

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
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Meg Brown MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Government Administration B
Email: sandflathead@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Brown

I refer to your letter of 2 July 2026 regarding questions on notice and request for additional information, in reference to Standing Committee on Government Administration B Inquiry into matters relating to the closure of the sand flathead fishery in south-east Tasmania.

- 1. On what date was the delegated decision to close the sand flathead fishery made? (see p. 48 of the hearing transcript)*

- 2. When was the brief communicating the sand flathead closure provided to the media unit/person preparing the advertising campaign for the sand flathead closure? (see p. 48 of the hearing transcript)*

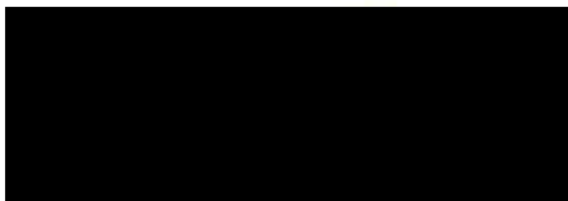
I am advised by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania, that following the Government's acceptance of the Department's advice to progress management measures specific to the south-eastern zone closure and landing flathead whole, a verbal briefing was provided to the Acting Manager (Strategic Communications Unit) by the Deputy Secretary Primary Industries and Water on 14 January 2026. The Department met with a production company in relation to the advertising campaign on 15 January 2026.

I am further advised that, as set out in the Department's submission to the Inquiry (p39), the regulatory instrument to give effect to the closure was determined by my official delegate on 25 February 2026.

I understand that a second question on notice addressed to the Department was due today, detailing the various dates that I was briefed on matters and the dates of those decisions. I am advised that the response is presently being assessed by the Department and will be provided within seven days.

All of this information should be considered together to fully appreciate the process that was followed and the timing around the commencement of an advertising campaign.

Yours sincerely



Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

13 July 2026