

Minister for Housing and Planning
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government

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4 DEC 2025

Ms Janie Finlay MP
Member for Bass

c/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Finlay

On 12 November 2025 you asked me the following constituent question in the House of Assembly:

My question comes from constituents on Flinders Island who are confused and concerned about the inconsistencies in information provided to people on the island about the government's commitment to funding lighting at the Flinders Island Airport. Flinders Island received a grant deed, signed it, was given a commitment prior to and during the election that these funds would occur, but then received, curiously, a letter from the Premier saying, 'Sorry, no funds in this Budget, maybe we'll consider it next budget.'

There are two different things happening here from this Government - does the left hand not know what the right hand is doing? The Island has a grant deed, they've signed it, they've been told that there is money there, yet the Premier is writing to them saying there is no money and they might be considered in the future. Can the minister please advise the people of Flinders Island what the situation is with the money for lighting at the airport?

There are two distinct allocations of funding being managed through the Tasmanian Government for this project.

Firstly, Council has been awarded \$2.68 million via the Australian Government's Growing Regions program. This funding represents 90 per cent of the total project costs to modernise the airport's electrical system, install new lighting and construct a new operations office.

The Australian Government provides funding to councils via the State Government as a funding pass-through – not directly – due to constitutional limitations. As such, the \$2.68 million from the Growing Regions program is provided to the State and then administered to Council through a grant deed. This funding is available and the grant deed has been executed. I assume this is the deed referenced in your question.

Secondly, and subsequently, Flinders Island Council sought the balance of project funding totalling \$320,000 from the Tasmanian Government, which we committed to providing during the 2025 election. This funding is a matter for the state budget process, unless the Department of State Growth can support this commitment through existing budget programs.

The letter of 6 November 2025 from the Premier to Flinders Island Council affirmed this was the case, however I can appreciate it may have caused confusion as it failed to specifically reference the \$320,000.

The Government remains committed to this support, and the Department of State Growth is working to identify suitable funding from within existing programs to meet this commitment in 2025-26.

I recently met with the Mayor and General Manager of the Flinders Island Council on a range of matters including airport funding, and trust I was able to provide clarity on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kerry Vincent', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport