

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Transport
Leader of the House

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Mr Michael Ferguson MP
Member for Bass

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30 JAN 2025

Dear Mr Ferguson *Michael,*

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 19 November 2024 in Parliament, regarding the recent speed limit change on the West Tamar Highway through Riverside and Trevallyn.

Speed limits in Tasmania are set by the Commissioner for Transport, following an application by the relevant road authority – in this case, the Department of State Growth. As Minister for Transport, I take no part in the decision-making process for speed limit changes.

The Department of State Growth has advised that it will publish additional information regarding the speed limit assessment and crash data for the recent West Tamar Highway speed limit change. This information will be uploaded to the Speed Limit Changes webpage on the Transport website: www.transport.tas.gov.au/managing_the_roads/speed_limits_in_tasmania/about_speed_limits

The Department has also advised that it assesses the risk for each section of road by looking at a range of factors such as:

- crash history
- what the road is used for
- number of people that use the road
- number of driveways and intersections along the road
- amount of pedestrian and cyclist activity along the road
- current guidelines and standards

These factors all help inform the future likelihood of accidents along a road, and whether a speed limit change can help improve safety. When reviewing the speed limit for the West Tamar Highway, the Department found that while the narrow and constrained section of the highway between Deans Lane and Allawah Street has the highest crash rate, there are also a significant number of crashes as well as property accesses on to the highway along the whole of the section of the highway which has been reduced to 60 km/h.

Relevant times of day are also assessed as part of speed limit reviews. Variable speed limits that only reduce speeds for a portion of the day may be a suitable option on roads where conditions that affect the risk of crashes vary across the day. However, a review of the crash history on this section of the West Tamar Highway has shown that crashes occur throughout the day, and the conditions that justify a lower speed limit do not change. Therefore, a fixed speed limit is appropriate in this case.

The direction of travel is also assessed as part of speed limit reviews. There are several locations around Tasmania where speed limit changes start and stop at different locations on opposite sides of the road based on there being different characteristics. For example, there is approximately one-kilometre section of the East Tamar Highway where the speed limit is 100 km/h in the northbound

direction and 80 km/h in the southbound direction. However, based on the roadside environment and crash history on this section of the West Tamar Highway, different speeds in different directions were not considered appropriate.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament on behalf of your constituent and trust this information will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Transport

PS Let me know if you require follow up on this matter. 