

Update from Hon Ruth Forrest MLC



Your local Member on what's happening in and around Waratah/Wynyard

I appreciate my regular catch up with Shane Crawford, our Waratah/Wynyard General Manager (GM) to discuss matters raised with me by constituents and other areas of mutual interest and the benefit of our community. Below is a summary of some topics of discussion.

Waratah Reservoir/Dam

- I have been very impressed with the Waratah/Wynyard Council (WWC) stance on this important asset seeking to ensure this dam was not decommissioned especially as it has been and can continued to be managed on a 'care and maintenance' approach until other potential opportunities are fully explored. The Permit to decommission the dam has been approved by DPIWWE and members of the Waratah community have appealed this decision. I support the stance of the community in this matter and the WWC. The GM and I agreed we would make a joint representation to the new Minister as soon as possible after their appointment to discuss this matter and hopefully find a solution to retain this asset. In the meantime, I have asked TasWater for further details related to costs associated with maintaining the dam wall at a safe level until such time as a secondary use can be secured and the costs of remediation related to decommissioning of the dam.



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Anzac Park Somerset all-abilities playground

- I am very pleased to note the progress on this exciting project and thank the Fairy Godmothers for their unwavering support for and commitment to this facility. The GM and I spoke about the revision of plans to keep in and on budget and noted the election commitment from the Liberal Government of \$550,000 to ensure we have a State leading asset. I am hopeful both major parties will commit to supporting this much needed and exciting community asset.



Emily Crescent, Somerset

- The development at Emily Crescent is a much welcome addition of housing for older people, people with disability and those needing social and affordable housing. It has been brought to my attention that there are light poles in place for street lighting but no lighting has been provided. (The technical term is the lights haven't been energized!) This situation has remained since the development about three years ago. I have contacted TasNetworks to follow this matter up and reiterated the importance of having good lighting around housing. I am informed there is a works order to energise these lights and this should be completed very soon.



- Secondly, the housing units in this development provide housing for people with disability and elderly residents. A 'google' search does not identify the location of these properties making it very difficult for ambulance or other services to locate them. I am informed this will be followed up and corrected as it should have occurred when the subdivision was approved.



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Barking dogs

- A matter that is often raised with me relates to dogs' barking and creating a disturbance for neighbours. Most dog owners are very responsible and are aware if their dog is barking. Sometimes this is not the case. It can also be a difficult matter for many in our community who love and rely on their dogs for company and other health benefits. If this is a problem it is advised to keep a diary or log of the barking and lodge this with Council when you raise the matter. There is a cost of \$75 to submit this diary/log. I have asked the GM if there are any concessions or provisions to reduce this cost in certain circumstances.



- If you have concerns regarding the welfare of the dog(s) you should inform the RSPCA.

Residential street speed limits.



- Residents often raise concerns regarding speed limits particularly in relation to priority streets (those that are wider and intended for heavier traffic as a main thoroughfare away from the town centre). Streets such as Inglis, Saunders and Dodgin feature in these streets. These streets have a 60km/h speed limit in the majority of cases.



- I have asked the GM to provide feedback on review of speed limits on these streets and consideration of traffic calming measures such as pedestrian refuges on these streets, such as where the churches, senior citizens or other high pedestrian use areas are, to ensure we maintain a high level of safety for all road users.

Bass Highway West of Cooe

- It is disappointing that this section of road has not been raised by any party in the election as a priority area where work needs to progress as a matter of urgency. The section around the Mt Hicks Roundabout through to Doctors Rocks is in a shocking state of repair and needs urgent attention. We have heard commitments made many times about this whole section of highway – Wynyard to Marawah and whilst some priority areas have been done e.g. at the Boat Harbour School/shop, there has been slow action of the rest. I will keep pushing for details and action on this when Parliament resumes.

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Details of the design of the section of the Bass Highway between Cooe and Doctors' Rocks is available on the State Growth website so have a look by clicking on the link below! This is an area of the highway that is long overdue for upgrade including the Cam River bridge.

https://www.transport.tas.gov.au/projectsplanning/road_projects/north_west_road_projects/cooe_to_wynyard_upgrade_program

Wynyard Waterfront and Environs Masterplan

- WWC have many projects in progress that will enhance this town and municipality. I am provided regular updates on progress by the GM which is much appreciated. There is a lot going on and you can access the plan and details of other projects WWC have in progress on the WWC website here: <https://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/our-place/council-projects/>
- I have raised concerns in the past regarding the board walk along the foreshore that gets very slippery in the winter months. This will be replaced as part of these works – you can provide direct feedback on the Wynyard Waterfront and Environs Masterplan here: <https://www.warwyn.tas.gov.au/projects/wynyard-waterfront-and-environs-masterplan-project/>

Yolla community upgrades

- The Yolla community conversations were not well attended however consultation with the residents of Yolla continue. There are to be a number of much needed improvements in Yolla including a footpath from the school to the shop, a footpath from Myrtle Park to the Pharmacy and a new accessible public toilet. Consultation is continuing to finalise details so contact the WWC if you wish to contribute.



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Affordable Housing

- Affordable housing and access to housing is a major concern and challenge throughout this community and on the NW Coast. WWC are actively considering available land to



try to increase the number and range of homes available for people to own or rent, including working with social housing providers. This is vital as many people in our region are currently homeless or facing homelessness. Safe and secure housing must be a priority for all levels of Government.

Fossil Bluff & Table Cape Road/Tollymore Road upgrades (including footpaths)

- The WWC also have a master plan for both Fossil Bluff including Golf Links Road and Tollymore Road/Table Cape Road. It is clear road upgrades are needed to both these important roads (and yes I do live on Table Cape Road) as many families with young children live in these areas as well as older people who need safe, accessible footpaths and wider safer roads to drive on. This is especially important during our wonderful Tulip Festival which see many 1000's of visitors using this narrow and dangerous road.
- Design work is underway for both these roads to enhance road user safety and safety of pedestrians including the construction of footpaths.
- Public consultation on these plans should be occurring late June/early July so keep an eye out for that. I will also provide updates from my regular catch-ups with the GM.

