

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

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29 MAY 2026

Ms Rosalie Woodruff MP
Member for Franklin

c/- HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Woodruff

On 20 May 2026 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

Multiple residents of Margate have contacted me about your stalled work on the North West Bay River Bridge in Margate and the increased safety concerns of pedestrians and cyclists.

Jane asked me to say: Margate has a growing population, but we need infrastructure to keep up with this increase. North of Margate, there's the train and the Kingborough Bowls Club, popular with locals. To access these, you have to drive the very short distance from Margate town as it's far too dangerous to cross the bridge on foot. Sheer ridiculousness.

I'm a local resident and will enjoy walking to Hopfields and then continue to the Margate train. Many afternoons now sees traffic entering Margate from the queue backed up along the highway to the train and some cars attempting to turn into Hopfields Brewery.

It's extremely unsafe and pedestrians and cyclists. Minister, please don't turn the project into a major logistical drama. When will you act on this commitment to add a footpath/cycle path to the bridge?

I have received a number of similar requests recently in support of improved pedestrian and cyclist access over the North West Bay River at Margate.

It is acknowledged the bridge in this location does not provide the desired separation for pedestrians and cyclists from motor traffic. When this bridge was originally designed, it was not intended to accommodate active transport users. Very few bridges on the State Road Network's highways have separated pathways.

To accommodate the growing demand in Margate for active transport options, the Tasmanian Government and Kingborough Council have jointly funded a feasibility study for a shared user pathway from Margate to Huntingfield. This pathway would

provide an alternative to the Channel Highway for both pedestrians and cyclists by extending the existing path between Snug and Margate.

While a preferred route has not been finalised, the proposed design for the pathway would include a separate shared user bridge over the North West Bay River next to the existing Channel Highway road bridge.

Delivery of this project will be subject to approval through a future Tasmanian Government budget process and potential federal funding. For more information on this project, please visit:

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/roadworks/current_projects/south_road_projects/margate_to_huntingfield_shared_pathway

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Vincent', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport