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Leader of the House

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07 APR 2025

Mr Josh Willie MP
Member for Clark
Email: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Willie

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 6 March 2025 in Parliament, regarding the Government's policy on hydraulic fracturing.

The Tasmanian Government has extended the current moratorium on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for hydrocarbon resource extraction until at least March 2030. This decision, announced in January 2025, follows the expiry of the previous moratorium set in 2020 and builds upon the original decision made in 2015 in response to community and industry concerns.

The 2015 review into fracking highlighted concerns from our farmers and the community more broadly. These concerns remain relevant today and have informed my decision to extend the moratorium.

By doing so, the Government is providing clarity and certainty for farmers, landowners, and regional communities, while maintaining Tasmania's strong reputation as a leader in clean and sustainable practices.

Legislating a permanent ban on fracking would remove flexibility to respond to potential future changes in scientific understanding, community expectations, or national energy policy settings. Retaining the moratorium approach allows the Government to monitor developments and consult meaningfully with stakeholders before any future decisions are made.

Importantly, the policy will be reviewed before the moratorium expires in 2030. This review will consider national and international policy developments, scientific and environmental research, community attitudes, and broader energy needs.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources