



# MEDIA RELEASE

29 JUNE 2009

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## COMMUNITY ACTION IMPROVES HIGHWAY

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A lethal black spot on the Huon Highway at Vince's Saddle has been made less dangerous thanks to the persistence of the Huon Valley Council and local residents.

The sweeping bend at the intersection of the Huon Highway and Huon Road had gained a reputation as one of the most dangerous in southern Tasmania. The stretch of road would regularly ice-over during winter and is believed to have caused many accidents in recent years.

Huon Valley Mayor Councillor Robert Armstrong, along with long time resident Frances Bender and other Huon Valley residents, lobbied the State Government to improve the road's dangerous condition.

"We had a number of meetings with the Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges, late last year and earlier this year and we raised a number of community concerns about the state of the roads here in the Huon Valley and surrounding area," Cr Armstrong said.

"We discussed the need for the construction of passing lanes between Huonville and Dover, realignment of the Channel Highway between Huonville and Iron Stone Creek on the way to Cygnet, the completion of the upgrading of Glen Huon Road to Judbury, and the improvements to Vince's Saddle."

"Minister Sturges at the time said he would look into all issues raised and I'm glad to see we have had some action on Vince's Saddle. I thank the Minister and his department for making sure those trees were removed before this winter, and look forward to the removal of additional trees that are shading the highway." Cr Armstrong said.

The solution to the ice build up on this section of road involved the removal of towering pine trees that bordered the highway. Long shadows cast by the trees in winter prevented the sun from melting the ice, creating dangerous conditions for road users.



*Huon Valley Mayor, Cr Robert Armstrong, inspects the sweeping bend near Vince's Saddle.*



*The stretch of the Huon Highway, near Vince's saddle, drenched in sunshine thanks to the recent removal of the pine trees.*

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**For additional comments, please contact:**

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