

Minister for Environment
Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Arts and Heritage



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Ms Anita Dow MP
Labor Member for Braddon
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
Email: Laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Dow

Thank you for raising your question in Parliament on 5 March 2026 on behalf of your constituent Billie regarding the issues of gorse in and around Zeehan.

I appreciate you had also written directly to the Minister for Parks in relation to this matter and I apologise for the delay in providing the formal response to you. As indicated in my correspondence from 9 March 2026, I understand gorse is a legacy problem for many land managers on the West Coast and furthermore acknowledge Billie's concerns around gorse being a fire threat to property and the community.

As you are aware, Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania engages and participates with a range of stakeholders including the West Coast Council. The most recent being the West Coast weed action group reinitiated by Parks and Wildlife Service.

Weeds are every land manager or owner's responsibility, and any initiative needs to be supported by all land managers including Sustainable Timber Tasmania, the Department of State Growth, TasNetworks, TasWater, mining companies and private landowners.

NRE is willing to support the West Coast Council as part of a coordinated effort to address the gorse problem in the area. A weed management plan is being developed which will provide an opportunity for further collaboration between land managers on the West Coast. Biosecurity Tasmania is also willing to be part of a collaborative and coordinated approach.

If Billie would like to raise the issue directly, I encourage her to contact Karen Stewart, who is the Invasive Species Policy and Planning Officer
Karen.Stewart@nre.tas.gov.au

OFFICIAL

Once again thank you for your interest and advocacy on this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Ogilvie', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Environment
acting for and on behalf of the
Minister for Parks