

# Department of State Growth

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Your Ref: / Our Ref: / MIG18/1814/14



Mr Scott Hennessy  
Secretary, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works  
House of Assembly, Parliament House  
Via email [scott.hennessy@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:scott.hennessy@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Hennessy

Further to your letter of 8 July 2019, please find below and overleaf the requested information.

## I. Effect of Delay

As you are aware, the Melton Mowbray to Lovely Banks project is one project within the Midland Highway 10 Year Upgrade program. State Growth is planning to tender this project, subject to securing all approvals, in October 2019. The consequences of delay include:

- Delay in the safety outcome for this section of highway. It is noted that there is no crash history for the project length<sup>1</sup>, to date; however, any crash which occurs in a project area which has been delayed will be subject to significant public scrutiny.
- The Midland Highway 10 Year Upgrade program is scheduled to be completed in the 2023-24 financial year. Delay to any component of the program can impact the final program completion date.
- Delay in infrastructure expenditure of both State and Australian Government funding. The Government has made it clear to the Department of State Growth that the delivery of the infrastructure capital program is a priority.
- Impact on the Tasmanian construction industry. The Civil Contractors Federation has written to and met with the Minister for Infrastructure expressing concern regarding the current and imminent workload for their members across the range of State infrastructure organisations (including State Roads, TasWater and TasIrrigation). The Minister provided assurances that State Roads would expedite delivery of its capital works program wherever possible.
- Potential construction cost increases. While the civil construction industry is relatively quiet, there is a potential benefit to taxpayers of competitive construction pricing. Delay to the project will likely increase the project cost and potential threaten the completion of the Midland Highway program within the \$500 million budget commitment.

State Roads strongly recommends that the project proceed, noting that the project team are considering the feedback provided by Mr McShane and will further consider changes to the design prior to finalizing for tendering the works in October 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> The intersection of Midland Highway and Highland Lakes Road is outside the project length, having been upgraded in an earlier project.

## **2. Overtaking Opportunities**

### ***Constructed to date***

There are 17 northbound formal overtaking opportunities totaling approximately 25.3km that have been constructed and are operational.

There are 17 southbound formal overtaking opportunities totaling approximately 27.0km that have been constructed and are operational.

### ***Prior to commencement of Midland Highway 10 Year Upgrade***

Of the areas that have been constructed, the following were overtaking opportunities available prior to upgrade:

- 9 northbound formal overtaking opportunities totaling approximately 13.6km
- 8 southbound formal overtaking opportunities totaling approximately 14.8km

There has been a substantial increase in formal overtaking opportunities in the projects constructed to date.

We trust this information assists with the deliberations of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'M' and 'B' intertwined, with a large loop at the bottom.

Martin Blake  
**A/g General Manager State Roads**

26 July 2019