

Bass Highway Leith Overpass Project

Strategic Context

The Leith Overpass Project was initiated from community concerns around the safety of accessing and crossing the Bass Highway, from Braddons Lookout Road and Short Street.

Safety, Efficiency and Access are key objectives of the strategic management of the State road network.

The Bass Highway is crucial to the effective functioning of industry, commerce and the community in Tasmania. The Bass Highway carries large numbers of heavy freight and passenger vehicles and is a key link in supporting future economic development in Tasmania.

The Bass Highway facilitates inter-regional freight movements, inter-regional passenger vehicle movement and business interactions.

The Bass Highway connects large population centres, major sea and air ports, and key industrial locations.

The Bass Highway Leith Overpass Project is one of many projects being delivered as part of the overarching improvement and management of the State road network.

Bass Highway Leith Overpass Project Objectives

Safety

To address safety concerns associated with vehicles turning right on to and off the Bass Highway from Short Street and Braddons Lookout Road.



Efficiency

To maintain efficiency along the Bass Highway at Leith.



Access

To maintain connection to the Bass Highway from Braddons Lookout Road and Short Street.



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Project Timeline

Year	Details
Pre 2017	Members of the Leith community raised safety concerns with local council and the Tasmanian Government about vehicles turning right on to and off the Bass Highway from Short Street and Braddons Lookout Road.
2017	The Tasmanian Government committed to building an Overpass and improving safety at Leith.
2018	Interim safety measures were implemented, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of electronic warning signage to alert highway drivers of vehicles entering from the side roads• Amending school bus routes to reduce the right turn movements across the highway
2018	The Department of State Growth developed three concept designs for the location of an overpass. These concept designs were presented to the community for their information and feedback. Key themes of the consultation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concern about increased traffic through local Leith roads• Consideration of alternative options, such as construction of a roundabout and speed limit reduction• Consideration of improved pedestrian and cyclist access
2019 – 2020	Following feedback from the consultation, the overpass concept design was revised to include ramps that would reduce the amount of traffic travelling through local roads in Leith. Four options were also considered including a speed limit reduction, construction of a roundabout, upgrades to existing junctions and a right turn ban.
2020	A Multi-Criteria Analysis was used to assess and compare the five options proposed. Each option was ranked against its ability to meet the project objectives. The MCA group consisted of representatives from RACT, Central Coast Council, Forth Primary School, Forth Primary School Association, and the Tasmanian Transport Association. The overpass option (with ramps) was identified by the MCA group as the option that most significantly achieved the project's objectives.

We are now engaging with the wider community to receive feedback on the project. Community feedback will form an integral part of the decision-making process.