

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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18 MAY 2026

Ms Anita Dow MP
Member for Braddon

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear ~~Ms Dow~~ ^{ANITA}

On 5 May 2026 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

My question is from my constituents from Burnie, Somerset and Wynyard. They would like to know and get an update from the Minister on the 'Cooee crawl', work yet to be completed to improve traffic flow, and for the Minister to outline if consideration has been given to utilising in the bike lanes, which are now largely redundant with the introduction of the coastal pathway, to create additional lanes at peak traffic times. They are also calling on the Minister to release the results of the feasibility study on a bypass of the Cam River, announced in response to the previous feasibility study on a second Cam River bridge. There's a lot of feasibility studies, and not a lot of action.

Firstly, I reject your assertion about a lack of action on this section of road.

There are significant completed and several upcoming works as part of the Tasmanian and Australian Governments' \$50 million commitment to the Bass Highway between Cooee and Wynyard.

The Cooee to Wynyard program of works consists of seven projects, four of which are complete, including

- The Traffic Signal optimisation (completed in 2020)
- The Somerset to Wynyard realignment (completed in 2023)
- New Cam River Bridge (completed in May 2024)
- Murchison Highway signalised intersection (completed in June 2024)
- Somerset to Cooee Pedestrian Crossings (tender to be advertised this month)
- Bass Highway Intelligent Traffic Systems Upgrades
- Bass Highway Pavement Renewal - East of Mount Hicks Road Roundabout

The Department published the Second Cam River Bridge Feasibility Study in February 2025. The study found, in isolation, the construction of a second Cam River

Bridge is not practical – considering the single-lane approaches on both sides – and subsequently the construction of a second crossing was not supported.


In response to this recommendation, the Tasmanian Government committed to a further planning study for the Bass Highway to consider a future bypass between Cooee and Doctors Rocks. This planning study is in development and I look forward to releasing it once it is complete, and to gain feedback from the community.

The existing Somerset and Cooee section of the Bass Highway is unique as it passes through residential areas while at the same time being the main highway connection for communities, businesses and industry west of Burnie. Improvements to this section of the Bass Highway must therefore balance the safety and efficiency needs of all road users.

The Department of State Growth will continue to work closely with Waratah-Wynyard and Burnie City Councils to ensure connection and coordination with other projects in the area.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport