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

Tasmanian Government

Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Braddon
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

15 October 2026

Dear Mr Garland

In Parliament on 10 September 2026, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituent:

> ***A constituent from Ridgley has raised concerns about navigating the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Tasmania's regulatory processes. He has encountered application systems that were not fully in place and accreditation processes where requirements weren't publicly available upfront, with additional demands emerging during the process amounting to tens of thousands of dollars in unforeseen costs. He is now even reluctant to continue lawful selective clearing on his own property for fear of unknowingly falling foul of the rules. He isn't asking to avoid environmental or biosecurity responsibilities but he wants clear rules, transparent processes and government working with farmers, rather than dictating to them. Will you bring back generalist extension officers who can work directly with farmers, much like a GP in medicine, understanding the whole farm, providing practical advice and bringing in specialist expertise when it is needed?***

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

The Tasmanian Government is committed to reducing red tape, improving regulatory certainty and ensuring legislation, regulation and policy affecting agriculture are clear, effective and proportionate. This includes improving the transparency and accessibility of regulatory processes, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens and ensuring farmers can readily access information about their obligations.

The Government is developing a new Agriculture Strategy, which will help guide future reviews of legislation, regulation and policy, including consideration of their impacts on agricultural businesses and rural communities. Consultation to date has identified regulatory burden as a key issue for farmers, agribusinesses and industry bodies.

The Government is also progressing an independent review of Forest Practices Authority processes and a review of the Forest Practices Regulations, with a focus on ensuring regulatory arrangements affecting agriculture and forestry are appropriate and effective.

Through this work, the Government is focused on identifying opportunities to streamline processes, improve guidance and strengthen engagement between government and industry, while maintaining appropriate environmental and biosecurity protections.

Existing departmental advice and support services, alongside specialist expertise where required, play an important role in helping farmers navigate regulatory requirements. The Tasmanian Government also works closely with the University of Tasmania through the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA), which delivers research, development, extension and industry engagement activities across Tasmania's agricultural sectors. Through this partnership, producers have access to contemporary scientific expertise, applied research, on-farm demonstrations, training opportunities and industry-focused extension activities that help translate research outcomes into practical on-farm solutions.

Primary producers can also access the FarmPoint service, which operates as a central point of contact for information on government programs, grants, regulatory requirements and referrals to specialist services. Farmers can contact the FarmPoint hotline on 1300 292 292 to obtain advice or be connected with the most appropriate source of information and support.

The concerns raised by your constituent highlight the importance of ensuring farmers have access to practical advice, clear information and appropriate support when navigating regulatory processes. The Government will continue to consider how existing advisory, extension and information services can best support producers, reduce unnecessary administrative burden and maintain Tasmania's strong environmental and biosecurity standards.

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

Yours sincerely



Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water