

Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal
Leader of the House

Level 10, Executive Building, 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
Phone: 03 6165 9405 | Email: minister.abetz@dpac.tas.gov.au



Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Committee A
By Email: jenny.mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026

Dear Ms Forrest

Please find attached the following responses to questions raised in the examination of the Arts and Heritage portfolio.

I trust this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Division 8 – Department of Natural Resources and Environment

Output Group 6 – Heritage

Output 6.1 – Historic Heritage

Question 6.1.1:

Please provide a copy of the correspondence sent to Mr Hackett regarding the timelines and scope of the information they require to complete a heritage assessment.

Answer:

Copies of both the letters are attached.

Division 11 – Department of State Growth

NO LINE ITEM

1. Minister, you confirmed your Chief-of-Staff has seen the email related to the request not to use or wear strong fragrances when appearing at Estimates hearings. Please advise who your Chief-of-Staff shared that email with.

Answer:

My Chief of Staff was copied in on a response to the Committee Secretary's correspondence and did not share it with media. Reference is made to the Premier's letter to the Committee Chair of 11 June 2026.

Output Group 5 – Cultural and Tourism Development

Output - 5.2 Arts Industry Development

Question 5.2.1

- The Arts Industry Development budget line for 2026-27 is \$9 million. Can the Minister provide a complete breakdown of this figure, including:
 - the amount allocated to competitive grants;
 - the amount allocated to four-year funded organisations;
 - the amount allocated to the Premier's Arts Prize;
 - the amount allocated to other initiatives including the Tasmanian Strategic Touring Fund;
 - the quantum of the grant to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

Answer:

- **Amount allocated to competitive grants:**
Arts and Cultural Heritage Investment will remain at \$4,465,000 in 2026-27, then rise by \$1 million in 2027-28, \$1.5 million in 2028-29 and \$2.5 million in 2029-30. This line includes multi-year support and all competitive Arts Tasmania grants except for Youth Arts Grants (total \$360,000).
- **Amount allocated to four-year funded organisations:**
In 2026-27, \$2,175,072 will be provided to multi-year arts organisations.

- **Amount allocated to the Premier's Arts Prize:**

The Tasmanian Literary Awards will continue to receive \$130,000 biennially (2026-27 and 2028-29).

- **Amount allocated to other initiatives including the Tasmanian Strategic Touring Fund:**

The Tasmanian Strategic Touring Fund has received \$525,000 since 2022, and the Department will consider any future funding request. Other arts initiatives are developed in response to sector issues as they arise.

- **Quantum of the grant to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery:**

QVMAG will continue to receive funding, however the exact amount is not known due to its indexation against Hobart CPI as required by the Head Deed of 1999.

Output - 5.3 Screen Industry Development

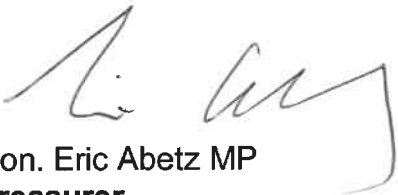
Question 5.3.1:

Please provide a copy of the cultural review into Screen Tasmania.

Answer:

The Screen Tasmania Cultural Review is a confidential, departmental workforce matter and is for departmental purposes only.

Yours Sincerely



Hon. Eric Abetz MP
Treasurer

Attachments

1. Letter dated 2 March 2026 (with attachment) from the General Manager, Heritage to Daniel Hackett
2. Letter dated 7 May 2026 from the General Manager, Heritage to Daniel Hackett

Mr Daniel Hackett
By email: info@riverfly.com.au

Dear Mr Hackett

Request for condition report – Halls Hut THR ID#10805

I am writing in relation to your email of 5 March 2026 to the Tasmanian Heritage Council acknowledging the letter I sent on its behalf dated 2 March 2026.

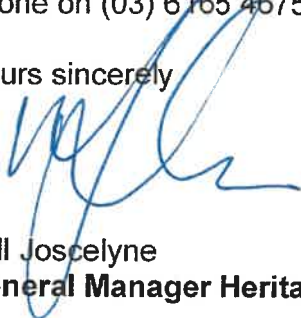
I note in your acknowledgement you advised that you would be visiting the site prior to the end of April 2026. I also note you gave an undertaking in December 2024 and again in March 2025 to Heritage Tasmania that you would inspect and assess the condition of the Hut. You have had the required certification of Exemption #5060, authorising the necessary condition assessment activity to inform your report, since September 2022.

Given the elapsed time since your last undertaking on 31 March 2025, and the additional time given during summer and autumn 2026, I request you provide the condition report by 15 June 2026.

If you do not provide the condition report as requested, the Heritage Council will consider all options available to it under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* to ensure the historic cultural heritage significance of the place is maintained.

If you require further information regarding the required heritage assessment and works, please contact Melissa Ford, Director Heritage Tasmania. Ms Ford can be contacted by phone on (03) 6165 4675 or by email at melissa.ford@heritage.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Will Joscelyne
General Manager Heritage

7 May 2026

2 March 2026

Mr Daniel Hackett
By email: info@riverfly.com.au

Dear Mr Hackett

Request for condition report – Halls Hut THR ID#10805

The Tasmanian Heritage Council has received correspondence raising concerns that the condition of Halls Hut, listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, has deteriorated since it was listed. Under section 60 of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* (the Act), the Heritage Council may serve a notice on the owner of a registered place (including lessee who has an interest in property) who by any intentional act or omission is likely to affect the historic cultural heritage significance of the place.

Accordingly, it is requested that you undertake a site inspection and provide a condition report within 30 days of the date of this letter. Under the Certificate of Exemption issued by the Heritage Council on 1 September 2022, you are authorised to undertake a preliminary site investigation only, with the findings to be discussed with Heritage Tasmania and Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) to inform future conservation management actions.

In addition to the approved works, you have also enquired about supporting photographic records. In April 2025, Heritage Tasmania requested that you take a photo recording of the entire hut condition at high resolution, with images to include:

- External - all building sides, elevations, corner aspects and details of concern or interest e.g. base plate/log decay, flashings and roof drainage.
- Internal – wide angles of all internal walls, corners and details including floor, tar-paper and roof lining.
- Photos of sub-floor structure on removal of floorboards.
- Wider external images showing current vegetation and surrounds.

Please reply within seven days of the date acknowledging your receipt of this request. Heritage Tasmania is aware of previous concerns regarding the mode of access to the site you may require. In this regard, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania understands helicopter access would be authorised by PWS for the purpose of the required activities. However, given the preliminary nature of the investigation and minor nature of works, it is not considered helicopter access is the only practical way of accessing the site and should not be relied upon as a reason for delaying undertaking the requested investigation and works.

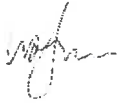
If you wish to access the site by air, please contact Tory Ross, Director Tourism, Experience and Visitor Services, PWS on 0410508758 or by email Tory.Ross@parks.tas.gov.au.

Protecting Tasmania's Historic Environment

GPO Box 618, Hobart, TAS 7001 Australia
Ph 6165 3700 | 1300 850 332 (Tasmanian calls only)
Email enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au | Web www.heritage.tas.gov.au

If you require further information regarding the required heritage assessment and works, please contact Melissa Ford, Director Heritage Tasmania on (03) 6165 4675 or by email melissa.ford@heritage.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Will Joscelyne
General Manager, Heritage

Encl Certificate of Exemption #5060 dated 1 September 2022

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PLANNING REF: N/A
EXEMPTION NO: #5060
REGISTERED PLACE NO: #10805
FILE NO: 15-21-58 THC
APPLICANT: Daniel Hackett
DATE: 1 September 2022

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

(*Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*)

The Place: Halls Hut, Halls Island, Walls of Jerusalem National Park

Thank you for your application for a Certificate of Exemption for works to the above place. Your application has been approved by the Heritage Council under section 42(3)(a) of the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* for the following works:

Works: Preliminary site investigation:

- (i) Remove existing timber flooring to identify the hut's sub-floor structure to inform future renewal. Boards to be numbered and returned to original positions.
- (ii) Remove a small nom. 150 x 150mm sample of tar-paper sarking for analysis to inform future replacement.
- (iii) Investigate adjacent vegetation, including an established Yellow Gum for threat to the adjacent hut building, and suitability for building repairs, and documentation of shrubbery encroaching on the hut and associated herb garden.

The findings of the preliminary site investigation to be discussed with Heritage Tasmania and Parks and Wildlife Service to inform future conservation management actions.

Documents: Exemption Certificate Application received 26/08/2022 from Daniel Hackett.

Comments: The proposed works are generally consistent with that which Section 3.4 of the Tasmanian Heritage Council's *Works Guidelines* describes as being eligible for a Certificate of Exemption.

A copy of this certificate will be forwarded to the local planning authority for their information. Please note, this Certificate of Exemption is an approval under the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* only. This certificate is not an approval under any other Act. Further approvals such as planning, building or plumbing may be required. For information regarding these or any other approval, contact your local Council.

Information on the types of work that may be eligible for a Certificate of Exemption is available in the Tasmanian Heritage Council's *Works Guidelines for Historic Heritage Places* (Nov. 2015). The Works Guidelines can be downloaded from www.heritage.tas.gov.au

Please contact the undersigned on 1300 850 332 if you require further information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Bonner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chris Bonner

Regional Heritage Advisor – Heritage Tasmania

Under delegation of the Tasmanian Heritage Council