

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

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01 OCT 2026

Mr Dean Winter MP
Member for Franklin

c/o haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Winter

On 3 September 2026, you asked the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

My question is from my constituent, Nick Booth, who lives in Kingborough. Minister, I'm writing to you as a deeply concerned member of our community, and as a member of several community groups, to urgently request that the Department of State Growth investigate the feasibility of installing central crash barriers on the section of the Huon Highway between Kyalami Corner and the top of Vines Saddle. As you're tragically aware, this specific stretch of highway has a devastating history of severe and fatal crashes, including the recent heartbreaking loss of life in the head on collision at Lower Longley. Every single one of these incidents leaves a permanent scar in our community, and it's clear that the current safety measures are not sufficient to support the catastrophic crossover accidents. Minister, to repeat the question, will you urgently request the Department of State Growth investigate the feasibility of installing central crash barriers on this section?

Thank you for your question on behalf of your constituent.

The Tasmanian Government is improving safety along the Huon Highway. This commitment is reflected in the 2023 *Huon Highway Corridor Study – Kingston to Southport*, which identifies future road improvement opportunities along the corridor and highlights road safety as a key priority. The Corridor Strategy is available on Building Tasmania's website.

The Strategy identifies the lack of traffic separation between Lower Longley and Grove as one of the key safety risks on the highway. Installing a central flexible safety barrier to separate opposing traffic flows is recognised as a desirable long-term solution. However, to accommodate a barrier safely, the road would need to be widened in many locations.

There are a number of significant constraints on the section between Kyalami Corner and Vines Saddle which make the installation of central safety barriers both technically challenging and costly. In several areas, substantial widening works would be required before barriers could be installed. I also understand a

representative from Building Tasmania recently spoke with Mr Booth and outlined some of these challenges.

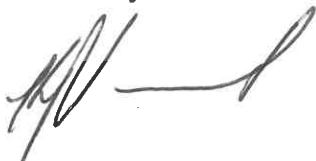
The Tasmanian Government applies the Safe System Approach to road safety, which recognises road design, driver behaviour and speed which all play an important role in reducing serious crashes. Where major infrastructure treatments are not immediately feasible, speed management can be an effective way to improve safety. This approach was reflected in the Commissioner for Transport's 2023 decision to reduce the speed limit on this section of the Huon Highway from 100 km/h to 80 km/h.

Building on the priorities identified in the Corridor Study, the Tasmanian and Australian Governments have committed a combined \$50 million towards upgrades along the corridor. Works are already underway at the Huon Highway and Mountain River Road intersection, while upgrades at the Leslie Road intersection are currently being designed. Further projects identified in the Strategy will be progressed as funding allows.

Building Tasmania will continue to monitor traffic volumes and crash statistics and review priorities if and when circumstances change. Any upgrades will also be informed by a review of the Coroner's report that is released after a road fatality.

I thank Mr Booth for raising this matter and for his advocacy on behalf of the local community. Like all Tasmanians, I was deeply saddened by the recent tragic loss of life on this stretch of road, and improving safety on the Huon Highway remains an important priority for the Government.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport