

Minister for Energy and Renewables
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11th September 2026

Mr Mark Shelton MP
Member for Lyons
via Clerk of the House of Assembly
haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Shelton

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 8 September 2026 on behalf of your constituent regarding water storage levels in Hydro Tasmania's dams and the measures in place to ensure Tasmania's energy security remains secure.

As you note, Hydro Tasmania's storages entered this financial year at their highest levels in more than ten years, which is even more remarkable considering the previous two years have been some of the driest on record. This demonstrates the strong water management undertaken by Hydro Tasmania and places Tasmania in a strong position for the coming year.

With regards to the frameworks used to measure and manage water storage, Hydro Tasmania reports its storages levels on a system basis, measured as Total Energy in Storage (TEIS). This measures the amount of energy that could be generated from the water held in Hydro Tasmania's storages, rather than simply measuring the physical volume of water in individual dams. Hydro Tasmania publicly reports this on a weekly basis on their website ([Water | Hydro Tasmania](#)). As of 7 September 2026, TEIS was 50.0 per cent, which is a very strong position for this time of year.

To protect our energy security Hydro Tasmania manages water storages in line with the Tasmanian Government's Energy Security Risk Response Framework. This was implemented by the Tasmanian Government in 2017 as a rigorous and transparent framework for the management of water storages and includes two important monitoring levels; the Prudent Storage Level (PSL) and the High Reliability Level (HRL). If water storage levels drop below the PSL, or more conservative HRL, it is a trigger to signify additional monitoring of water use by Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT), within Building Tasmania, and the independent Regulator, along with an action plan for more conservative water management by Hydro Tasmania.

Storage levels as at 7 September 2026 were sitting 12.4 percentage points above the PSL and 19.8 percentage points above the HRL.

Hydro Tasmania also has a range of options available to manage the system during periods when energy capacity becomes tight. These include importing electricity through Basslink when opportunities arise and utilising the Tamar Valley Power Station if needed. This allows Hydro Tasmania to conserve water in its storages when conditions warrant a more cautious approach, either due to low inflows or an unexpected station outage, which occurred recently due to the Tungatinah Power Station fire. Importantly, I can confirm there have been no energy security impacts as a result of the fire.

Ultimately, these arrangements, along with recent events, demonstrate the importance of maintaining a diverse and resilient generation portfolio and a robust energy security framework. In the future, Marinus Link will play an important role in bolstering Tasmania's energy security and provide greater resilience to future changes in the energy system.

Thank you for raising this matter with me, and I trust this information provides useful assurance for your constituent regarding Tasmania's energy security arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', followed by a long horizontal line.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables