



Media Release

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### **Road widening should proceed after further consultation with Aboriginal groups**

The Tasman Council says the planned widening of the Arthur Highway at Eaglehawk Neck should proceed after further consultation with key Aboriginal groups.

The development application was approved by Council at its September 23 meeting, with three representations received regarding local signage and the prohibition of road transport using engine brakes.

Tasman Mayor Kelly Spaulding said the local Aboriginal group had been consulted and the State Government was now involved in additional consultation to ensure that all cultural and heritage interests were fully considered.

Cr Spaulding said as part of this long-awaited upgrade, the Department of State Growth would be constructing a footpath beside the highway linking into a local track and footpath project. That project developed by the Eaglehawk Neck Action Community Task Force, received more than \$200,000 funding from the Tasmanian Community Fund (TCF) to address pedestrian and cyclist safety in the region.

“We are delighted to see the local Parrdarrama Pungenna Aboriginal Corporation and Tasmanian Aboriginal groups working together to protect what is a very sensitive area. It had been previously disturbed and we want to achieve the best outcome for all concerned.

“The road upgrading and footpath construction is important to provide safe access as well as protection of the area.

“The Tasmanian Government has recognised this need to upgrade this area and Tasman residents and visitors are very much looking forward to the highway widening and new pathway to connect communities.

“Council is confident the project can move forward following further consultation to address Aboriginal concerns.

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For comment contact Mayor Kelly Spaulding, mobile 0409 502 354