

Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Local Government

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Mr Rob Fairs MP
Member for Franklin

4 JUN 2025

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

Dear Mr Fairs

On 8 April 2025 you asked me the following question in the House:

My question is for the Minister for Infrastructure. A constituent from my electorate of Bass is a regular driver to Hobart and tells me he's stoked the Bridgewater Bridge is nearing completion on time and budget, and is equally as excited for what a new bridge on the River Tamar in Launceston would do for the city. Can the Minister please advise of any early feedback on the recently released bridge options, and outline what the next steps are?

It is pleasing to hear your constituent was excited about the progress on the new Bridgewater Bridge, a project completed on time and on budget. It is a testament to what can be achieved through strong planning and delivery.

Turning to Launceston and the future of a new River Tamar Bridge, community interest and engagement on this project has been very encouraging.

The Department of State Growth has received a strong response during early consultation, with over 7,700 views on the project website and more than 1,300 people providing feedback. Around 300 community members attended in-person sessions, and over 160 surveys were completed.

Initial feedback suggests broad support for a new bridge, particularly the two northern alignment options, which received support from approximately eighty percent of respondents. Concerns have been raised regarding traffic congestion, especially around the southern options, which appear less effective at easing current issues.

Importantly, no decision has been made on a preferred alignment yet. The project team continues to engage with key stakeholders, and a full consultation summary report will be published on the Transport Tasmania website later this year.

This is an exciting project for Launceston and the broader region, and we are committed to progressing it in step with community needs and feedback.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituent for asking this important question.

Yours sincerely

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure