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Greater Hobart Congestion Problems 09/09/19

Dear Mr Armstrong,

I heard you recently on ABC Local radio discussing the committee formed to look at the issue of Greater Hobart Congestion and I wanted to add my opinion.

I drive to and from Hobart from Cygnet 4 days a week, and Cygnet to Moonah 1 day per week.

Having lived in London, Paris, Brisbane and Sydney, as well as being brought up in Geelong, I don't think the issues in Hobart are that great. However, having said that, whenever there is even a minor incident, there are often major repercussions. Therefore, it's the reaction to incidents that I feel is key.

Ideally, a city bypass would be a solution, more buses and park and ride options would also help. However, in the meantime I think there are two plans we could instigate that would assist. The first is to move any vehicles involved in incidents that will affect traffic off the road. I know that sounds obvious but, in the past, it hasn't happened, and it has caused major traffic issues. I have never seen a jurisdiction that is so tardy in moving cars from crashes and breakdowns off the road. A sense of urgency to achieve this would make a difference.

The second point is a hobby horse of mine. I don't understand why Hobart requires a one-way system. If ever there is an incident, the one-way system compounds problems when all traffic feeds into Macquarie or Davey Streets that are one-way from feeder roads that are also largely, one-way. When I am idling in gridlock trying to reach the Southern Outlet, I often think how different things would be if I could do a u turn or take a right into Macquarie St because there's an issue on Davey St. Even if there is an incident on the bridge in the opposite direction it can also cause gridlock heading toward the Southern Outlet – all because of the one-way system. Why does Hobart require this one-way system? Comparable cities such as Geelong don't think it necessary to have a network of one-way streets. I think it would make a significant difference if there is enough courage to give it a try.

Yours sincerely,

Tereza Dobbin

