

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7670
Email: minister.pearce@dpac.tas.gov.au



Ms Meg Brown MP
Member for Franklin

31 JULY 2026

Email: HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Brown

In Parliament on 28 May 2026, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituent:

My question comes from Rodney, who asks why recreational fishers holding a licence with a lobster element are required to report both catch and non-catch activity ASAP via a 1300 telephone service at their own expense for the call. Rodney has a prepaid phone and does not have access to the internet. He would like to know why there is not a FreeCall option for mandatory reporting, particularly since licence holders already pay a licence fee.

Firstly, thank you for the question on behalf of your constituent.

Information about commercial and recreational rock lobster fishing helps to manage the fishery. Commercial fishing data is collected through logbooks. Recreational fishers are required to report their fishing and catch using either the 'Fishing Tas App', or alternatively, a telephone reporting service.

The fishers are required to make a catch report:

- Immediately after tail-marking their last lobster, or if no catch, immediately after pulling their pot, checking their ring or finishing their dive; and.
- Before moving further than 250 m from where they fished (or attempted to fish).

In the 2025-26 rock lobster fishing season, approximately 55,000 catch reports were made by almost 10,000 recreational rock lobster licence holders. Of this total, 525 fishers made 1,765 reports through the telephone reporting service.

Fishers choosing to make telephone reports call the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania recreational fishing line, which is a 1300 number (1300 720 647).

I am advised that almost all mobile phone and landline plans offer unlimited standard national calls in Australia, including to 1300 numbers, meaning that users do not incur a specific charge for using

the reporting service. However, if a fisher is using a Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) phone plan, they may be charged a standard local call rate for the call. I understand that in these cases, the cost of making the phone call is usually between \$0.25 and \$0.40 per call.

Thank you again for raising this matter on behalf of your constituent.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Pearce'.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water