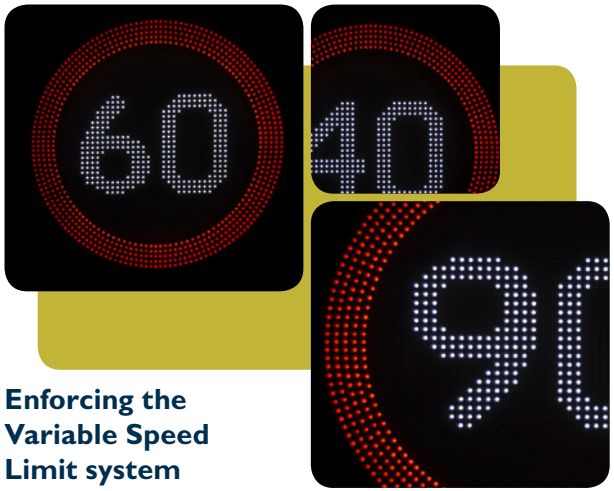


Enforcing the Variable Speed Limit system

Under the road rules, electronic and static speed limit signs are treated the same as they both display a maximum speed limit which must not be exceeded.

Enforcing speed limits under the VSL system will be no different from normal enforcement. The system incorporates an enforcement lag-time for drivers who are passing a sign as it changes to a lower speed limit.

At key locations along the VSL zone, there are back-up static signs in case of a power failure or an electronic sign failure.

These signs only apply if the electronic sign is not displaying a number. If you pass a blank VSL sign, then the speed limit displayed on the last electronic or static sign you passed applies.

Why this section of the Tasman Highway?

This section of the Tasman Highway gets congested during peak times and has an elevated crash rate compared to other roads in the State.

This means that at peak times, even a minor crash has the potential to significantly impact a large volume of traffic.

Remember the Road Rules – always drive to the conditions, regardless of what the posted regulatory speed limit is displaying.

For more information go to:
www.transport.tas.gov.au

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

INTRODUCTION OF VARIABLE SPEED LIMIT SYSTEM

Tasman Highway

LIVERPOOL STREET TO CAMBRIDGE ROAD INTERCHANGE

Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources

Tasmania
Explore the possibilities

There is a new way to improve traffic flow and safety on the Tasman Highway between Liverpool Street, Hobart and the Cambridge Road Interchange, including the Tasman Bridge.

Along this section of the highway existing static speed limit signs are being replaced with 43 electronic Variable Speed Limit (VSL) signs operating 24 hours a day. VSL signs are used in other parts of Australia and are similar to the signs in school speed zones around Tasmania.

VSL signs are used to lower speed limits to better match the prevailing conditions and alert drivers to potential hazards. These may be hazards that aren't readily visible, either because of the curve of the road, or weather conditions such as rain, ice or wind.

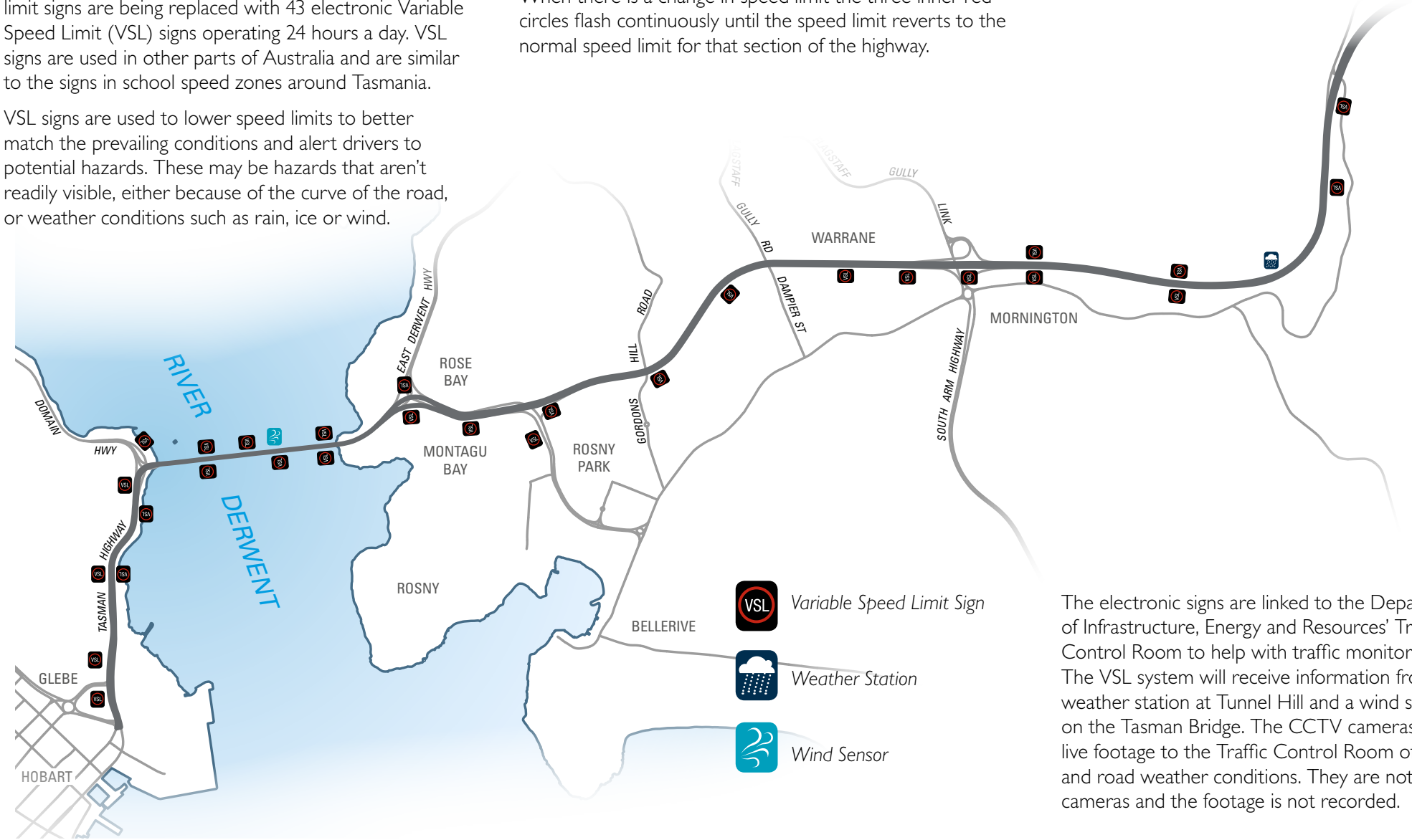
How the Variable Speed Limit System Works

Variable speed limits are set using high-visibility signs that can display different speeds. The speed limit is displayed with white numbers surrounded by five bright red circles. Most of the time, the speed limits shown on the electronic signs will reflect the existing speed limit for that section of the highway.

When there is a change in speed limit the three inner red circles flash continuously until the speed limit reverts to the normal speed limit for that section of the highway.

The benefit of a VSL system is its ability to respond to changing road conditions. VSL systems have been shown to improve safety and traffic flow in heavy traffic conditions. This is because vehicle speeds tend to even out, lane changing is reduced and drivers are less frustrated by irregular traffic flow.

Importantly, lowering the speed of traffic approaching a crash site reduces the likelihood of rear-end crashes.



The electronic signs are linked to the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources' Traffic Control Room to help with traffic monitoring. The VSL system will receive information from a weather station at Tunnel Hill and a wind sensor on the Tasman Bridge. The CCTV cameras provide live footage to the Traffic Control Room of the traffic and road weather conditions. They are not speed cameras and the footage is not recorded.