

Minister for Housing and Planning  
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20 FEB 2026

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC  
Member for Murchison

ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Forrest

Thank you for your correspondence regarding recent inspections on the Cam River Bridge on 5 February 2026.

The Department of State Growth has acknowledged it did not provide adequate notice to the public for these works and apologises unreservedly for any inconvenience caused by lengthy traffic delays.

I am advised defects were identified during a routine bridge inspection in October 2025 and a follow up inspection in December 2025 by the Department's bridge inspector. These initial inspections were completed from the underside of the bridge and did not affect traffic; however, a closer inspection was required, using the underbridge inspection unit from above the bridge.

The decision to complete the inspection on Thursday 5 February was made the previous week due to the availability of the underbridge inspection unit, which was only in Tasmania for a limited time. Due to the size of the inspection unit, one lane had to be closed to complete the inspection.

This work was scheduled between the morning and afternoon peaks; however, traffic volumes were still too high for a lane closure on the bridge. The inspection should have been halted and the lane reopened once it became clear lengthy traffic queues were forming.

The Department acknowledges it should have planned the work better to limit impacts to commuters, and it should not have been done in the first week of the school year.

I am advised the details of the lane closure were published on the Department's Roadworks Map on the Transport website, however there was no further public communication about the work. This did not meet the Department's standards for work of this nature, and I am advised this was due to an oversight, not a deliberate decision. The Department will review its processes to prevent any recurrence and commits to ensuring appropriate engagement and communication before any future planned work on the bridge.

The defects observed on site are minor in nature in that they do not relate to the safety or stability of the structure, however they must be addressed to ensure the long-term durability of the bridge.

Defects such as these often only become apparent after the bridge has been in service for a period. As the bridge is currently within its three-year warranty the repairs will be completed by the contractor at their cost, with no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Regarding potential traffic impacts for the future repairs, until further detail of the work is known, the Department is unable to provide details of what it will involve and the potential traffic impacts. The Department commits to providing advanced notice to the community before work starts and will work with the contractor to minimise traffic impacts where possible.

Regarding your question about compensation, when planning works the Department considers and minimises disruption to traffic wherever possible, however delays will often occur on the road network because of road works, crashes, special events or higher than expected traffic volumes. While I regret the inconvenience caused and sympathise with those affected, financial support is not provided to businesses or individuals because of traffic delays and there is no legislative mechanism for such ex-gratia payments.

The Department has completed the Bass Highway – Second Cam River Bridge Feasibility Study, which investigated the possibility of a second Cam River crossing. The study included both a technical review and public feedback. The Study found the construction of a second Cam River Bridge is not practical without significant additional road upgrades, and the construction of a second crossing is not supported at this time.

However, the Tasmanian Government has committed to a subsequent planning study for the Bass Highway to further consider how a second crossing could be achieved as part of a potential future bypass between Cooee and Doctors Rocks, Wynyard. This study will commence this financial year and will likely take 18 months to complete.

I thank you for reaching out and I trust this information clarifies the matters you have raised.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Transport**