former owner of the Sidmouth store and it has been positioned to ensure that there is sufficient safe sight distance for vehicles entering and exiting the Store and an adjacent property. The heavy vehicle driver rest area has also been positioned to provide safe access to public toilet facilities behind the Sidmouth Community Hall.

The Department of State Growth is working with Mr D'Costa to resolve drainage issues. However, I am advised that there has been no change to drainage arrangements that existed previously.

The contractor is aiming to have works on the Batman Highway completed by October, weather permitting. The department's policy does not allow for the provision of direct compensation to stakeholders for business impacts to roadworks.

I am aware that the former Minister for Infrastructure the Hon Michael Ferguson has responded to previous representations on behalf of Mr D'Costa and I look forward to the completion of the project in coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Minister for Infrastructure