

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL AND THE TRURO AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CALL FOR FAST-TRACKING OF TRURO BYPASS

Mid Murray Council and the Truro and District Community Association called on the State Government to fast-track plans for a Sturt Highway bypass to divert heavy vehicles away from the main street of Truro following a truck crash this month.

The occupants of a Moorundie Street home escaped uninjured when an out-of-control B-double truck crashed through their front garden, coming to rest less than a metre from the house.

“This was a lucky escape for these long-term Truro residents, who now have to go through the trouble of insurance, concerns and frustrations waiting for their property to be reinstated to its former state, through no fault of their own,” Mrs Falkenberg says.

Mid Murray Council Chief Executive Officer Russell Peate said the Council has been advocating for a bypass for years, working with the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) and the Truro and District Community Association on possible locations for the bypass road since 2014.

However, Mrs Falkenberg said the latest crash is a reminder that with increasing heavy vehicle volumes using the road, including Road Trains, something must be done to urgently improve safety on this stretch of the highway.

“The previous State Government identified the need for a Sturt Highway bypass around Truro as a medium-term priority some time ago,” Mrs Falkenberg says.

“However, the recent incident has again highlighted the dangers of mixing heavy vehicles with residential areas. Hundreds of trucks use this stretch of the highway every day and we know from local experience that many do not adhere to the speed limit.

“The Council has grave fears for the safety of pedestrians using this route – especially children and families who use it regularly to access the nearby primary school. It is also concerned for the wellbeing of residents living on this stretch of road following this month’s crash”, Mr Peate said.

The Council has written to State Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Local Government Stephan Knoll to advise him of the crash details and to push for the planned bypass project to be expedited by the new State Government.

In April 2018, DPTI committed to a rapid assessment of the bypass option, with a plan to report back to the Council and the community within three months. The Council and the Truro and District Community Association have now requested an urgent update on this from DPTI.

“We know this section of the Sturt Highway is a danger for motorists and for our residents and we do not want to see a fatality or serious injury crash occur here,” Mr Peate says.

“Such a tragedy could be avoided by fast-tracking this urgently needed infrastructure project.”

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