

Secretary
Scott Hennessy
Parliamentary Standing Committee
Northern Roads Package

110 Greenrises Road
CRESSY 7302
29.3.2021
0428925848

Dear Mr Hennessy,

Our family have lived on Greenrises Road for many many years & saw the road first sealed in the late 1950 early 60's from memory,

It has stood the test of time well as no major works have been done since until now.

The old road design was flat with a gentle slope to the edges. Excess water in rain events dissipated into the grass verges which extended to close to the fence line. It has been only in severe weather events that any water has impacted on the road & then in the very low lying areas only.

These grassed verges have been essential for safe movement of stock, farm machinery & in cases of emergencies such as breakdowns, flat tyre etc.

Ditches were put into these low lying areas which we completely understand but the quite acceptable spoon drain that has been put along the sides of the complete new section has now become a sizeable ditch. As the new 'highway' design is to build the road up with layers upon layers of gravel to quite an increased height.

Although the road is now a lovely surface, which is good, there is no shoulder or verge at all which we feel is not safe.

The local communities & especially the farmers & contractors are deeply concerned about the

safety issues & we feel this new design is not appropriate for the traffic it carries.

Safety should be the primary concern and we feel this is very much compromised as there is no room for any errors of judgment when trucks pass through at considerable speed.

Many feel frustrated that this has happened just 12 months since the new section of the Cressy Longford road works project as the same concerns were raised by many then.

In fact I rang State Growth to discuss the concerns when it became obvious that the height of the road was creating the same situation of having no verge to veer off on when meeting oversized machinery which frequent these roads.

They directed me to Pitt & Sherry who were working with Andrew Walker Constructions for this project on the Cressy Longford road.

I spoke to Eleanor who was understanding of the concerns. I also brought to her attention there were no run offs for the school buses which stop at various places along this road. She was surprised at this information as no brief had been given regarding the number of bus stops. Two areas were sealed for buses to pull over but were deemed unsafe by the school, as children had to alight into quite a deep ditch & the bus was not sufficiently off the road.

As the weeds quickly grow in these ditches safety

is further compromised as the ditch is hidden for the unsuspecting users of the roads.

Also farmers spend large amounts on weed eradication, then roadside weeds are left to go to seed which then spread into crops.

Many farmers & landholders keep their verges slashed themselves & in front of houses mown as nature strips. With the ditches this also becomes difficult.

Another concern is on behalf of some elderly friends who drive regularly to Longford for essential services. Many are on restricted licences but are feeling very anxious when meeting wide heavy machinery.

Consideration must be given to all road users for the design of future rural roads work projects & respect & understanding of the needs of rural communities. This area is not the only one impacted by the same safety issues either.

We trust that the committee will address these concerns in future projects.

Yours faithfully

Jill Skirving

Footnote. Eleanor at Pitt & Sherry suggested I ring the works manager for the Cressy Longford Road Project. His name is Brendon, phone numbers. 0428 969 532 & on phoning him he had already had numerous complaints as to the design etc.

Secretary
Scott Hennessy

Parliamentary Standing Committee

"Fairbanks"
110 Greenfield Rd
Cressy 7302.

P. J. D. Longford

Forgot to add that I also rang

Works Manager for Cressy Longford road
works Brendan on 0428969532
in 2020

He had already received many
complaints but told that
this is the new Aust standard
& has to follow the brief of the works.