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Ms Helen Burnet MP  
Green Member for Clark

Email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 1 August 2024 in Parliament on behalf your constituent regarding the Macquarie Street clearway:

*Many residents at Baldwyn Living Retirement Village, known as Vaucluse Gardens, are concerned by the impacts of the recent Macquarie Street bottleneck lane changes and clearway, especially the new Macquarie Street lane configuration.*

*Exiting by car from Ispahan Avenue onto Macquarie Street heading east has become hazardous for drivers because of merging traffic. What is the government's plan to reduce the risk of collisions in traffic merging because of the clearway that has been installed and changed traffic conditions between Antill and Molle Streets?*

The traffic changes completed on Macquarie Street are part of the Government's Davey and Macquarie Street bus improvements to support the construction of a transit lane on the Southern Outlet, connecting with Macquarie Street. Use of this transit lane will be restricted to buses and vehicles with three or more occupants, as well as emergency services vehicles, providing them with a travel time advantage over the existing two lanes. As you are an advocate for public transport and a reduction in vehicle-generated greenhouse gas emissions, I expect you would support these measures.

We recently completed the first stage of works for Macquarie Street, including:

- removing parking from the even-numbered side of Macquarie Street, between the Southern Outlet and Molle Street so this area can be used as a traffic lane;
- installing new morning and afternoon clearway conditions on the odd-numbered side of Macquarie Street for a dedicated left hand turning lane into Molle Street; and
- resurfacing Macquarie Street, between the Southern Outlet and Molle Street, and installing new line marking.

We appreciate that accessing Macquarie Street from the side streets can be challenging at times as it is a major arterial road which carries high volumes of traffic. During off-peak times, drivers entering Macquarie Street from Gore Street and Ispahan Avenue can enter the closest lane and merge before reaching parked cars downhill of Antill Street. Gaps in traffic are usually generated by traffic signals allowing time for drivers to join Macquarie Street.

In the three months after the new clearway was introduced since April 2024 there have been two recorded crashes on Macquarie Street (between the Southern Outlet and Warneford Street).

One of these crashes was at the intersection of Ispahan Ave with Macquarie Street, was due to inattentiveness and occurred in the first week of the clearway being in operation.

The Department of State Growth advises that people have become used to the changed situations and traffic flow is generally good.

It should also be noted that the extra lane through the Southern Outlet connector, for which road works have now commenced, will result in fewer vehicles being in the left-hand lane on Macquarie Street.

The community was provided the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed concept design of Macquarie Street and Davey Street in September 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ferguson', is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Ferguson MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Infrastructure**