

Bass Strait Pigeon Racing and Avian Influenza

Ms BUTLER question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER

My question is from a Bridgewater constituent. We acknowledge Tasmania's proud pigeon fancier racing fraternity and the long tradition of Bass Strait racing. However, racing pigeons released in Victoria and South Australia regularly fly across Bass Strait back to lofts in Tasmania. Biosecurity authorities acknowledge pigeons can become infected with avian influenza (bird flu) and may act as carriers of the virus. Given Bass Strait racing is still taking place, has the government undertaken a specific risk assessment of Bass Strait pigeon racing, and what measures are in place to prevent avian influenza being inadvertently brought into Tasmania?