

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Helen Burnet MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

QUESTION:

My question is from Lisa, from Battery Point. Under what circumstances would Public Health become involved in the investigation of this allegation of bird droppings and mouldy fish pellets in the Skretting facility for both workers at the facility and consumers of fish fed these products?

ANSWER:

Investigation into matters relating to inputs into aquaculture production are the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE). This is because the national *Primary Production and Processing Standard for Seafood* is adopted under the Tasmanian *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011*. The Standard is administered by NRE and requires seafood producers to take all reasonable measures to ensure inputs, like feed, do not adversely affect the safety or suitability of seafood.

Any occupational health and workplace safety considerations would be a matter for WorkSafe Tasmania.

Public Health is not involved in investigating allegations about animal feed manufacturing facilities. I am advised that Public Health would only become involved if there is a potential risk to human health, in the event responsible agencies identified the potential for unsafe primary produce to enter the broader food supply chain.



Hon Bridget Archer MP
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Date: 28 August 26