

Minister for Environment
Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Arts and Heritage



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Ms Tabatha Badger MP
Greens Member for Lyons
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: Laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Badger

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 5 March 2026 on behalf of your constituents Peter and Graham regarding funding for Wildcare and other volunteer organisations operating within our parks and reserves.

The Tasmanian Government recognises the extraordinary contribution of Natural Resource and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) volunteers across a number of diverse environmental and conservation programs. We acknowledge volunteering opportunities not only provide significant benefits to NRE Tas, but also to volunteers through access to nature-based opportunities to connect with others, learn new skills and contribute to programs that align to their interests, resulting in increased health and wellbeing outcomes.

I understand various divisions within NRE Tas manage a diverse range of volunteer programs including, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), Environment, Heritage and Land, Fishcare Tasmania, Biosecurity Tasmania and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

In recognition of volunteers being an integral part of NRE Tas, I am aware the Department has reviewed and implemented new practices for managing volunteer involvement that align to Volunteering Australia's National Standards for Volunteer Involvement. As part of this review, volunteer management software was introduced in 2021 to assist the Department to undertake centralised management processes, deliver communications and capture information on volunteer activities and contributions.

I understand the PWS has a long-standing partnership with Wildcare Tasmania with funding formalised through a Grant Deed. There have been no cuts in funding to Wildcare Tasmania in the current Grant Deed. Furthermore, I am advised no cuts have occurred to the regional volunteer programs across the three PWS regions in terms of budget or staff support.

Once again, thank you for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents. I appreciate your ongoing and genuine interest in this space and your advocacy on behalf of volunteers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ogilvie', written in a cursive style.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Environment
acting for and on behalf of the
Minister for Parks