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5 June 2019

Committee Members
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
HOBART TAS 7250

Via email: scott.hennessy@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Committee members,

West Tamar Council Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Public Works
RE: West Tamar Highway Priority Projects, Funding and Delivery

The West Tamar Council and the associated West Tamar Highway Safety Committee have for many years actively lobbied the Tasmanian State Government to fund, design and deliver a range of works to the West Tamar Highway aimed to improve the safety and functionality of this important road.

As part of the Tasmanian Liberal's "Building you Future" election commitments a significant funding allocation for improvements to the West Tamar Highway was committed too. This commitment has now been confirmed and the Council and the West Tamar Highway Safety Committee have worked in conjunction with the Department of State Growth (DoSG) to progress a number of important projects to be considered for delivery in the coming period.

In April of this year, DoSG staff and consultants briefed the West Tamar Council and the associated West Tamar Highway Safety Committee on the current status and progress of key projects to improve the safety of the West Tamar Highway. Post these briefings I now write to the Joint Standing Committee to confirm the Council and the Committee's priorities for the allocation of funds dedicated for safety improvements on the West Tamar Highway and to note the collegiate and cooperative approach the Department has taken to date in working with stakeholders to progress these initiatives.

The presentations provided by the DoSG staff and consultants, allowed stakeholders to assess a series of options and projected cost estimates for projects that have been put forward and discussed over the past few years. In particular the number one priority of the Council and the Committee, that being the Rosevears Drive – Gravelly Beach section of the highway. Two options were presented for consideration by stakeholders and while both were discussed at length, Council and the Committee are in agreement that a compromised solution is not an option for improving safety nor the allocation of funds to this important part of the highway.

To that end, we strongly recommended the Department further develop “Option1” which we believe would provide the safety improvements required in the area, the desired infrastructure standards for drainage, footpath design and construction and delivery of the important channelised turn in lanes for the area. It is our belief that this project should be done to a high standard and as the key priority for funding to be allocated towards.

That said, we also understand the option proposed and supported by the Council and Committee will come at a higher cost and could potentially require a significant amount of the funds currently allocated to the highway improvements. In considering the funds that may be required to complete these works and other safety and traffic volume challenges that are becoming apparent on the highway, in particular in and around the township of Exeter, a reassessment of the Council and Committee’s priorities has taken place.

At its April meeting the West Tamar Highway Safety Committee confirmed the following as its key priorities for funding:

- 1) West Tamar Highway from the Northern end of Rosevears Drive to Gravelly Beach Road
- 2) Exeter Roundabouts (with an addition to the plans presented of a turn in to support a future link to Gravelly Beach Road from the proposed roundabout at the Frankford Highway)
- 3) Atkinsons to Waldhorn Drive (note - if there are insufficient funds to complete this project from the current funding pool then consideration should be given to doing some smaller projects rather than implementing a compromised solution. These could include:
 - Trees cleared at intersection of WTH and the Motor Road
 - Slip lane for left turning out of Freshwater Point Road onto the highway (i.e. cutting the corner at the supermarket carpark)
 - Cleghorn Avenue, clear zone at WTH with two turning lanes
 - Resealing WTH above Eden Street where rough patches/failing pavement are evident on the end sections of the highway.
- 4) Overtaking lane in between the Batman Highway junction and Exeter.

These priorities were further discussed at the Council workshop on 16 April 2019 and Councillors were in agreement that the Rosevears Drive to Gravelly Beach and the proposed roundabouts at Exeter were key priorities for the expenditure of the current funding allocation. Council and its Engineering staff have already undertaken significant work to assess if roundabouts would be physically deliverable to the agreed standards in the areas proposed and how to design them in a manner that provides significant improvements to pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular users. The proposed designs and estimated costs are included with this correspondence for your consideration.

Council is aware that these two priority projects alone may consume the funds currently allocated but are firmly of the belief that targeted and much needed investments such as these will have long term and ongoing benefits to the safety of the highway and its users.

The Mayor and General Manager have conveyed these priorities to Mr Shane Gregory of the Department of State Growth and now provide the priority list to the Joint Standing Committee for your information and deliberation. The Council seeks your support in allocating the required resources to deliver these important projects in the coming in the coming period.

Yours sincerely



Christina Holmdahl
MAYOR