

From: [Gerald](#)
To: [Public Works](#); [Mel - Glynn Williams Legal](#)
Subject: Urgent Christmas Hill road intersection upgrade
Date: Monday, 27 April 2026 9:47:46 AM
Attachments: [accidents explained and plan fix240526.pdf](#)

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To the Committee for Public Works,

My name is Gerald and I own the land at 5377 Bass Highway which is directly opposite Christmas Hills Road.

I had no idea your committee existed and neither was I aware of the public meeting you had back in February 2026.

I have spoken to 2 of my direct neighbours and they also were not aware of the meeting. I only found out about the meeting while doing internet searches trying to find some news in regards to the upgrade.

I do not have a good working relationship with the Department of State Growth or their consultants AD Designs, therefore should you wish to know anything more about my situation please contact my lawyer Glynn Williams at Glynn Williams legal in Ulverstone or look into the email communications I and Glynn have had with the department.

I have attached a document to this email containing data and photographs from accidents that have happened since 2022. I have also included my observations about traffic behavior and how I think the purposed plan needs a slight tweak if that is the option that the department continues to pursue.

I have spoken to Scott Dornauf at the Raspberry farm Cafe and he also came up with the same suggestions.

As far as land acquisition goes, I have already emailed the department back in May 2025 that we are open to relocation. There has been no discussions about the compensation matter that would arise if they move forward with the current design changes and how that will affect my property.

My neighbours property whose house is already right on the highway edge has put his up for sale.

Please see the attached document for my observations and suggestions to aid the safety upgrades of the notorious Christmas Hills Road Intersection on the Bass Highway.

Regards,

Gerald Veltkamp

Christmas Hills Road Intersection

**Proposed upgrade issues when compared with six previous
accidents from the last three years**

**(This is not all the accidents that happened in that time. Its only
the ones which I have record or memory of.)**

Document date: 24/04/2026

Road Before Upgrade



Proposed Upgrade Public Submission Plan Close Up



Christmas Hills Road Junction



Legend

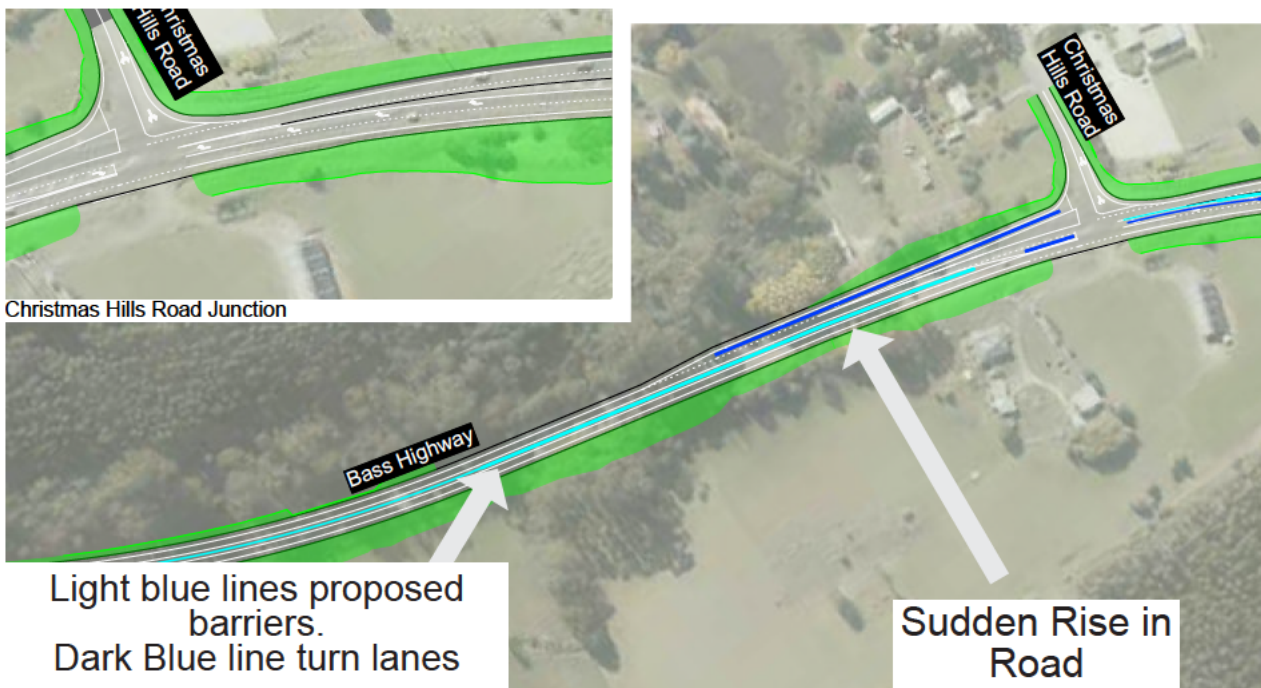
Dark Blue = Turn lane

Light Blue = Safety Barriers

Old and Proposed Upgrade comparison

When you remove the road surface overlay from the presented plan you can see that in the proposed upgrade the turn lane coming from Deloraine into Christmas Hills Road is in the same spot as before the upgrade. If you extend the safety barriers as close as possible to the end of the turn lane the problem is that turning cars are still exposed to potential impact from an on coming vehicle. Also, it adds another dynamic to any accident that would occur and that is the start of the safety barrier. If it is a wire rope type then the start is always sloping from the road up. Will that cause cars to flip?

(Note the latest release of Feb 2026 plans to the committee still exhibit the same issues
Not wasting my time to insert the new plan!)

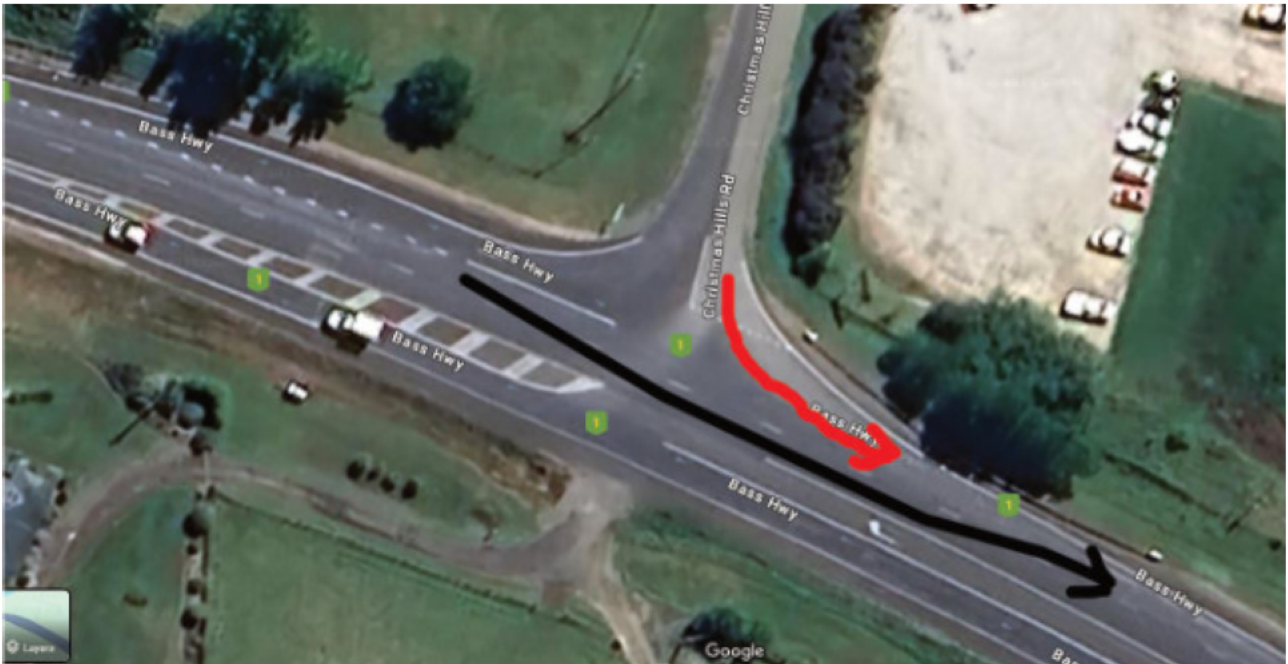


The two safety enhancements being proposed that might make a difference to the major accidents are the removal of the overtaking lane and the removal of the sudden rise between the culvert and Christmas Hills Road.

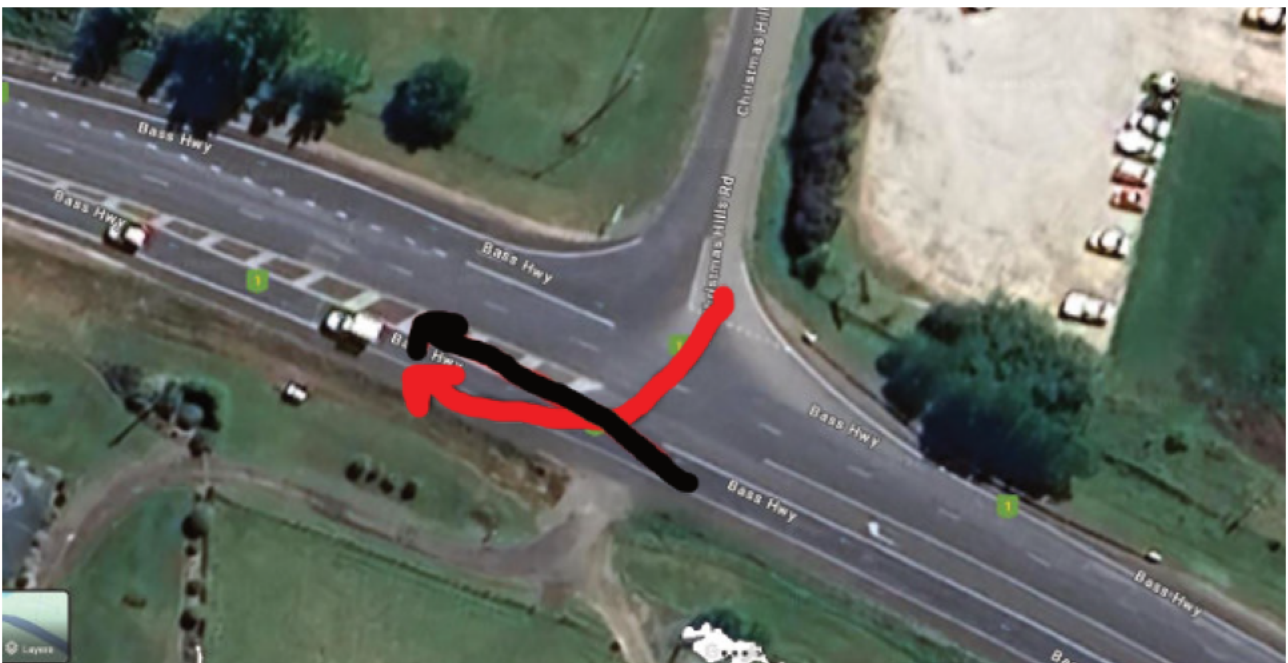
The sudden rise makes cars look like they disappear and then suddenly reappear when exiting Christmas Hills Road looking to the right.

Apart from this, no other proposed changes are likely to make any notable improvements to the safety of the intersection when you look at the past accidents. (As already mentioned in May 2025 to the Department of State Growth the proposed safety barriers might be creating new accident zones around the intersection.)

Here is what happens at the moment on the road
Red Arrow = slow car Black arrow = fast truck



If a slow car enters the highway heading towards Launceston pulls in front of an on coming truck, that truck at the moment is able to pass the slow car with horn blarring provided the overtaking lane is free.
In the new plan they have no where to go but into the back of the slow car.

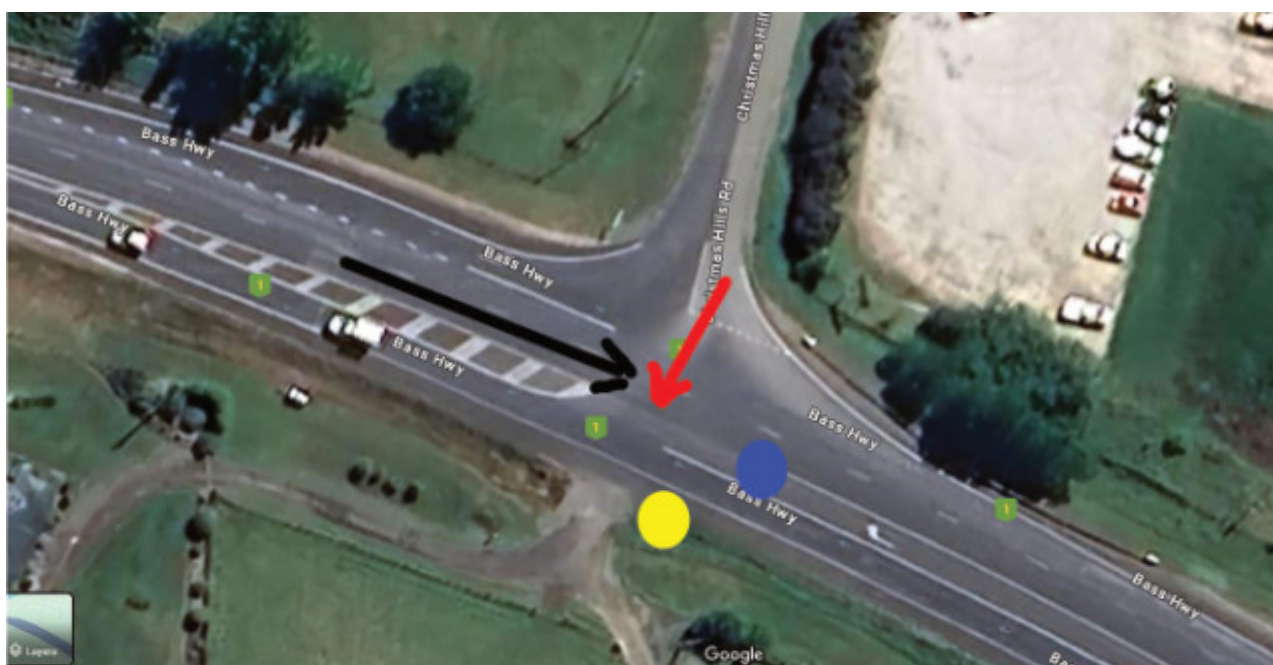


If a slow car enters the highway heading towards Devonport pulls in front of an on coming truck, that truck at the moment is able to pass the slow car by going over the median strip with horn blarring.
In the new plan they have no where to go but into the back of the slow car.

I have witnessed the Tasmanian Berries truck that pulls out of Christmas Hills road nearly get run into by another vehicle because it couldn't get up to speed quickly enough and the any vehicle coming down the highway only just manages to slow down enough to avoid a collision. (It's slightly easier for a car but a big truck has a lot more difficulty slowing down!).

You wont read about this in your reports but near misses like this happen most days almost every day. Its not uncommon to hear up to 6 horns a day because of these types of near misses..... 9:07 am another horn....

When the speed limit has been reduced to 80kmh or less due to road works or accidents the horns and near misses virtually disappear.



If a slow car crosses the highway heading towards Devonport pulls in front of an on coming vehicle and they impact in the middle of the highway, the blue dot show where a vehicle involved in the crash will impact other vehicles. The yellow dot shows where the vehicle often finishes up. Sometimes cars will sit in the middle of the highway waiting for a gap in the traffic.

All major accidents have happened this way.

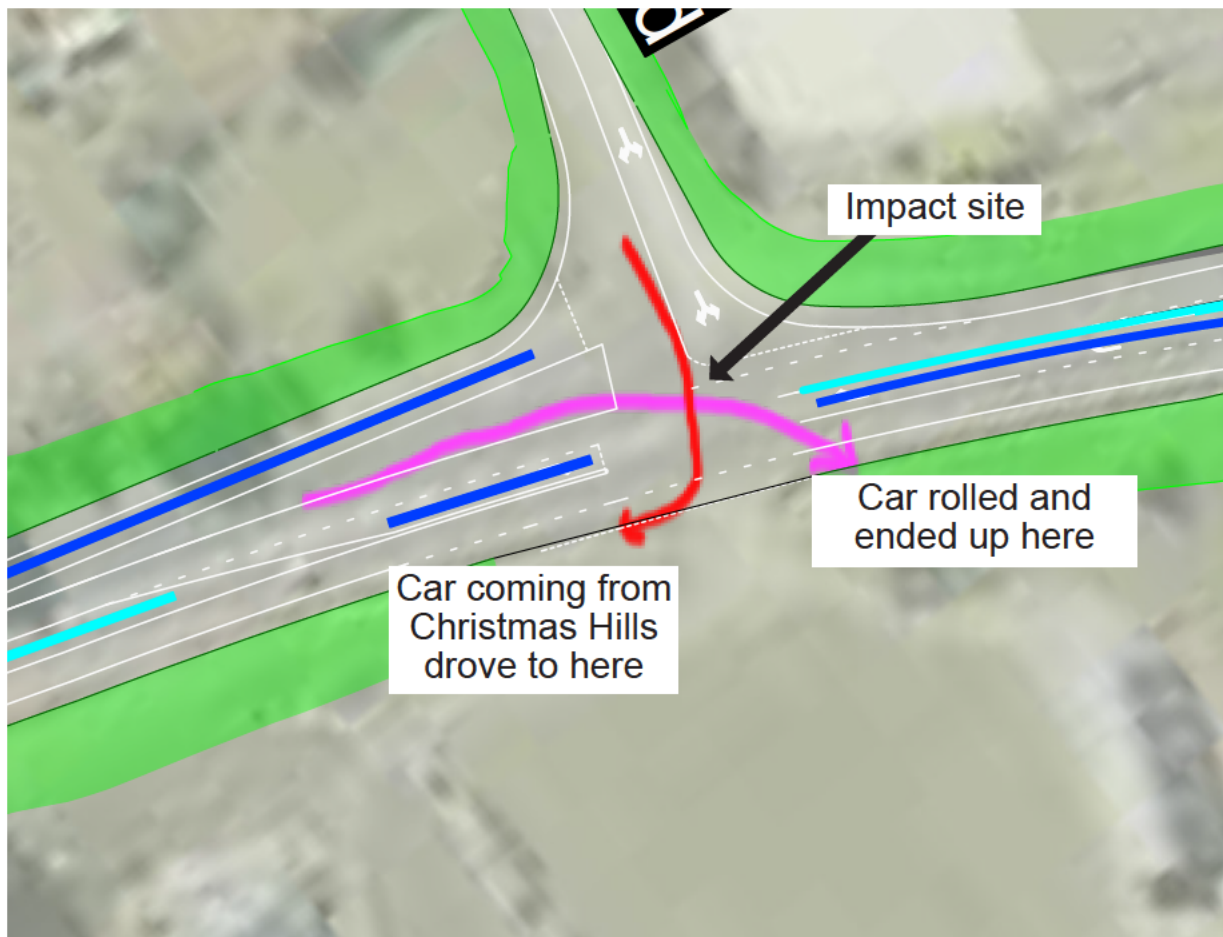
In the new plan the exact same thing will likely happen.

- **I would encourage you to compare the severity of the photos to the data the department gave you as their data often says the accidents are minor.....**

Accident 1

Jan 2023

No photo record exists anymore however the accident was witnessed by me and my family. A car was slowly coming out of Christmas Hills Road while another car was travelling from Devonport along the highway. The car on the highway pressed their horn and tried to avoid the car coming out of Christmas Hills Road. However the car on the highway was hit and ended up in front of my stock yard on its side. It rolled onto its side when the front wheels went into the highways open cut drain. A pregnant lady and her partner were rescued from the car when we finally got the door open. Emergency services attended so you can get the record from them.



As can be seen from Accident the proposed safety barriers would have done nothing if not caused more damaged to the cars if it hit it.

Also the sight lines at the intersection from the Deloraine side did not play a role in the accident because at the time of the accident no other vehicles where on the road.

Accident 2

Sunday 12th of February 2023

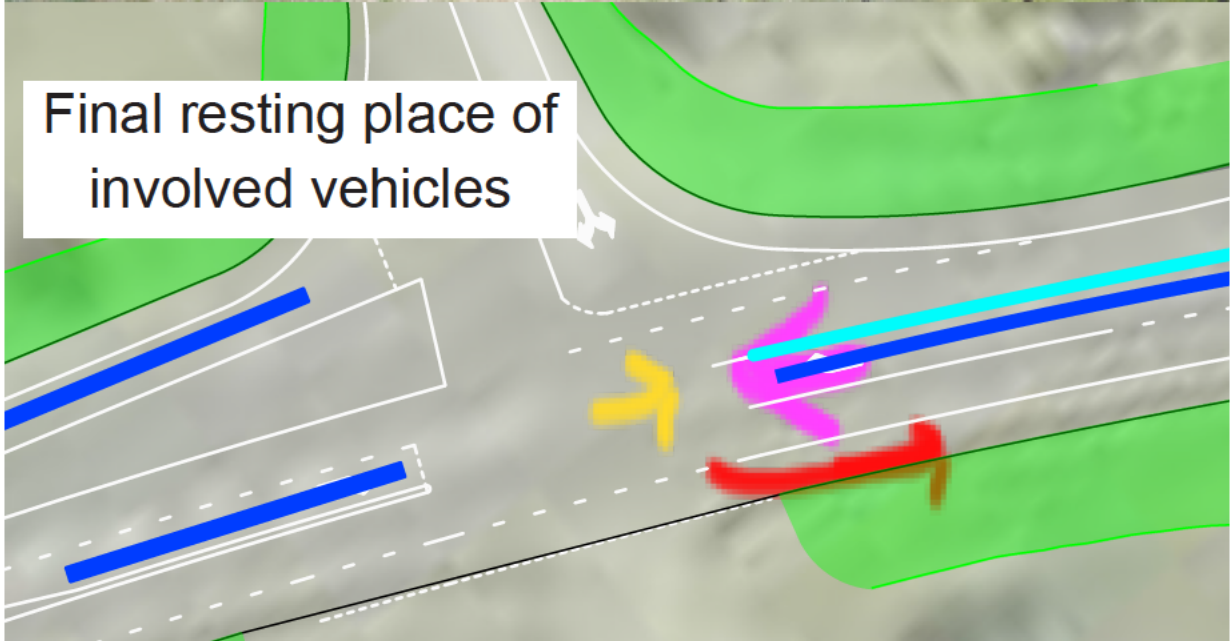
This accident was not witnessed in real time only once everything came to a stop. My neighbours provided ice poles to the kids.

You can see from the photos where the vehicles involved came to a stop.

The proposed safety barriers wouldn't have stopped this accident but might have changed the dynamics of this accident.



Final resting place of involved vehicles

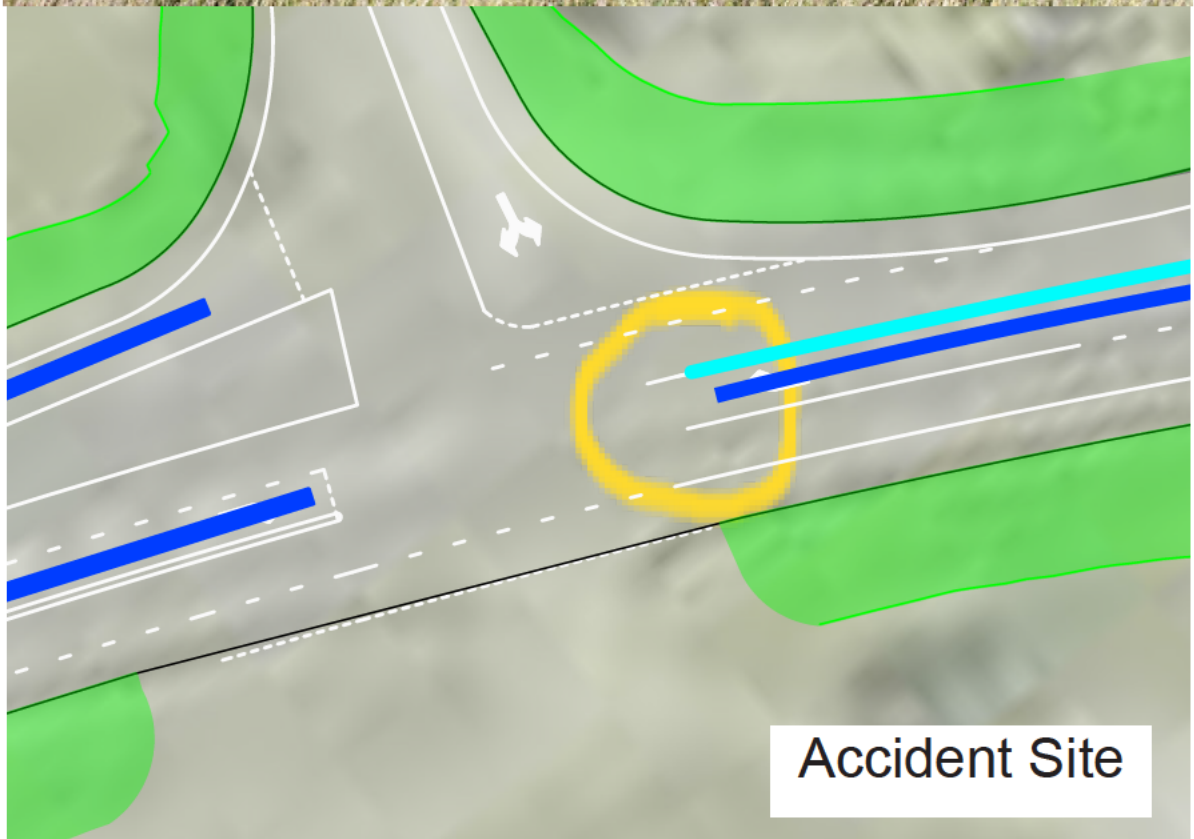


Accident 3

Saturday 16th of December 2023

Arrived at the property to find the emergency services leaving and a mess on the road.

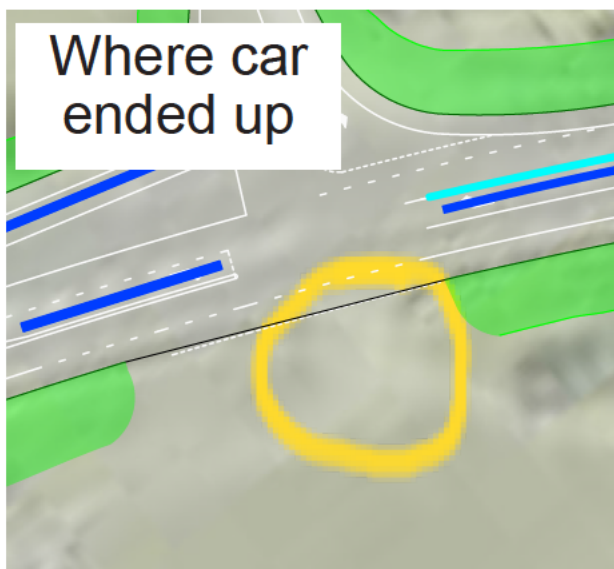
If the accident was because of a vehicle being hit as it crossed the highway the proposed safety barriers would not have prevented the initial vehicle crash.



Accident 4

Monday 12th of February 2024

Arrived at the property to find the emergency services again blocking my access. The SES guy said "I am going home. At least no one died today."



Accident 6

30 December 2024

Police report about what happened is correct although lacking in the actual extent of trauma that the occupants of the vehicles suffered.

Again apart from the removal of the slight rise in the highway between the culvert and Christmas Hills road and the removal of the overtaking lane, it is highly unlikely any other proposed safety changes would have made a difference.

The tourists heading to Devonport told me they saw the Volkswagen Golf crossing into their lane and tried to avoid it. However the driver could not return their car back onto the highway so the car rolled as it drove across our drive way and hit the deep highway drainage ditch.

SERIOUS THREE-VEHICLE CRASH ON THE BASS HIGHWAY, ELIZABETH TOWN

Serious three-vehicle crash on the Bass
Highway, Elizabeth Town

Monday, 30 December 2024 - 6:54 am.

Police are investigating a serious three-vehicle crash on the Bass Highway earlier today.

Police and emergency services were called to the scene at Christmas Hills Road just after 11.30am Monday after reports multiple vehicles had crashed.

Initial investigations suggest a white Volkswagen Golf travelling from Christmas Hills Road onto the Bass Highway collided with a white Toyota Hilux 4WD travelling in a south east direction towards Deloraine.

The Volkswagen Golf has then collided with a grey Volkswagen SUV travelling in the opposite lane towards Devonport, which resulted in the grey Volkswagen SUV coming to rest on its roof in a ditch on the southern side of the highway.

The driver and passenger of the Volkswagen Golf, a 19-year-old woman and 54-year-old woman – both from Blackstone Heights – were transported to the Launceston General Hospital in a critical condition.

The 19-year-old woman remains at the hospital undergoing surgery, and the 54-year-old woman has since been transported to the Royal Hobart Hospital.

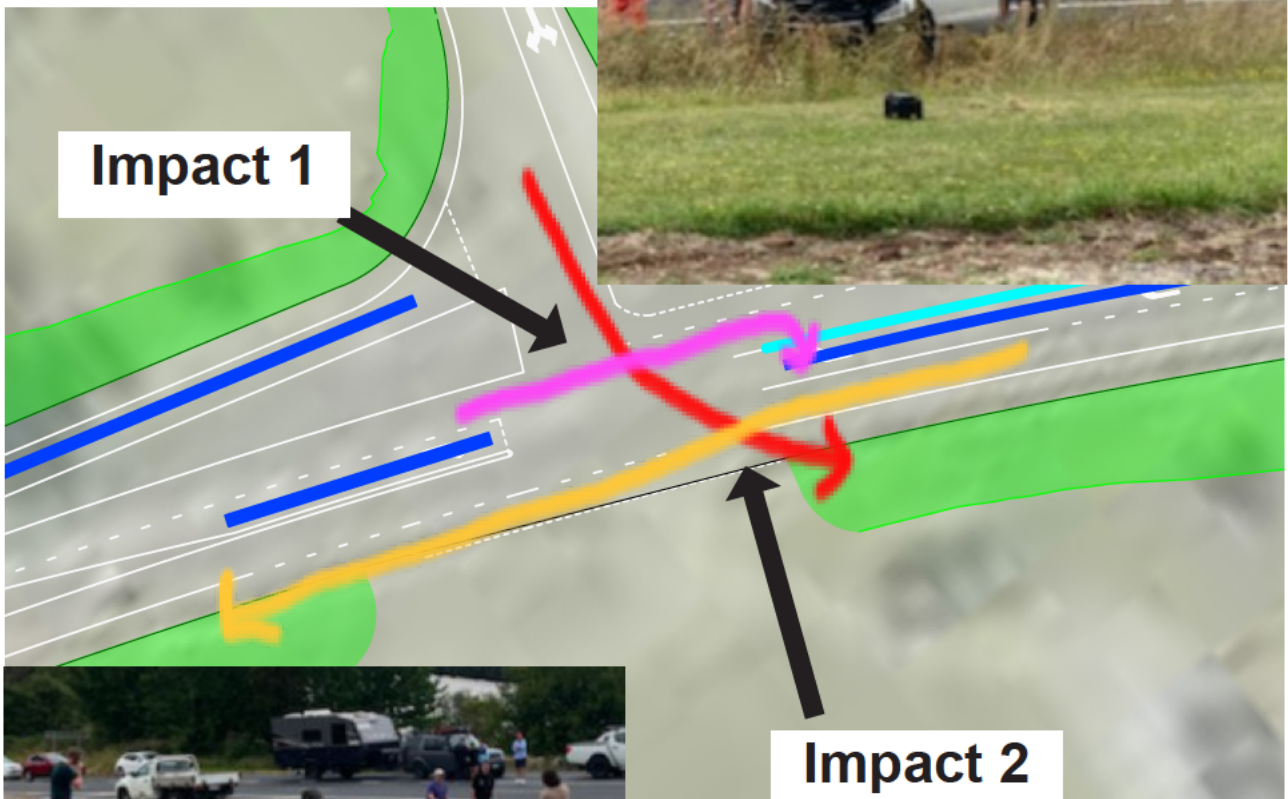
The sole occupant of the white Toyota Hilux – a Devonport woman in her 30s – was also transported to the Launceston General Hospital as a precaution for minor injuries.

The occupants of the grey Volkswagen SUV – all tourists from Victoria – received minor injuries with three transported to the LGH for assessment.

Lilians mum Anna was also stuck in the car. Seen attending her is someone from the private ambulance that was driving by.

Didn't know what happened to this driver at the time. She was a pregnant lady.

Lilian in critical condition. SES had to cut the top of the car so they could get her out and fly her to hospital. Medics used that many drugs they got out a bin to clean up all the wrappers.



Other 3 tourists from rolled over car including the driver.

Lady being comforted as she was hysterical from the car rolling over. Spoke to one of her relatives a few days later when he came to check out the accident location. She was still not comfortable going for drives.



Before emergency services arrived.

Kelsey saw the car roll over. I only heard the bang. We raced for the first aid kit, dialled 000 and got whatever people needed, like tools to remove the cars battery.



Helicopter ride to hospital for Lilian. The police thought she wouldn't survive.

Our paddock was the best and safest place for them to land.



PULSETASMANIA



PULSETASMANIA

Accident 7

Friday 20th March 2026

A red Volkswagen Golf leaving Christmas Hills Road got hit by a White Ute on the highway which was travelling from Devonport towards Launceston. The

White ute was in the overtaking lane behind another car as they were overtaking a truck with a semitrailer. The car in front of the white ute suddenly braked hard and swerved in front of the truck to avoid hitting the red Gulf entering the highway from Christmas Hills Road. The white ute with no where to go also braked hard and swerved to the right to miss the car in front of him.

Unfortunately the white ute collided with the red Gulf and because the white ute braked suddenly the Grey SUV behind the white ute also collided with the white ute.

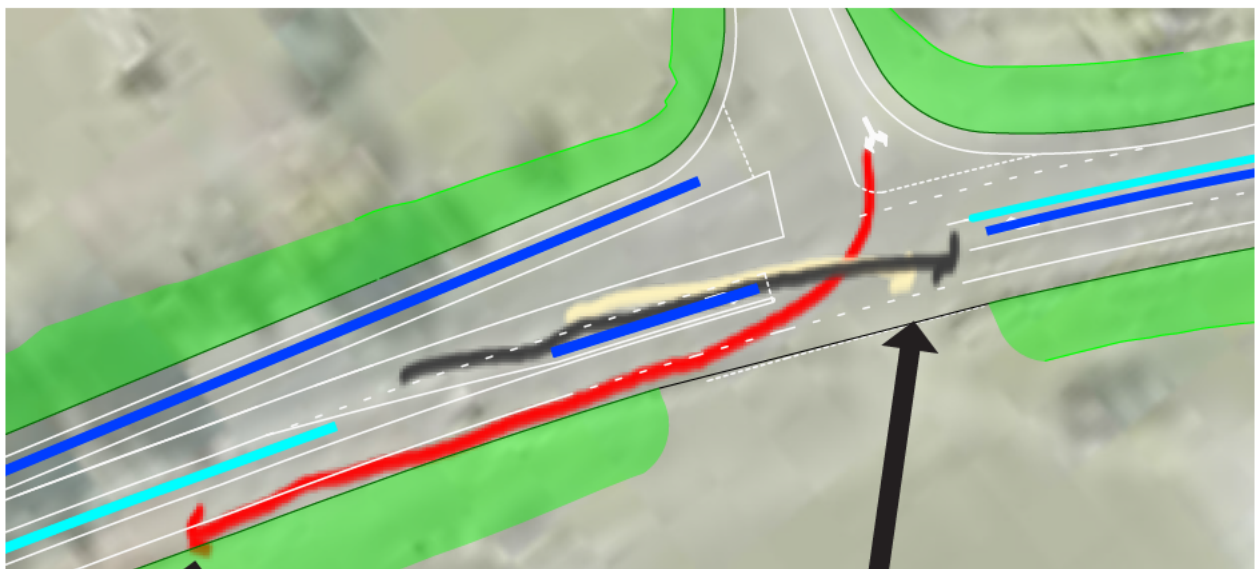
The police have the full information.

The Lady in the Gulf was in shock so the emergency services had been called.

I did not see the accident happen but was told the above by the driver of the white ute later when I helped him change his tyre.

When I spoke to the driver of the white ute he said if barriers were in the middle of the road he would have been worse off. He said he was lucky his ute didn't roll.

The only proposed safety upgrades that may have prevented this accident could be the removal of the slight rise in the highway between the culvert and Christmas Hills road and the removal of the overtaking lane.



Reg Golf stopped here.

White Ute and Grey SUV ended up here before moving of the road.



**Rise in road near
the culvert**



Conclusion:

1. The Safety barriers in the presented plan do nothing to contribute to the safety of the highway.
2. The realignment of dip and rise in hill when you come from Devonport is the right thing to do and will help make the intersection safer.
3. The removal of the overtaking lane is also the right thing to do.
4. Every one I have spoken to agrees with this point of view.
5. To make the intersection safe a overpass/underpass should be constructed which is doable considering the topography of that area. The only objection from the department will be that they don't have money for that.

Improvement:

Therefore a design tweak should be made to the presented design which will reduce the number of near misses / incidents considerably.

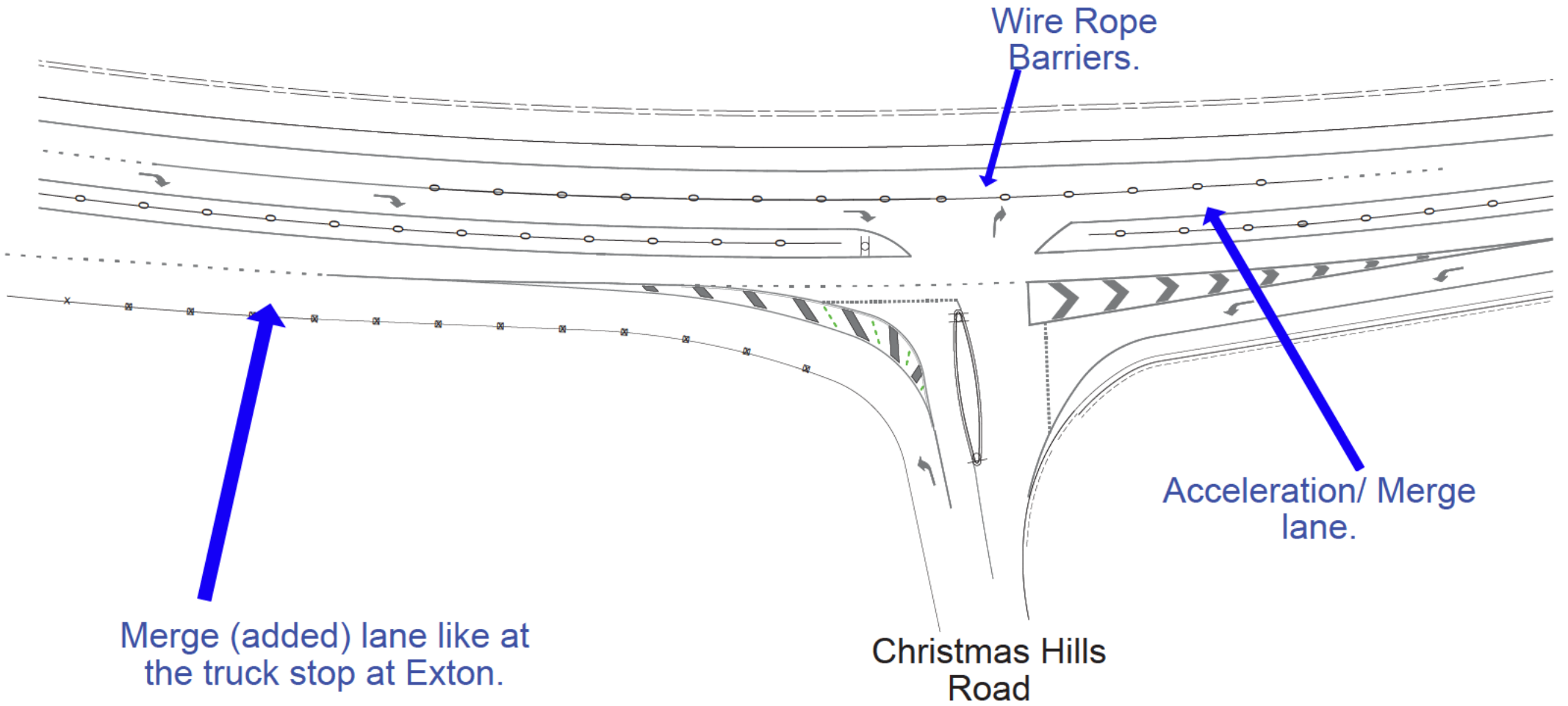
- 5.1. There should be a acceleration lane when you come out of Christmas hill road heading to Deloraine. This is exactly what has been done with the new truck stop at Exton.**
- 5.2. There should also be a acceleration lane installed heading towards Devonport. If this had a wire rope barrier on either side when a crossing accident happens at least the car wont end up in the Deloraine to Devonport lane.**

Example on next page

To Deloraine

5377 Bass Highway

To Devonport



Merge (added) lane like at the truck stop at Exton.

Wire Rope Barriers.

Acceleration/ Merge lane.

Christmas Hills Road