

# Minister for Energy and Renewables Minister for Parks and Environment

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20 September 2024

Mr Rob Fairs  
Member for Bass  
Via Clerk of the House  
email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Fairs

Thank you for raising a question on behalf of your constituents in Parliament on 12 September 2024. We know many Tasmanians have felt the brunt of wild weather and flooding in recent weeks. With the clean up now well underway, we are also aware that there will be a significant amount of debris, including food waste that needs to be removed.

To assist households with this process the Tasmanian Government has not only waived the landfill levy for storm related waste but is covering the cost of gate fees at waste transfer stations and public landfills for green and organic waste, food waste, house and shed debris and other storm related waste. This relates specifically to the extreme weather that occurred between 30 August and 2 September 2024.

In particular reference to your constituent's query about spoiled food from extended power outages, this means food waste delivered directly to landfill and/or transfer stations will be taken free of charge.

To assist with waste removal, I can advise the following items are eligible.

- Green waste - trees that have fallen because of soil saturation and / or strong wind and vegetative debris that has been accumulated by flood water.
- Food that has spoiled because of power outage.
- Upholstery (furniture with fabric and /or padding), curtains, mattresses and carpet damaged as a result of the extreme weather event.
- Non-commercial building material (homes and sheds) damaged by flood water or strong wind.
- Litter and debris washed or blown onto properties by flood water or strong wind.

Materials that can be recycled or composted should continue to be diverted from landfill whenever possible, even when covered by this waiver.

To help ensure the waiver targets storm and flood related waste only, the waiver will not apply to the following items/materials:

- General garden waste (including items like lawn clippings) – already excluded by some Local Government Areas and green waste collected by an existing kerbside service.
- Foods purchased after the extreme weather event, or that do not require refrigeration to prevent spoiling.
- Food waste collected by an existing kerbside service.
- Tyres
- Electrical and white goods
- Furniture and fittings such as carpet and curtains not impacted by flooding/water damage (eg. Water stains)
- Commercial construction/demolition waste and clean fill.

We also note that many local government areas and councils have been providing additional support to affected households to ensure they are able to effectively remove damaged items and clean up from flooding and storm impacts.

The fee waiver from the Tasmanian Government will be in place until 30 November 2024. Residents are encouraged to inform their landfill operator on arrival at a facility that they are disposing of waste generated by the severe weather event.

Thank you again for raising this important matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC  
**Minister Parks and Environment**