

**Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure**

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Ms Janie Finlay MP
Labor Member for Bass
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09 JUL 2024

Dear Ms Finlay

In Parliament on 20 June 2024 you requested information from me as Minister for Infrastructure on behalf of community members and the Sidmouth General Store owners as follows:

It has been repeatedly brought to our attention both by community members and the Sidmouth General Store owners that ongoing road works are having a considerable impact on their business. Their small, family-owned local business relies on passing traffic to survive.

The impact of putting the road works traffic lights right outside the store on more than one occasion makes it difficult for any potential customers to stop. These works have been continuing for an extended period and will continue for some time. The impact to this business is ongoing. What adjustments can be made to allow passing traffic to easily access this business both now and in the future?

In response to your question, which is similar to correspondence you have separately sent me on this matter, I have received the following advice:

The Department of State Growth Project Manager and the contractor's Project Manager for the Batman Highway roadworks are in regular contact with the owners of the store to keep them updated on the scope of planned works. This includes how the Department is working with the contractor Hazell Bros to minimise the impact of the road works to the property.

The Department has committed to several activities including:

- exploring the option of night works while full width excavation of the road takes place outside the General Store;
- where possible, ensuring no signage or traffic lights are set up where traffic pulls into the property;
- while works are directly in front of the property, access and direction is being facilitated by traffic controllers stationed in the front of the site, to guide customers to parking; and
- ongoing and regular contact with the store owners to continue to provide updates and look at options to limit impacts where possible.

The Department advises me that the work is planned to be completed in July this year, subject to weather. When complete the project will provide a designated heavy vehicle parking area on both sides of the road, improving access to the store for customers.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferguson MP
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