

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure

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Ms Janie Finlay MHA
PO Box 1813
Launceston TAS 7250

Dear Ms Finlay

In Parliament on 13 June 2024 you requested information from me as Minister for Infrastructure on behalf of a Launceston constituent as follows:

"I was speaking yesterday to a constituent in Launceston regarding a letter to the editor in The Examiner written by Karen Eames of Hadspen, entitled 'Split Lane Needs Attention'. She wrote: I'm writing to express my deep concern regarding the slip lane leading to the roundabout near Bunnings Kings Meadows on the Bass Highway. It has become increasingly apparent that this slip lane is grossly inadequate to accommodate the traffic demands, particularly during peak hours. Recently I experienced a harrowing incident while waiting in line on the shoulder of the road to enter the slip lane. The congestion and danger posed by this insufficient slip lane has become all too common. This slip lane has become a critical bottleneck.

I implore you to take immediate action to address this pressing safety issue. The current conditions, compounded by the proximity of a blind hill and bend, pose an unacceptable risk to motorists' lives. I urge Roads Tasmania to prioritise this hazard situation before a tragic accident occurs. [TBC] The question from the constituent is what immediate action is being taken to correct this risk and to make this section of road safe?"

In response to your constituents question, I can advise the following.

The Department of State Growth is aware of occasional traffic queuing beyond the length of the Midland Highway and Kings Meadows Link southbound exit ramp during peak periods.

The department plans to engage consultants in the coming 2024-25 financial year to design an extension to the existing exit ramp. The design work will be used to determine the cost of the extension, which will help identify the future funding required for its construction.

As an additional, interim measure, the department is installing signs on the Midland Highway before the Kings Meadows Link exit, alerting road users of potential queuing ahead. These signs are expected to be installed by July 2024.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ferguson MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure

19/6/24