



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

10 July 2024

Mr Simon Wood MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health and Wellbeing
Government Whip
Liberal Member for Bass
Email: simon.wood@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Wood

Thank you for your constituent question in Parliament during the last sitting in which you asked me as Minister for Tourism and Hospitality the following question:

“As you are aware, there are many local business owners in my electorate of Bass and across Tasmania who are struggling with the winter downturn that affects tourist numbers to our state, particularly in our winter months. We know there is a need to promote regional dispersal and stimulate tourism activity in regional Tasmania. The Tasmanian Liberal Government has committed to delivering a \$50 million regional tourism loan scheme. This scheme will provide low-interest loans for businesses to invest in new projects that will stimulate their local visitor economy. I note that you have also committed to opening the scheme in the first 100 days. On behalf of my electorate, I ask, can you provide an update on the status of this initiative and when will Tasmanians be able to access the support?”

In response to your constituent question, I can advise the following.

Today, I was pleased to announce that the \$50 million Regional Tourism Development Loan Scheme has been established as part of the Tasmanian Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.

Applications are now open for loans of between \$100,000 and \$3 million to support projects that assist with the development of new or improved tourism products and experiences in regional Tasmania.

We know there is so much innovation out there in the tourism industry, but current commercial interest rates can make it challenging for ideas to become a reality. This scheme will provide an opportunity for operators to realise new projects with the incentive of a lower interest rate than what is available in the commercial lending market.

Under the terms of the program, successful projects will also have a focus on year-round regional tourism, authentic Tasmanian experiences, environmental sustainability and inclusiveness and accessibility.

As you know our Government is committed to building on Tasmania's reputation as a world-leading tourism destination and highlight Tasmania's unique experiences.

For more information on the program and to apply go to: www.business.tas.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier