

Cr. Heather Barwick JP, and Cr. John Glisson of the George Town Council, are putting forward this submission which we see as a great innovative proposal for the Tamar Valley and one that will deliver significant benefits to the community, the region and the State as a whole..

The Senate committee in examining the role of transport connectivity in stimulating development and economic activity both in major urban areas and in regional Australia.

The Committee is to inquire into and report upon the role of Transport connectivity in stimulating development and economic activity both in major urban areas, and in regional Australia, in particular.

- a Identifying the likely impact on property values and property related tax revenues as a result transport connectivity.
- b examining options for the application of value-capture mechanisms to sustainably fund transport infrastructure.
- c considering means, including legislative and administrative actions, by which government and the private sector can best utilize value-capture funding mechanisms.
- d considering the appropriate roles of each of the three levels of government in establishment sustainable value-capture funding mechanisms for planning and infrastructure construction;
- e examining any international experience of the delivery of high speed rail on city and regional development.
- f examining methods of implementing value-capture in both greenfield and brownfield developments; and examining ways to capture future value opportunity when reserving transport corridors.

We believe our submission addresses most of these issues.

Northern Tasmania is divided by the River Tamar, which enters Bass Strait between George Town on its eastern side and West Tamar on the western side.

The Tamar River can be crossed via the Batman Bridge, some 25kms south of George Town, or by travelling to Launceston 55 kms south of George Town .We believe that a new bridge at George Town would significantly increase property values, increase economic activity, increase tourism.

The intension is to construct a new “Transporter Bridge” from George Town on the East to the West Tamar.

The Transporter bridge would link two banks of the Tamar Estuary with its gondola every 8 minutes in a journey that would take just a few minutes.

This bridge would be alive, admired by visitors, and if built, would be as popular as the Sydney Harbour Bridge with its own unique structure and gondola experience. The view from the top of the bridge would be unbelievable.

A similar structure has a 4x61 meter towers- which are the pillars which stand on the river banks. The towers are braced by iron cables to the cross beam and are parallel to the river and by cable following the line of the bridge to the other side. The upper cross beam which lies horizontally rests between two towers by 70 suspension cables. They also help support a great amount of weight.

Being a Transporter bridge it would not impact on river traffic, as the gondola is suspended above the water and does not interfere with shipping movements.

Currently George Town suffers as a result of being a destination rather than being seen as part of the tourist route.

Tourist seem reluctant to travel to George Town to visit Historic buildings and attractions like the Historic Pilot Station, the Watch House, light house, Penguin Rookery, beautiful beaches, and many other features and attractions, because once they are here, they have to double back on their route before heading off in a new direction.

A bridge across the Tamar at George Town would allow tourists to travel a loop down one side of the beautiful Tamar River and back up the other.

Benefits of the Transporter bridge.

- 1 Opens up George Town to a tourism loop allowing tourists to travel down one side of the Tamar and/or divert off to the East Coast.**
- 2 Benefits both George Town and the northern end of West Tamar.**
- 3 Opens up access to the George Town Hospital and other medical services including dental services to the West Tamar residences.**
- 4 Be an Icon as an engineering feat, which will attract tourists in its own right.**
- 5 Allow residents of the North West Tamar region to utilize the commercial/ retail sector of George Town.**
- 6 A magnificent viewing platform, if built would be as popular as the Sydney Harbour Bridge again attracting Tourists.**
- 7 The bridge could carry a water line which would open up the northern end of the West Tamar to residential developments.**
- 8 Converts a 40 minute journey to a ten minute journey for emergency services as well as workers and residents on each side of the river.**
- 9 Encourages better co-operation between the two councils and the State Government**
- 10 Would allow the Greens Beach golf course to become part of the golfers weekend for tourists, along with Barnboughe and Lost Farm.**
- 11 Possibility of opening up a quicker route from Devonport to the East Coast for tourists and producers**
- 12 Greater employment opportunities, cutting travelling time in half**
- 13 Economic Activity is permanent jobs**

- 14 Property values increase will be significant especially on the western side once water is available to the area.**
- 15 Access to NBN which is not available but can be accessed should the Transporter bridge become a reality**
- 16 Greater use of underutilised services i.e. Employment Agencies, access to Link Centre access to the State Library.**

This Transporter Bridge would if built, complement the Penny Royal Mill which is on the West Tamar side of the River. We believe that we have addressed all the criteria that was required for this submission to the Senate enquiry all be it brief.

if you would like to meet with us when the hearings are on we would be very happy to do so.

On behalf of Cr. John Glisson and myself we thank you for the chance to put forward a wonderful idea which should it ever become reality I am sure it will be a great tourist icon as well as benefit both sides of the Tamar River and tourism in the State.

Cr. Heather Barwick JP

Cr. John Glisson

Transporter Bridges can be seen via the following links;

<http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1854>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vizcaya_Bridge

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newport_Transporter_Bridge