



MEDIA RELEASE

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Huon Highway Corridor Study consultation period closing soon

The Huon Valley Council and the RACT encourages the community to provide feedback on the Tasmanian Government's Huon Highway Corridor Study which looks at the performance of the road between Kingston and Southport.

The study will investigate future transport demands that are likely in the next 30 years and will identify opportunities to improve the Huon Highway.

Mayor Bec Enders said, "The Huon Highway connects community, industry and visitors to the Huon Valley with Hobart and provides a crucial produce delivery route from the region to the major air and sea ports in Tasmania.

"The section of road between Kingston and Southport needs to be made safe and feedback provided during this consultation period is integral to that. With increasing tourism businesses along the Huon Highway we are seeing a rise in road use with mixing of tourist and local traffic as well as a rise in traffic accidents. The section of road from Huonville to Southport is the only sealed road in and out including in emergency situations.

"This is an important opportunity for road users to have a say on how this road can become more safe, more consistent and more efficient. Individual responses are being counted so now is the opportunity for you to raise your concerns and highlight what priorities are needed for upgrading the road between Kingston and Southport."

A key priority of this project is to identify areas with high crash rates that could be upgraded as a priority for the short term. Medium and long term upgrade improvement options will address changes that are expected in the future.

Garry Bailey, Chief Advocacy Officer of the RACT said the community was rightly concerned about the Huon Highway.

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“Late last year we asked our 210,000 members to tell us which roads weren’t up to scratch. The feedback was overwhelming. Tasmanians right around the State told us that the Huon Highway was one of our worst roads,” Mr Bailey said.

“We’ve recently asked our members for feedback on ways to improve road safety and the clear message was, roads like the Huon Highway need to be upgraded.

“At the recent state election, we called on both major parties to commit to developing a clear, strategic 10-year plan for the Huon Highway and it’s very encouraging that the Liberal Government listened. However, now the Government needs to put its money where its mouth is and commit to significant upgrades to the Huon Highway.

“The more people who participate in the consultation process and give their frank feedback, the more likely it is that the Government will act quickly. So please, take the time to participate and make sure your voice is heard.”

This media release is also supported by Destination Southern Tasmania.

The corridor study is open for public consultation until 14 August. Feedback can be provided by:

- Visiting www.transport.tas.gov.au.
- Emailing ConsultationTasmania@Jacobs.com.

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