

Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
Minister for Environment and Climate Change

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 7678
Email: barnett.correspondence@dpac.tas.gov.au



6 OCT 2026

Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Braddon
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr ~~Garland~~ *Craig*

In the House of Assembly, you asked the following question:

My question is from Arthur from Boat Harbour Primary School. Minister, how come flow-through salmon hatcheries can discharge wastewater containing nutrients like nitrates and potentially residues from antibiotics back into Tasmania's rivers, while the dairy farmer across the road faces strict requirements around managing effluent and nutrient runoff? Minister, can you explain why these two industries appear to be treated so differently, and whether you believe the environmental standards applying to salmon hatcheries are genuinely fair and consistent with those applying to other Tasmanian primary producers?

Effluent from flow-through freshwater fish farms and from dairy farms are both strictly regulated in Tasmania.

As you may be aware, the Dairy Industry is regulated by the Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority in accordance with its own Code of Practice.

All flow-through freshwater fish farms holding 2 tonnes or more of fish must have an Environmental Licence in place and the environmental impacts are regulated by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). In accordance with these Environmental Licences, effluent that is discharged must comply with effluent quality limits set by the EPA. I am advised that effluent quality limits are set for nitrates, nitrogen, phosphorous and total dissolved solids.

Flow-through freshwater fish farms must also treat their effluent using methods such as drum filters, settling ponds and wetlands prior to discharge to improve water quality at the discharge point.

I am advised that the EPA requires water quality (pH, temperature, salinity, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, phosphorous) and biological monitoring (macroinvertebrates and algae) upstream and downstream of flow-through farms to inform the EPA on the efficiency of the farm's effluent treatment methods and to monitor potential downstream impacts on aquatic ecosystem health.

The results of monitoring and compliance with effluent quality limits are publicly available in Annual Environmental Reports for each flow-through freshwater fish farm.

The EPA is an independent statutory authority that undertakes its regulatory functions in accordance with scientific and evidence-based principles, and free from political interference. The Government has confidence in the work of the EPA and the environmental standards that it applies.

Thank you for your question.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon Guy Barnett MP

Minister for Environment and Climate Change