

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Lyons

01 JUL 2026

Email: HAProcedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Garland

In Parliament on 6 November 2025, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents:

This question is from Matthew of Shakespeare Hills Eggs. After applying for accreditation in 2021, my family repeatedly sought assistance from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) over the next 34 months, including 13 follow-up emails without receiving any substantive response. Biosecurity Tasmania operations then raided my property and imposed a prohibition order and commenced a major investigation. Yet once the department finally engaged, accreditation was achieved within seven weeks. Given the importance of procedural fairness and natural justice, can the minister explain how one part of NRE can fail to engage with my family business for almost three years, while another part pursues enforcement action over the very problem that departmental inaction may have helped create?

Firstly, thank you for the question of behalf of your constituents. I am responding in my capacity as Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

The Government is committed to both safeguarding producers' livelihoods and ensuring Tasmania's reputation for world-class produce is protected. To this end, food safety is paramount, both for protecting consumers and maintaining confidence in our food systems, while reinforcing Tasmania's standing as a producer of clean, safe and high-quality food.

The commercial production of eggs for human consumption is regulated under the *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011* and the *Primary Produce Safety (Egg) Regulations 2014*. Businesses undertaking commercial egg production of 20 or more dozen eggs per week are required to hold accreditation and operate under an approved food safety program.

Applications for accreditation must be submitted in the prescribed form and include the information necessary to demonstrate that the proposed operation can meet food safety requirements. This includes a food safety program pertaining to the business, building approval in relation to the proposed facility (if required by local council) and environmental approvals issued by local council or Environment Protection Authority regarding any solid or liquid waste generated by the activity.

I am advised that Biosecurity Tasmania has made guidance material available, including food safety program templates, to assist businesses across the various sectors with the accreditation application. If an application is incomplete, a full assessment cannot be undertaken, and a recommendation cannot be made to the Chief Inspector regarding accreditation. Operating a

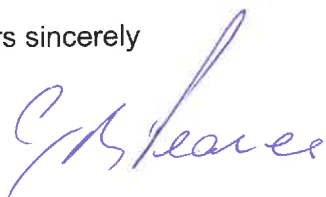
commercial egg production business without the required accreditation is an offence under the legislation.

Biosecurity Tasmania authorised officers have a responsibility to investigate suspected non-compliance and, where necessary, utilise the compliance and enforcement powers available under the Act. I am advised that all investigations are undertaken to ascertain the facts of a matter, with procedural fairness at the forefront of the process and in accordance with the Department's Compliance and Enforcement Policy available at [NRE Tas Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedures](#) | [Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#).

As I am unable to comment on the specifics of individual regulatory matters, it would not be appropriate for me to speculate on the circumstances referred to. However, any concerns regarding the actions of departmental officers or regulatory processes can be raised through the Department's complaints process [Making a Complaint to NRE Tas - For External Persons](#) | [Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#), or with the Tasmanian Ombudsman or Integrity Commission.

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', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water