

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Infrastructure

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Dr Shane Broad MP
Labor Member for Braddon

Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

23 AUG 2024

Dear Dr Broad

Thank you for your question asked on 1 August 2024 in Parliament, on behalf of constituents of me as Minister for Infrastructure as follows:

Many constituents have recently raised the issue of potholes on the Bass Highway between Latrobe and Devonport. This was so bad that there were at least 12 cars that required a tow the day after the last rainfall event. Why are the new sections of road breaking down so quickly and why are the potholes so bad that they are doing serious damage to cars?

The Department of State Growth completed the Bass Highway Corridor Strategy – Launceston to Devonport in 2023. The strategy sets out the department's plan to develop and manage the road corridor to improve safety, efficiency and support economic growth for the portion of the Bass Highway within the local government areas of Latrobe and Meander Valley. Improvements identified to address key corridor challenges include road condition improvements as well as consistent road pavement.

The department's maintenance contractor inspects this section of the highway twice weekly, normally on a Monday and Thursday. All issues are recorded, monitored, and actioned as necessary to keep our roads safe.

The potholes that have been identified and recently repaired by the maintenance contractor in this section of the Bass Highway are not in newly resurfaced sections of the road.

The department has also advised that resurfacing work in the area near TasFreight between Latrobe and Devonport has been included in the 2024-25 maintenance program. Contractors will start work on the program once the weather is warmer and drier to give the best finish.

I recommend that you inform your constituents that the Transport Tasmania website has information on the conditions and process for making a claim for damage, although it should be noted noting that there is no guarantee that a claim will be approved:

www.transport.tas.gov.au/contact_us/claims_for_damage

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Ferguson MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Infrastructure