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The Secretary
Standing Committee of Government Administration B
House of Assembly
Parliament House, Hobart, 7000
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29 June 2026

Dear Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the public hearing held on 9 June 2026. I refer to the public hearing held the following day on 10 June 2026, and in particular, the evidence given by the Chief Executive Officer of TARfish regarding her recollection of contact with me in February 2026.

During the hearing (at approximately 33 minutes and 40 seconds [[June 10 2026 | Parliament of Tasmania](#)]), when asked about her engagement with the Minister in February, the CEO advised the Committee that she met with me on the evening of 3 February. She further stated that she received an email from my office on 4 February containing documentation that had been provided to Members of Parliament.

The CEO then indicated that she had not had any contact with me or my office in the intervening period, "other than a single conversation...about a week ago" (i.e. in early June 2026) advising me of the appointment of TARfish independent Chair, Mr Bob Gordon.

I wish to clarify that the CEO's recollection of events does not accurately reflect the extent of engagement during that period. For the Committee's assistance, and for completeness I set out below a summary of relevant interactions with the CEO during February:

- On 3 February 2026 I met with Ms Gallichan, CEO of TARfish.
- On 4 February 2026 The TARfish CEO was provided with a copy of all documentation distributed at a parliamentary briefing by NRE Tas and arrangements made for a full briefing to the TARfish board on 10 February.
- On 6 February 2026 I received correspondence from the CEO of TARfish, to which I responded later that day.

- On 9 February 2026, I received further correspondence from the CEO. Subsequently, my office arranged for a meeting with TARfish, representatives of the Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA) and Boating Industry Australia (BIA), held in Launceston on 17 February 2026.
- On 17 February 2026, I met with the TARfish CEO, representatives of AFTA, BIA, and NRE Tas. Participants included organisational leaders as well as Tasmanian retail business owners from the tackle and boating sectors.
- Following the 17 February meeting, I provided the TARfish CEO with a written response to her correspondence of 9 February 2026.
- On 1 March 2026, the relevant rules came into effect.

These meetings appear in routine diary disclosure records, which are publicly available at:

<https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/government-information/rti/routine-disclosures>.

I also note that, in addition to the engagements outlined above, TARfish had multiple interactions with NREtas during this period.

I trust that this information assists the Committee in its deliberations.

Yours sincerely



Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water