

Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House

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Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Select Committee Estimates A
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APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026

Dear Ms Forrest

Please find attached the following responses to questions raised in the examination of the Environment portfolio.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Division 3 – Environment Protection Authority

1.1 Environmental Regulation

1. Please detail the treatment methods for heavily contaminated materials on the Macquarie Point site that pose a human health risk. How will the soil be excavated, treated and stored on site? For material that needs to be removed from site, what is the process for this and how will the risk to public health be mitigated?

Answer:

The Macquarie Point land that is subject to the State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025 has been undergoing remediation for over a decade under the supervision of a Contaminated Land Auditor in accordance with the Macquarie Point Development Corporation Act 2012. During the remediation process the soils on the site are assessed for contamination, classified by risk and a contamination specific remediation strategy employed to reduce or eliminate the human health and environmental risks associated with a given volume of soil. The treated soil then undergoes validation to endure the remediation was successful. Depending on the requirements of the development, the remediated soil may then be re-used on site or disposed of to an appropriately licensed facility.

Remediation works on the site occur under a Contaminated Land Auditor endorsed Site Environmental Management Plan (SEMP). The SEMP details the nature and extent of contamination on the site, the associated human health risks, and appropriate risk controls for each part of the remediation process (Excavation, Storage, Treatment, Reuse/Removal). The measures described below are summarised from the current Auditor approved SEMP for the site.

Remediation Process

Excavation:

Excavated soils must be inspected during excavation, assessed for contamination and classified using laboratory testing results.

Storage:

Stockpiled soils must be managed to prevent loss via dust or stormwater runoff. This may be achieved through measures such as stockpiling on hardstand or plastic sheeting, wetting down to prevent dust generation, covering, sediment control or encapsulation within skip bins or drums.

Treatment:

Some contaminated soils may be suitable for treatment on-site with a view to reuse these on site, however the suitability of treatment and reuse on site is dependent upon a number of factors, including the nature of the contamination, concentrations of contaminants, volumes of soil to be treated, the types of soil to be remediated, and the availability of suitably-effective treatment methodologies.

Whether or not these treatments are undertaken on site, or soils are taken off site for treatment and/or disposal, is dependent on the factors associated with the contaminated soils themselves as described above, and also whether there are adequate locations on site for treatment to be undertaken. Factors that must be considered for suitable treatment locations include site topography, local geology and hydrogeology, meteorology, area of land available for treatment, time and cost factors, and distances to nearby sensitive receptors (including residential areas). At all times, these activities, whether undertaken on site or off site, must be compliant with the general environmental duty requirements of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and associated requirements such as the Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality) 2004, and it may be necessary to implement controls on dust, odours, volatile emissions, leachate and stormwater to ensure compliance.

Removal:

Prior to removal from site, materials are first classified by comparing laboratory test results against the EPA's guideline Information Bulletin 105: Classification and Management of Contaminated Soil for Disposal. Once classified, an appropriate disposal pathway is identified. Transport and disposal of contaminated soil in Tasmania is regulated by EPA

under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020*.

Division 8 – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

OUTPUT GROUP 7 – ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Environmental Management

1. Please provide a breakdown of the line item.

Answer:

The below table provides the 2026-27 financial year breakdown of the Output 7.1 environmental management line item.

Revenue from Appropriation (table 8.2, p166)	2026-27 \$'000
Operational Funding	1,337
Container Refund Scheme	26
Circular Economy	3,023
Marine Environment Tasmania Act	500
	4,886

2. Does NRE monitor PCBs within effluent that is dispersed into the environment, or is this dispersal and policy relating to dispersal of effluent into the environment the responsibility of the EPA only?

Answer:

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) does not monitor Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) within effluent that is dispersed into the environment. The role of NRE Tas in regard to the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) is to support the Minister for Environment and Climate Change in policy, regulation and standards development and to undertake planning and provision of conservation advice.

The Environment Protection Authority Tasmania (EPA) is Tasmania's principal regulator of potentially polluting activities. Its role is to ensure that activities do not have an unacceptable impact on the environment or the community and to ensure that measures are taken to protect, restore and enhance the quality of the environment.

The EPA has advised that:

- In relation to effluent, it regulates TasWater's 77 larger Level 2 wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), while Tasmanian councils regulate TasWater's 33 smaller WWTPs.

- TasWater does not discharge effluent from its treatment plants directly to land. Effluent is either sent for reuse or to disposal via an outfall. On rare occasions, liquid sludge from rural treatment lagoons is applied directly to farmland following testing. Treatment lagoons serving rural townships generally are not a known source of contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) or PCBs.
- Routine PCB testing of effluent is not required. Biosolids must be tested for expected contaminants in accordance with Information Bulletin 105.
- It is satisfied that PCBs in effluent do not require on going monitoring in Tasmania.

7.4 Threatened Species

1. How much funding is allocated in this financial year to orange bellied parrot monitoring and tracing?

Answer:

In the 2025-26 financial year the Orange bellied parrot (OBP) Program had a budget of \$1,934,095. This included the budget of staff and operational expenses of \$1,418,095, plus the residual funds for the OBP Tracking Project and OBP captive facility upgrades at Five Mile Beach of \$516,000.

The OBP Program was also successful in obtaining two Australian Government funded grants: one to identify and mitigate threats to the OBP in the wild; and another to extend biosecurity provisions at the Five Mile Beach facility totalling \$298,000.

Additional in-kind support is provided to the OBP Program to support the captive and field-based elements of the program from across NRE Tas and from recovery team partners.

Output Group 7 – Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania

7.2 Climate Change

1. Please provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure claimed by the Minister during Estimates on climate mitigation and adaptation.

Answer:

The document provided at Attachment 1 ('Summary of funding for existing climate change commitments across government in Tasmania's climate change action plan') was tabled during the Estimates Committee hearing on 2 June 2026. It includes the detailed breakdown of expenditure on climate change mitigation and adaptation across the Tasmanian Government referred to in the question. This list was compiled when the action plan was released in 2023. It does not reflect newly funded commitments in Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 or in the six sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans released in 2024.

2. Why hasn't the government committed to implementing any recommendations of the [2024-25 Independent review of the] *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*? Please provide the full response to this that was referred to during the hearing.

Answer:

The 2024-25 Independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) (the Review), completed by independent consultants Ricardo and Era Advisory, found that “the Act provides a strong foundation for climate action”, while opportunities for improvement were also identified. The Review made seven recommendations.

This government’s priority is to continue delivering strong climate change outcomes for Tasmania. We are committed to embedding the independent review’s findings and recommendations in our work.

The government has already identified a range of opportunities and actions in response to the Review, including the following commitments made on 25 March 2026:

- Strengthening climate governance by reviewing and refreshing the Climate Change Reference Group, updating its Terms of Reference, and increasing transparency through more public reporting of meetings.
- Maintaining the existing four-year independent review cycle for the Act to ensure regular oversight and accountability.
- Enhancing consideration of climate adaptation and resilience through current policies and programs, and elevating adaptation priorities in the next five-year climate action plan and sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans.
- Improving sectoral emissions oversight by continuing to implement sector-based actions and reporting and considering updated technical and economic analysis to identify new emissions reduction opportunities.
- Embedding climate considerations in major government decisions by progressing the Government Climate Capability Framework, the government operations sector plan, and actions addressing the findings of the first statewide climate change risk assessment.
- Improving consultation processes and ensuring broader, more inclusive, ongoing participation across stakeholder groups.
- Improving climate communications and transparency through an updated communications and engagement strategy and developing a standalone website for climate information.

The government is continuing to deliver ongoing and longer-term actions in the climate change action plan, along with those in the six sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans, and the government’s response to the first statewide climate change risk

assessment, released in late 2024. In line with the Act, the government will also continue reporting on its climate change actions, the state's greenhouse gas emissions, and progress on our legislated net zero target.

This government is committed to ongoing engagement with our stakeholders to ensure Tasmania's climate change response remains practical, evidence based and aligned with our legislated objectives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Abetz', written in a cursive style.

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer