

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



Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Braddon
Email: HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

19 AUG 2026

Dear Mr Garland

In Parliament on 12 August 2026, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituent:

I acknowledge Rosemary from Sisters Beach and other Braddon constituents who have been asking when the Government's long-awaited cat management plan will finally be released. At present, the nearest approved cat management facility for much of north west and western Tasmania is Just Cats at Mowbray. Minister, will the Government support a fit for purpose cat management facility in Burnie so residents of Circular Head, Waratah, Wynyard, the west coast and central coast can lawfully surrender feral and stray cats, rather than risk them being dumped in the bush or unlawfully disposed of? If not, will you fund an immediate interim solution, including through the Just Cats adoption centre at Stowport?

Firstly, thank you for the question on behalf of your constituent. The Tasmanian Government is committed to reducing the impact of roaming, stray and feral cats on our environment and agricultural industry through responsible cat ownership, effective regulation and management.

On 6 March 2026, the Government released the *Cat Management in Tasmania Discussion Paper* to seek community feedback and help shape Tasmania's next Cat Management Plan. The consultation period closed on 15 May 2026, with more than 500 submissions received from community members, local government, industry groups and other stakeholders. Those submissions are now being considered as part of the development of the new five-year plan, which will provide an updated framework for cat management across Tasmania. Individual submissions and a summary report will be published on the NRE Tas website in due course.

I am aware of the pressure that exists in facilities in the north-west, and the challenges this can create for communities seeking lawful avenues to surrender stray and feral cats.

That is why the Government committed \$500,000 at the 2024 election for a new cat management facility in north-west Tasmania. Just Cats Tasmania was the successful applicant and has been awarded \$424,600 to establish a new cat management facility in Burnie.

This investment directly addresses the need for improved access to cat management services for residents across Burnie, Circular Head, Waratah-Wynyard, the West Coast, Central Coast and surrounding communities. I am advised this facility is anticipated to be open later this year.

We will continue to work with facilities, local government and community stakeholders to improve outcomes for both animal welfare and environmental protection.

Thank you again for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Pearce', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water