



TASMANIA
PREMIER OF TASMANIA

11 May 2026

Ms Jen Butler MP
Email: jen.butler@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Butler

On March 18th you asked me the following question:

“In 2019, in the aftermath of the horrendous Christchurch massacre, you, as the Minister for Education, effectively banned laser tag in Tasmania due to concerns for public safety and community sensitivities. In correspondence to Tas Laser Skirmish, you stated: Community sensitivities following recent mass shootings and acts of gratuitous violence around the world are an additional factor. These are serious matters and the department has a duty of care to address them. My question is: what has changed in your approach to community safety and sensitivities in relation to firearms from 2019 to now? Isn't this hypocrisy? Even with clear advice from the Commissioner of Police, why were you prepared to take such a strong stance after Christchurch in the interests of Tasmanians, but refuse to prioritise community safety now?”

Response:

Tasmanian Government schools may engage in a number of off-campus activities, and the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) engages with external providers to provide a variety of school activities that align with the curriculum. Decisions about school activities must always prioritise student safety and wellbeing and policy is grounded in age-appropriate expectations.

In relation to laser tag in particular, I am advised that since it was banned in 2019, DECYP has continued to engage with feedback from industry in relation to possible modifications.

I am advised in December 2024, DECYP amended its position to enable participation in laser tag off campus, subject to restrictions. I am advised that activities that simulate combat or battle are not permitted.

Procedures for Planning Off-Campus Activities are reviewed regularly to reflect evolving safety standards, educational value and community expectations. External providers must meet specific safety conditions, which are accessible on DECYP's website.

As the former Minister for Education, it was my responsibility to act in the best interests of school students, with decisions grounded in child safety and wellbeing, based on the advice from the Department at the time. All Departmental policy changes must be made in line with these responsibilities.

While any negative impacts on business are regrettable, policy changes must be made in line with Ministerial and Departmental responsibilities.

Conflating the decisions I took in 2019 as Education Minister and the issues we are currently dealing with is neither responsible or relevant.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

cc: Ms Laura Ross, Clerk of the House of Assembly