

To the Legislative Council Select Committee on Greater Hobart Traffic Congestion:

Traffic: our biggest headache

The above comment is not an exaggeration. As a South Hobart resident for 34 years I have strong concerns about the increase in traffic volumes on the major thoroughfares of Cascade Road and Macquarie Street. That traffic has grown heavier in recent years and will certainly be exacerbated should the kunanyi/Mt Wellington cablecar project eventuate.

The access road off Cascade Road along McRobies Road to the proposed cablecar base is already a community issue – because turning the present one-way road into two ways, plus a T-junction at Cascade Road, would be a very costly undertaking with, as yet, no indication who will foot the bill for it.

There is the added impact of motorists daily parking on our suburb's streets, again something I have noticed with concern as a problem that has grown significantly in recent years. It's an issue shared by many other local residents.

I also see it as an indictment of our authorities that the outgoing head of the RACT, Harvey Lennon, a South Hobart resident, says he would rather walk to his office in the CBD than drive: “Though I love driving I don't like the bloody driving you do between the city and South Hobart.”

With its takeover of Macquarie and Davey Streets with the avowed intention of easing traffic congestion, the State Government has been advertising in the Mercury that from mid-October Macquarie Street from the Southern Outlet to the CBD becomes a 6.30am-9am clearway during the working week. Just how effective this will be as a traffic-fix measure, of course, remains to be seen. I have my doubts.

And there is the frequent mention by the Government of having a fifth lane on the Southern Outlet, but this has been indicated as being highly complex to achieve. Meanwhile, as has been seen from various incidents, a car pile-up on the Southern Outlet can back up traffic beyond Kingston and cause long delays to traffic flows. As the headline in the Mercury of September 13 said: “Outlet crash piles on the agony for drivers.”

Traffic congestion has been the reason for many letters and articles in the Mercury over many years, yet despite official promises any effective solution has yet to appear. I suggest it will be a very long time before it does. Traffic congestion is the major headache of our times – but who has the “Panadol” cure?

Lindsay Brinson, resident, [REDACTED].

