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24 November 2022

Premier Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Health
Level 10, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000
jeremy.rockliff@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Premier Rockliff,

We are taking this opportunity to write to you to formally ask that the State Government consider establishing financial support for the business community affected by the closure of St Marys Pass, similar to what was instated when works were being undertaken at Paradise Gorge near Orford.

The closure of St Marys Pass has affected our communities in many ways and to varying levels from social connection, access to education and services, freight and transport as well as the economic impact of reduced visitation to the area from both locals and tourists. The community of St Marys has been hardest hit with businesses experiencing a significant decline in turnover, businesses at the eastern end of town have been hardest hit as traffic turns off before reaching this part of town.

We have examined the various Government support programs which relate to the extreme weather event that occurred, but it is extremely limited and insufficient and does not adequately support the various levels of impact the community, including its businesses, are experiencing. We don't believe that the businesses of St Marys can even comply with the current guidelines for support. We are more than happy to be proven incorrect.

In June 2021 after a major rock fall at Paradise Gorge, the State Government implemented a Business Hardship Critical Support Grant for businesses affected by the closure of the Tasman Hwy. This showed the Government's recognition of the hardship being experienced by local businesses and their dependence on losing through traffic. We request that the State Government implement a similar program for our communities which are arguably more remote and more dependent on this traffic to support their businesses.

With the nearest major cities of Launceston and Hobart more than two hours away, the townships of Break O'Day are more isolated than those on the west coast like Queenstown. With St Marys Pass out of action, these travel times are dramatically increased further isolating our already regional communities.

The East Coast of Tasmania is the second most reliant region on tourism in the nation and the closure of St Marys Pass is having a significant impact on local businesses. The General Manager and myself will be meeting with the St Marys community on Friday to discuss the effect of the closure on the community. We will provide you with an update after this meeting.

We welcome a discussion with you on this matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,



Mick Tucker
MAYOR