

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
Minister for Sport



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27 November 2025

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Select Committee – Estimates A
jenny.mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Forrest

Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2025

I refer to your letter of 18 November 2025 following my appearance at Budget Estimates Committee A on 18 November 2025. Please find below responses to the questions taken on notice.

DIVISION 8 – DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA

OUTPUT GROUP 4 – PARKS

4.1 PARKS

- 1. If available, please provide mapping that has been undertaken by Parks on the frequency of dry lightning strikes (over 50 years). How often is that sort of data updated?*

The Parks and Wildlife Service does not have access to this information. The Tasmania Fire Service may be able to provide this information.

4.2 CROWN LAND SERVICES

- 1. Please provide the total Crown Lands estate by hectareage, as at 1 July 2024, and as at 1 July 2025.*

As at 30 June 2024, the total area of Crown land was approximately 416,062 hectares which includes Public Reserves, unallocated Crown Land and Future Potential Production Forest Land. For the same period in 2025 the total area of Crown land was approximately 416,034 hectares.

This area may not include all areas of Reserved Roads and other small parcels of Crown land.

- 2. What is the process for declaring land as surplus land?*

For land to be considered portfolio land for the purposes of section 5 of the *Crown Lands Act 1976*, the land is firstly declared surplus to requirements by the Minister responsible for that portfolio land.

The land is then referred to the department responsible for the disposal. An Expression of Interest (EOI) is sent to all departments and Homes Tasmania to determine if there is any interest in the land. If the whole of government EOI does not return any interest, the land is considered surplus to Government requirements.

3. *What is your role in this process, as Minister for Crown Land?*

The Minister responsible for Crown land (or Delegate) can approve the sale of Crown land, pursuant to section 13 of the *Crown Lands Act 1976*. Section 13 sales require the land to be sold at market value. The Minister responsible for Crown land (or delegate) would rely upon the advice of the portfolio Minister responsible for the land that it is surplus to requirements.

The Minister can also approve the setting aside or transfer of land to statutory bodies (such as councils) and other legislative entities on terms determined by the Minister to be appropriate, usually for a public purpose, with conditions that the land cannot be on sold or transferred.

All other sales of Crown land otherwise than in accordance with the *Crown Lands Act 1976* are subject to section 64 of the Act and are subject to approval from both Houses of Parliament.

4. *What are the criteria for determining which Minister is responsible for parcels of crown land and for declaring them surplus?*

The Minister responsible for Crown land through section 12 of the *Crown Lands Act 1976*, can by Order set Crown land aside for a department. This effectively allows that department to 'manage the land' and arrange for that land to be leased or licensed to a third party, or to determine if it is surplus to that department's requirements. This is known as portfolio land.

5. *What criteria would a Minister need to demonstrate are met in order to declare land as surplus land?*

In the case of portfolio land, the department would need to show, to the satisfaction of the relevant Minister, that the land was no longer required for the purpose that it was acquired for, or set aside for, and not required for any other purpose/function relevant to that department.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks