

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs

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Marcus Vermey MP
Via email: marcus.vermey@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Marcus

Thank you for your constituency question asked in the House of Assembly on 10 September 2025 raising the concerns of your Clark constituent regarding anti-social behaviour and retail crime in Glenorchy.

Our Government is strongly committed to reducing crime across Glenorchy and surrounding localities and ensuring community safety through proactive action. Tasmania Police's trial of non-invasive searches with handheld wands delivered strong results. The trial was initially undertaken in the Hobart area beginning 2 December 2024 and was then expanded on 3 January 2025 to include Launceston, Devonport and Burnie.

In total, there were 213 searches conducted that resulted in 49 seizures, 42 of which were knives. As the trial was conducted in Hobart specifically, the trial did not cover the entire Clark electorate. In Hobart, 95 searches were conducted and 19 weapons seized.

Since the trial ended, Reid's Law has been enacted which provides powers for police to conduct searches using handheld wands. Our Government remains committed to these reforms, and will continue to work with Tasmania Police to ensure the permanent rollout of wands across the state.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Felix Ellis".

Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

17/10/2025

Copy to Ms Laura Ross, Clerk of the House of Assembly