

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

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12 NOV 2025

Mr Carlo Di Falco MP
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

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

Dear Mr Di Falco

In Parliament on 4 November you asked the following question on behalf of a constituent:

With the construction of the new heavy vehicle rest area on Bass Highway near Westbury now underway, local residents who live closest to the site are very concerned about the ongoing impact once it becomes a 24/7 facility, particularly from truck noise, engine braking and bright lighting through the night. These families have lived there for many years and are worried about losing their peace and quiet.

Can you please advise what measures the government will put in place to reduce the effects of noise and light on these nearby homes and whether any further consultation or mitigation such as sound barriers, vegetation buffers or lighting controls will be considered.

I appreciate the concerns of residents in relation to the site of these facilities for east and west-bound heavy vehicles on the Bass Highway.

The Department of State Growth chose the sites following extensive assessment of freight routes, topography, infrastructure, and available land. The sites provide the most practical and effective locations for both safety and accessibility for heavy vehicle operators and have the support of the road freight sector.

Both sites are located as far from residential properties as possible. Construction of the eastbound rest area site began in September this year and is on acquired land. The westbound site will be constructed on Crown land, beginning in early 2026.

Lights will be placed in spots which won't impact drivers on the highway or nearby residents. Anti-graffiti treatments will also be applied to concrete surfaces to reduce vandalism.

In relation to noise, the department has completed a general noise assessment for heavy vehicle driver rest areas which concluded there was no increase in noise from the use of rest areas above the already existing background noise generated by the Bass Highway. A deceleration and slip lane will be installed to provide access to the rest areas.

The westbound project is currently in the first stage of design, with more detailed design to follow once all the key stakeholder concerns and engineering requirements have been considered.

Interested stakeholders are encouraged to direct any further questions and concerns to the project team within the Department of State Growth by email to westburyhvdra@stategrowth.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport