



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

30 September 2024

Ms Rebekah Pentland MP
Independent Member for Bass
Email: rebekah.pentland@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Pentland

In Parliament on 19 September 2024 you asked the following question of the Minister for Infrastructure:

The proposed Kings Meadows heavy vehicle rest area has raised significant concerns among the Mount Pleasant Estate residents, particularly regarding noise, light pollution and safety impacts on their community. Given that the project is, in its current design, appearing to lack adequate justification and alternative locations such as that the nearby Youngtown industrial area may be better served for both residents and for the truck drivers. Will the government reconsider the current location of the rest area to minimise disruption to the local community and ensure the amenity and safe of residents in the protected area?

In response, I can advise that the location for the Kings Meadows Heavy Vehicle Driver Rest Area (HVDRA) is an existing informal heavy vehicle rest area and formalising it is supported by the Tasmanian transport industry.

This facility, with deceleration and acceleration lanes, will provide a safe place for drivers to pull over, and reduce the need for sudden braking (including engine braking) and sharp acceleration.

Recently, the Transport Commissioner also approved a speed limit reduction between the top of the Launceston Southern Outlet and Kings Meadows interchange on the Midland Highway, and the HVDRA is also located within this area.

The acceleration lane has been designed in accordance with Austroads guidelines to ensure the safe merging of traffic exiting the rest area.

As a current informal truck stopping area and with the works confined to the road reserve, the construction of the HVDRA does not require planning approval. Furthermore, noise mitigation is not required under the Tasmanian State Road Noise Guidelines, as the works will not see any substantial change from the current use and existing highway road noise levels, which pre-dated much of the local residential development.

Noting the residents' concerns, however, the Department of State Growth in good faith committed to investigating noise mitigation measures. Despite protracted negotiations with Council over the past 18 months including presenting multiple options for a noise wall, the Department has not been able to reach agreement with the Launceston City Council on an acceptable solution for the noise wall.

In relation to heavy vehicle headlights impacting residents, the department does not foresee any change in how trucks interact with the area. As drivers will be parking parallel to the highway, there will be no increase in headlights to nearby residences.

The department is not removing any vegetation between the residents and the HVDRA and its users will not be visible from the Mt Pleasant subdivision.

Because of the significant delay and the need for this HVDRA to address driver fatigue, which has been identified as a priority road safety issue, the Government progress with building the HVDRA at this location.

We are still aiming to reach an agreement with Council on a future noise wall and the Department is hopeful a resolution on the wall can be included during construction of our HVDRA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier