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 Dean Winter
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

14 OCT 2026

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for the below constituent question you asked in Parliament on 10 September 2026.

> ***Small-scale meat producers in southern Tasmania felt the pressure of repeated closures and a loss of access to their local abattoir. Across Tasmania, producers like them face continuous hurdles due to a fragmented regulatory system, overly complex planning rules and a prohibitive waste management threshold. They're not even allowed to sell their own meat processed on their property. Your document to support small-scale Tasmanian meat processors is a big disappointment to them. Despite identifying key recommendations to address these issues, including updating outdated waste definitions, providing clear guidelines for mobile processing and securing affordable local meat safety inspector training, it then points to resourcing and funding restraints as reasons not to progress reform. Can you outline to these producers in my electorate when action will finally be taken to implement these vital recommendations so our local small farmers can get on with business?'***

The Tasmanian Government recognises the important contribution that smaller livestock producers make to our vibrant local agrifood sector and paddock-to-plate brand for producing premium products. We are aware of the issues raised by farmers, Sprout Tasmania and other representatives and fully appreciate the commercial challenges with accessing service kill facilities in some regions.

That is why the Government worked with industry representatives to develop a roadmap for small scale meat producers that outlines the steps, including business planning and regulatory approvals, required to establish and operate a micro or mobile livestock processing facility in Tasmania. The resulting recommendations identify potential actions to address regulatory barriers and improve the operating environment for small-scale processors.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) is currently working with relevant agencies, including the Environment Protection Authority, the Local Government Association of Tasmania and the State Planning Office, to identify practical ways to implement the recommendations and improve coordination, information sharing and regulatory processes for small-scale meat processors.

Additionally, NRE Tas is undertaking a review of previous reports and recommendations to identify what has progressed and where further work is required. The Government recognises that challenges extend beyond regulation and work is underway across government to consider broader

factors affecting processing capacity and abattoir viability, including transport costs, by-product utilisation and trade waste.

This work aims to improve the operating environment for meat processing businesses, support local producers and reduce the risk of further declines in service-kill processing capacity across Tasmania.

Thank you once again for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely



Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water