

Minister for Infrastructure
Minister for Local Government

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26 NOV 2024

Mr Simon Wood MP
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Wood

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

Recently, I was contacted by Amos, who resides in Kings Meadows in my electorate of Bass. He and his family live adjacent to the Southern Outlet. His concerns are about the proposed heavy-duty vehicle rest area. Whilst being supportive of the proposed truck stop, he is concerned that the planned soundproofing wall has been removed from the proposal. Could the Minister please advise if this is the case, or confirm the soundproofing wall is still part of the proposal?

The proposed location for the Kings Meadows Heavy Vehicle Driver Rest Area on the Midland Highway southbound carriageway was identified by industry as an existing informal rest area which is used regularly by heavy vehicle operators and marked as a priority location in the strategy.

The Department of State Growth began designs for the HVDRA in 2021. Initial noise assessments undertaken assessed that there would be no increase in noise associated with the HVDRA above existing background noise levels to adjacent properties.

Following concerns raised by residents in the recently constructed Mt Pleasant subdivision, the former Minister for Infrastructure directed the department to investigate noise mitigation measures between the HVDRA and adjacent properties.

The department proposed an acoustic wall to shield properties from any perceived increase in noise in line with that direction. Launceston City Council advised that the wall was not considered exempt from the Planning Scheme and required a Development Application be submitted for the works.

Following initial advertisement, through which no submissions against the proposal were received, council officers advised that the wall was recommended for refusal. The department has attempted to negotiate with council officers on numerous occasions to provide an acceptable solution that would satisfy the project requirements and community requests.

Unfortunately, the department has not been able to reach agreement with Council on an acceptable solution for the noise wall.

Due to the significant delay and the need for the HVDRA to address driver fatigue - that has been identified as a priority road safety issue - the Department will be progressing the construction of the HVDRA at this location in the expectation that we can secure agreement with Council to construct some form of wall in future.

Thank you for raising the matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure