

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Heritage
Minister for Sport



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11th September 2026

Mr Dean Winter MP
Member for Franklin
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for your question in Parliament on 12 August 2026 on behalf of your constituent Ms Helen Wittey regarding the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs precinct.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to delivering a new lease of life for this area and looks forward to working with the community to achieve this. An Expressions of Interest process has been undertaken seeking proposals to reimagine the site and deliver on its potential.

To address specific questions you raised on behalf of Ms Wittey, I include the below information.

How will Parks ensure the pool and picnic area remain affordable and accessible?

The EoI provided guiding principles and assessment criteria against which proposals will be assessed that are relevant to consideration of ongoing public access. Proposals should offer innovative, sustainable and appropriate visitor experiences that provide broader social, environmental and economic benefit. Furthermore, proposals offering environmental, cultural or heritage-based tourism experiences that engage, involve or benefit local communities are encouraged.

Will Parks include community members on the panel selecting proponent?

An assessment panel has been convened consisting of relevant PWS staff and tourism industry experts and the assessment process is underway. My expectation is that community engagement will also inform the development of any detailed proposal for the Precinct.

Does Parks intend to develop a management plan prior to any planned development?

No. It is common for development proposals to be considered for reserves where a statutory management plan does not apply. In that instance the PWS assesses proposals against the legislated purpose and management objectives of the reserve.

Will the chalet continue to be used for cultural interpretations on the site?

The Chalet is not currently used for cultural interpretation; it is used for operational purposes and is not open to the public. Should any EoI proposal be considered appropriate for development into a detailed proposal, the future use of the Chalet will be determined through that process.

I trust this information is helpful for Ms Wittey.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks and Heritage