

tabled L. Hiscott
22 June 2022
LH

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. 41 of 2021

Legislative Council

The petitioners ask the House to:

The pedestrian and road safety implications of not having a suitable pathway to walk or ride into town for the residents living in the southern part of Dover.

This area has grown in population in recent years, including the addition of many young families, but is geographically cut off from the rest of town except via vehicle. The narrow road shoulders and Bates Creek mean that safe pedestrian access is almost impossible. Extending the walking track as far south as McNaughten Road would allow safe access to the Jim Casey Oval, which is currently utilised several times weekly by school-aged soccer players. Keeping walkers off the highway would allow for safer vehicle passage through Dover as the Huon Highway currently serves a number of local industries and the heavy vehicle traffic that they bring. The current situation, lacking a pedestrian path, means walkers must walk virtually on the highway alongside the traffic which is a most dangerous predicament. Local residents are fearful that recent near-misses will result in a terrible accident sooner or later.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to support the construction of a walking track from where it currently ends at Francistown road south to McNaughten Road, including a foot bridge over Bates Creek. This would improve pedestrian and vehicular safety in the area and increase the options for recreational activities within the township by connecting our sports oval to the town. Aside from a huge improvement to road safety, social and health and wellbeing benefits this would provide the town are immeasurable.

GOVERNMENT POSITION:

The Department of State Growth is currently looking at investments that can be implemented to achieve improved performance, reliability and safety for the Huon Highway. The Department is currently undertaking a Corridor Study on the Huon Highway from Kingston to Huonville.

This petition has provided the Department with an opportunity to look into the possibility of a shared path in the Dover area.



A review of the geometry and existing road and pedestrian features in the Dover area would be supported by the Department if the Huon Valley Council would consider delivering a shared path on the Huon Highway from Francistown Road to McNaughten Road.

RESPONSE:

- Huon Valley Council is also currently undertaking a program of shared path development along the Huon Highway with the recent completion of the walking track from Port Huon to Geeveston and the proposed Huonville to Franklin shared pathway.
- It would be a matter for the Council should it wish to consider delivering a path from Francistown Road to McNaughten Road.



Michael Ferguson MP
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Date: 12 June 2022

