

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Ms Jane Howlett MP
Member for Lyons

16 September 2026

Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Howlett *Jane,*

In Parliament on 3 September 2026, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents:

My question is from a farmer in my electorate of Lyons. They ask: farming is a rewarding career and a way of life for thousands of Tasmanians. As society changes, what is the Tasmanian Government doing to connect young Tasmanians with rewarding careers in agriculture and support the future workforce needs of our primary industries?

I firstly thank you for the question and note the pride you have for farmers and those working in agriculture in your electorate, I too share your love of Tasmania's rural and regional communities and the outstanding products they produce.

Agriculture is one of the pillars of Tasmania's economy. It supports thousands of jobs across our rural and regional communities and is a major contributor to our State's prosperity.

Tasmanian agriculture has experienced strong growth over the past 15 years and is now worth more than \$2.8 billion at the farm gate. Our Government is working hand in hand with industry to achieve our AgriVision 2050 target of growing the annual farm gate value of agriculture to \$10 billion by 2050. Achieving that ambitious goal will require investment in innovation, productivity, skills and, most importantly, people.

That is why, in the 2026-27 Budget, our Government committed \$450,000 over three years to establish the TasFarmers Agricultural Career Coach initiative, helping connect young Tasmanians with rewarding careers across the agriculture sector.

I am pleased to advise the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania has worked closely with TasFarmers to finalise the grant deed for this initiative.

The Agricultural Career Coach program will operate until mid 2029 and will provide dedicated mentoring, career advice and pathway support to students, educators, jobseekers and prospective entrants to the agricultural sector.

Importantly, this initiative recognises that modern agriculture offers far more than traditional farming roles. Tasmania's agricultural sector needs skilled people in areas such as science, technology, agronomy, livestock production, horticulture, business management, biosecurity, research and advanced manufacturing.

The program will develop and promote career pathway resources, engage directly with schools and educators, and build stronger links between industry, education and training organisations. It will complement existing Government initiatives, including the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's agricultural careers promotion campaign and the revitalised school farms program delivered through the Department for Education, Children and Young People.

TasFarmers has highlighted that this initiative is a unique opportunity to leverage its extensive agricultural network and place farmers at the centre of mentoring and career promotion activities. By connecting young people directly with industry, the program will provide practical insights into the many rewarding careers available throughout the agricultural value chain.

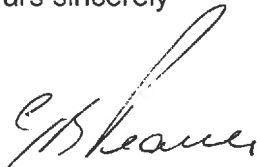
Success will be measured through the delivery of a dedicated mentoring service, the development of career pathway resources, and stronger engagement between industry, education and training stakeholders across Tasmania.

We are committed to achieving our AgriVision 2050 target and growing Tasmania's agricultural sector to a \$10 billion industry, and as such, with industry we must ensure there is a pipeline of skilled and passionate young people ready to take up the opportunities that growth will create.

This initiative is an investment in Tasmania's future workforce, our regional communities and the long-term success of one of our State's most important industries.

I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that this partnership with TasFarmers will deliver for young Tasmanians and for the future of Tasmanian agriculture.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Pearce', written in a cursive style.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water