



Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Member for Murchison

9 January 2026

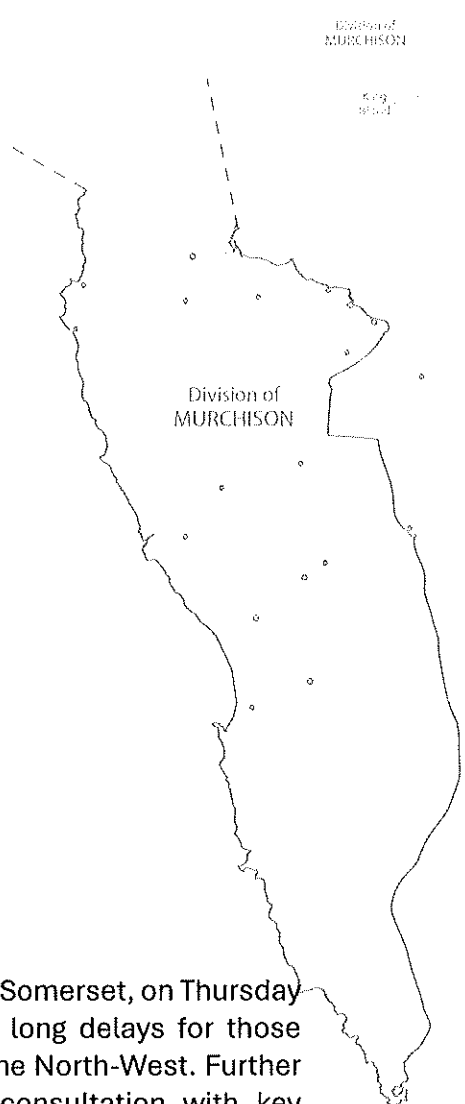
Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Email: kerry.vincent@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

I am writing regarding the traffic disruption at the Cam River Bridge in Somerset, on Thursday 5 February, which saw unexpected and therefore, unplanned for, long delays for those travelling on what is a very busy, critical bridge on the key route in the North-West. Further noting no prior information was provided and no evidence of consultation with key stakeholders regarding the date and time for this inspection were undertaken that saw the work done on the first day of school return for 2026. Could you provide answers to the following questions:

- 1) Regarding the decision to undertake a "standard post-construction inspection";
 - a) How was the decision made to undertake this work at that date and time;
 - b) When was the decision made; and
 - c) What if any consideration was given to the commencement of term one for all public schools on that date?
- 2) What if any support will be provided to local small businesses impacted by the delays?
- 3) Were any safety or other matters identified during the inspection that require attention, and if so:
 - a) what are the matters identified;
 - b) when will they be addressed;
 - c) how will traffic be managed during any works;
 - d) what community consultation regarding timing of works will be undertaken?



- 4) Can you provide an update on the ongoing investigation into the feasibility of a second Cam River crossing?

The lengthy delays and inconvenience experienced by travellers on this occasion further highlights the critical nature of the bridge on what is a major arterial route in the State and this unexpected disruption and lack of any communication with the local community has reminded local people of the period during the construction of the new bridge when the old bridge was damaged and the lack of meaningful communication and support provided to the community at that time. Community engagement is critical when taking such significant action in this area.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Forrest', with a stylized, flowing script.

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MURCHISON