

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources  
Minister for Skills and Jobs  
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy



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Helen Burnet MP  
Chair  
House of Assembly  
Estimates Committee A

By email: [ben.foxe@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:ben.foxe@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Chair

## **APPROPRIATION BILLS 2026-27**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 June 2026 requesting additional information following examination of my portfolio by the House of Assembly Budget Estimates Committee 'A'. Please find the requested information below for noting.

### **Police, Fire and Emergency Management**

**1. Police Commissioner to table letter/advice provided to NRE re: recreational shooting and deer hunting on public land.**

Please refer to letters provided at Attachments 1 and 2.

**2. What accountability measures has the Minister put in place to investigate how a fully endorsed reform program – with dedicated funding and staffing – was allowed to collapse after key personnel departures were not replaced?**

The State Fire Commission commissioned an independent review of Building Safety services delivered by the Tasmania Fire Service.

The review report identified a number of recommendations, all of which were accepted by the State Fire Commission.

A dedicated project team was established for a 12-month period to initiate implementation of these recommendations.

This included progressing foundational work toward the procurement of a business management system.

Implementation of the recommendations is now being progressed through business-as-usual activities, with the tender process for the business management system closing last week.

### 3. With regard to the Respect 360 Culture review within TFS/SES:

#### a) What has been achieved since the review was announced?

The Respect 360 Roadmap Consultation Draft was released on 31 October 2025. The consultation period remained open until 22 December 2025 and sought feedback on the suggested actions that could be undertaken to address the recommendations in the Review report.

The consultation drew responses from members, volunteers and staff across the emergency services. Feedback focused on stronger leadership accountability and visibility, better inclusion and support for volunteers, particularly those from diverse backgrounds or with disabilities, fair access to training, and improvements to HR, recruitment and grievance processes.

In response, an Implementation Lead Working Group was established. The Working Group has identified the Year One Focus as a small and disciplined set of priorities centred on leadership and key processes:

- Establish a clear and shared leadership standard across TFS and SES.
- Align leadership development and capability programs to that standard.
- Strengthen leadership accountability at all levels, including brigade leadership.
- Strengthen performance and conduct management processes.

These priorities respond directly to the consultation feedback, which placed leadership accountability and process integrity at the centre of respondents' concerns.

#### b) How is it being measured? What metrics used?

Success in year one will be measured by improved consistency in the day-to-day workplace experiences of TFS and SES staff and volunteers.

#### c) How is it being resourced?

Current State Fire Commission resourcing for this project includes a Band 8 Implementation Lead and a Band 7 Change Manager. The Commission will continue to monitor resource requirements and make adjustments as needed to support successful project delivery.

### 4. Please confirm percentage of police in Southern Command on compensation or permanent impairment leave. Has this left 20% fewer police in Southern Command than advertised? If not, what percentage? What are the costs to police command of all forms of rentals for officers sent to replace them?

This question has multiple aspects, which will require manual interrogation of corporate records to determine whether this information is available. More time is required to complete this process and a response will be provided to the Committee as soon as practicable.

## Skills and Jobs

### 1. What is the completion rate of cert 3 in commercial cookery for 2025 and how does this compare nationally? (Mr Di Falco)

TasTAFE / Cert 3 in commercial cookery in 2025 had 283 enrolments and 77 completions.

Noting that we have people that enrolled in the second half of 2025 still undertaking their training and yet to complete.

The most recent four year completion rate across government-funded courses in the Tourism, Travel and Hospitality training package (including the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery) in Tasmania was 48%. This compares to a national completion rate of 43.8%. It is not possible to provide this estimate on a qualification specific level.

Source AVETMISS

### 2. Can you provide the enrolment numbers for the past 3 years in the Diploma of Nursing and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care. If the numbers are associated with Cert III numbers, please individually breakdown the numbers for both Cert III and the Diplomas. (Mr Mitchell)

Course ID	Course Description	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q4
CHC30121	Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care	301	380	358
CHC30113*	Certificate III In Early Childhood Education And Care	62	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>363</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>358</b>

\* course superseded by CHC30121

Course ID	Course Description	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q4
CHC50121	Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care	90	95	96
CHC50113 *	Diploma Of Early Childhood Education And Care	35	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>125</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>

\* course superseded by CHC50121

Course ID	Course Description	2023Q4	2024Q4	2025Q4
HLT54115*	Diploma Of Nursing	337	0	0
HLT54121	Diploma of Nursing	367	473	452
<b>Total</b>		<b>704</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>452</b>

\* course superseded by HLT54121

**3. Please itemise the net gain/(loss) of the non-financial assets at Devonport campus and the childcare centre in Launceston, as per 18:1 “Statement of Comprehensive Income”, p 340, Budget Paper No 2. (Mr Mitchell)**

The net loss on disposal for the Launceston Child Care Centre is (\$707,946) and there is a projected net gain on the disposal of the vacant land at the Devonport Campus of \$48,945, the combination of both results in the net loss on disposal of \$659,000.

**Business, Industry and Resources**

**1. Is the Department or STT proposing to remove any force majeure or similar clauses from the wood supply contracts being negotiated? (Dr Woodruff)**

No. Force majeure provisions are incorporated into all contracts and operate to manage risk or liability where an extraordinary and unforeseen event occurs.

**2. Has the Minister approved the transfer of the Nelson Bay River Mine mine lease to Newcam Metals? (Ms Badger)**

As noted by the Director of Mines in Committee A, no application for a transfer has been received by Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) for Mining Lease 3M/2011, Nelson Bay River, from Catalina Resources Limited (Catalina) to Newcam.

As further noted in Committee A by the Director of Mines, Catalina remains the owner of, and is responsible for, the Mining Lease at Nelson Bay River (see broadcast at time slot 1:55-1:57)

**3. What is the current estimated cost of rehabilitating the site? (Ms Badger)**

The current Security Deposit (bond) held by MRT for the purposes of rehabilitation of Mining Lease 3M/2011, Nelson Bay River, is \$1.293 million. This reflects the estimated cost of site clean-up should Catalina default on their legal obligations to undertake the rehabilitation

**4. Why is there a discrepancy between the revised \$1.2M revised RSD and the \$827K Catalina claims is to be released? Has Catalina already had the increased \$466k released or forgiven? (Ms Badger)**

The Catalina ASX release refers to the original Security Deposit amount of \$827,000 held prior to the review of the Security Deposit in March 2025, which required an

increase in the Security Deposit of \$466,000, bringing the total Security Deposit to the current held \$1.293 million. No Security Deposit amount has been returned to Catalina.

**5. Could you please confirm if Mr Limkin will be appointed as Head of Agency of the new arts/creative industries department? (Ms Burnet)**

Recruitment of Heads of Agencies are a matter for the Premier.

**6. The annual report of the Tasmanian Reserve Estate Areas, as at 30 June 2025, records the PTPZ informal reserve land reducing by 2200ha from the preceding year. What is the reason for this reduction? How have those hectares been reclassified? (Dr Woodruff)**

The reported reduction of 2,200 hectares does not represent any real change in reservation status. It reflects differences between NRE Tas and Sustainable Timber Tasmania mapping systems. Updated, more accurate spatial data used by NRE Tas has altered boundary alignment, leading to revised area calculations. The change is purely a mapping artefact, not a loss, reclassification, or on-ground change in informal reserve extent on PTPZ land

**7. Could the Minister please provide the amount of Tasmanian taxpayer money towards various green hydrogen projects to date? (Ms Burnet)**

In the 2023-24 State Budget, funding of \$11.9 million was provided to facilitate the development of the Tasmanian Green Hydrogen Hub. As at 10 June 2026, \$7,379,918.52 of this funding has been expended and includes funding provided to TasNetworks and Tasmanian Irrigation to progress the process for the George Town substation upgrade and the business case for Tamar Water Scheme.

As part of the *Metro Tasmania Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Trial*, the Tasmanian Government has committed \$11.55 million to Metro Tasmania to deliver a trial of three hydrogen electric buses. As at the date of this letter, \$1,006,760 of this funding remains to be paid, with the trial expected to conclude in May 2027.

The *Green Hydrogen Price Reduction Scheme (GHPRS)* announced on 25 October 2023 allocated \$8 million to stimulate both Tasmanian green hydrogen supply and domestic demand. Countrywide Hydrogen was announced as the successful GHPRS applicant on 13 May 2024. As production of hydrogen is yet to commence, no funds have been paid at this time.

The Tasmanian Government has also provided support of \$650,000 to Navigators Group to future proof its *new Maria Island ferry* for operation on green methanol, a hydrogen derivative. This funding has been fully expended.

**8. RTI documents show the Government started a new process related to the FPPF area within the Resources portfolio. What is the nature of these plans? Is it a policy based around protection of key forests or further expansion of native forest logging? (Dr Woodruff)**

In September 2025, the Tasmanian Government took a decision to formalise its policy position, announced in August 2025, to no longer proceed with unlocking the wood bank and making available up to 40,000 hectares of FPPF for native forest harvesting.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ellis'.

Felix Ellis MP

**Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management**  
**Minister for Business, Industry and Resources**  
**Minister for Skills and Jobs**

12/6/2026

# Tasmania Police

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Our reference: A26/094928

13 April 2026

Mr Jason Jacobi  
Secretary  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment  
Via email: [Secretary@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:Secretary@nre.tas.gov.au)

Dear Jason

## **Public Consultation – Deer Management Policy Review 2025**

I am writing in relation to your correspondence of 28 February 2026, regarding the Deer Management Policy Review 2025.

I acknowledge that the increasing deer population and expanded distribution range are causing a range of economic and ecological issues and the responsibility for effective deer management falls to NRE Tas and the Minister responsible for administering the Act.

I appreciate your assurance that any changes made to the deer management policy will continue in a consultative manner, and that Tasmania Police will be kept informed of proposals or amendments that may affect the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM) operations or broader community safety.

When on private land, providing recreational hunters with the same operational conditions as those that are currently permitted under culling protection permits does not, in our view, significantly impact public safety. However, when those private properties are peri-urban there is a risk of increased call outs for Tasmania Police. This particular issue may be able to be mitigated by appropriate construction of permit conditions. For example, conditions might require notification to neighbouring properties and to Tasmania Police prior to recreational shooting commencing.

Prior awareness of lawful firearms activity may be an effective measure for public reassurance and would provide for an informed assessment by Tasmania Police on

whether a call-out response is required.

Likewise, when considering hunting in reserves, consideration of appropriate permit conditions may mitigate concerns about the risks of shooting from vehicles. Due to the constraints in s.111(1) of the *Firearms Act 1996*, DPFEM is unable to support possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle in a public place, this includes public streets (including rural roads) where the activities present an unmanaged risk to community safety.

We welcome continuing consultation as the plan is further developed, the contact person for further discussions at officer level is Inspector Jim Semmens of DPFEM's Legislation Development and Review Services unit. Inspector Semmens can be contacted via email at [James.Semmens@police.tas.gov.au](mailto:James.Semmens@police.tas.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

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**Donna Adams PSM APM**  
COMMISSIONER

# Tasmania Police

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Our reference: A25/410493

19 December 2025

Hon Gavin Pearce MP  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Via email: [minister.pearce@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:minister.pearce@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Dear Minister

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION – DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW 2025**

Thank you for your correspondence on 18 November 2025 seeking comment on the Deer Management Policy Review 2025. As the agency with responsibility for administering and enforcing the *Firearms Act 1996*, the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management has a particular interest in matters that may impact community safety.

I note that the proposed 'Measure 5' would permit a recreational hunter to take deer at night, with the assistance of a detection device (artificial light or thermal), and from a conveyance.

Measure 5 states: *In all three zones consider legalising recreational hunter take of deer at night, with the assistance of a detection device (artificial light or thermal), and from a conveyance, under a hunting licence, provided it would not unduly increase the risk of antisocial behaviour or policing concerns.*

Measure 5 may be in direct conflict with s. 111(1) of the *Firearms Act 1996* (possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle in a public place) and s.18 of the *Firearms Regulations 2016* (Safety requirements for conveying other firearms). Increased recreational hunting access to public reserves will require careful consideration on how a relaxation of legislation will not impact on community safety.

The Discussion paper does not indicate whether Measure 5 would include access to aerial shooting or if the conveyance mentioned is contained only to motor vehicles.

Allowing nighttime hunting on public land (Crown Reserves) and in the peri urban environment comes with increased community safety risk as there is a likelihood of other members of the public utilising or being adjacent to that land.

I welcome further consultation on this policy and should you have any questions regarding this please contact Elaina Deayton, Director Strategy and Support, at

[elaina.deayton@dpfem.tas.gov.au](mailto:elaina.deayton@dpfem.tas.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DA' followed by a flourish.

**Donna Adams PSM APM**  
COMMISSIONER