

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy



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Professor George Razay MP
Via email: george.razay@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Professor Razay,

Thank you for your constituent question regarding the Launceston & North East Railways (L&NER) and its use of the former Karoola Fire Station.

Following the amalgamation of the Karoola and Lilydale brigades, the former Karoola Fire Station has been declared surplus to operational requirements and approved for disposal by the State Fire Commission. An independent valuation has been completed, and the property will be sold through an open market process. Consistent with Commission policy, proceeds from the sale will be reinvested into fire service assets across Tasmania.

I understand the importance the community places on continued access to the site. In recognition of L&NER's longstanding occupation of the property, the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) has instructed its Property Services team to offer the organisation a new lease arrangement. I am advised a draft lease has been provided to L&NER for its consideration.

The proposed lease would allow L&NER to continue occupying the site while sale arrangements are progressed, with provision for one month's notice to vacate should this be required to facilitate settlement. TFS will also continue to support community access to the site's defibrillator.

TFS has no record of any agreement or arrangement indicating that the property was intended to be gifted or transferred to L&NER. Should the L&NER possess records of such an agreement the TFS would be pleased to review. The site remains an asset of the State Fire Commission and is therefore subject to the Commission's approved disposal process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Felix Ellis".

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Copy to the Clerk of the House of Assembly

30/9/2026