

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

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Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

Member for Franklin

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Dear Dr Woodruff

Thank you for your question on behalf of your constituent Mary Kate regarding the effects of salmon farming in her area.

The salmon industry is a significant contributor to Tasmania's economy, supporting jobs and prosperity across many regional communities, which is why it is essential that we maintain a regulatory environment that enables sustainable development while protecting our marine and freshwater ecosystems.

To ensure we are striking the right balance, the Government is commissioning an independent salmon study that will benchmark Tasmania's regulatory framework against world's best practice. This reinforces our commitment to the industry's long-term sustainability underpinned by robust environmental standards.

The Terms of Reference - developed in consultation with the crossbench, the Legislative Council, the opposition and industry - require the study lead to develop a stakeholder engagement strategy and publish all evidence, data and findings. The study will proceed in two phases: first, collating and clearly presenting all available evidence, and second, comparing Tasmania's system with global counterparts to ensure we are protecting our environment while providing investment certainty for regional communities. The Government remains committed to meaningful engagement with all Tasmanians through this process.

Importantly, I want to reassure the community that their concerns are recognised, but that decisions must rely on science, monitoring outcomes and statutory thresholds. I note that a comprehensive environmental monitoring program, underpinned by local science across the region, has been in place for over 25 years. The environmental regulation of the salmon industry is within the purview of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), and Ministers and the government cannot, and will not, influence their decisions.

Yours sincerely

Hon Gavin Pearce MP

**Minister for Primary Industries and Water**