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Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Jobs and Skills
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

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

Dear Mr Garland

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 20 August 2026 in Parliament, regarding Circular Head vegetation clearing.

There are a number of regulatory and approval pathways that may apply to the clearing of native vegetation on private land in the Circular Head area, depending on the nature of the activity being undertaken.

The Forest Practices Authority (FPA) regulates the clearing of trees and the clearance and conversion of threatened native vegetation on both public and private land.

Since July 2022, approximately 1,145 hectares of native forest in the Circular Head area has been authorised for clearing and conversion to non-forest land uses, such as agriculture, under certified Forest Practices Plans (FPPs).

Where native forest or threatened native vegetation is cleared without the required authorisation, the FPA may investigate the activity and take enforcement action, including requiring restoration or rehabilitation works, or issuing prescribed infringement notices.

The FPA does not maintain data on unauthorised clearing by local government area. However, across the broader north-west region, the area of investigated unauthorised clearing has ranged from approximately 180 hectares to 370 hectares per year since 2020.

The FPA does not report on prescribed fines by local government area. Information on enforcement actions is reported through the FPA Annual Report, with the total prescribed fines paid statewide in 2025-26 being approximately $170,000.

The FPA may require corrective action through a range of mechanisms, including notices issued under section 41 of the Forest Practices Act 1985 by a Forest Practices Officer, as well as rehabilitation or restoration requirements incorporated into certified Forest Practices Plans.

Where revegetation, rehabilitation or restoration is required under a certified Forest Practices Plan, the FPA undertakes compliance monitoring and auditing to assess whether those requirements have been met.

The FPA monitors native forest loss authorised under certified Forest Practices Plans and reports this information through its annual reporting on the Permanent Native Forest Estate.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful

Yours faithfully



Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
12/10/2026