



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

30 September, 2024

Hon Tania Rattray MLC
Chair
Legislative Council
Estimates Committee 'B'
By email: julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Rattray

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2024

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2024 requesting additional information following examination of my portfolio by Legislative Council Committee 'B'.

DIVISION 10 – DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Output Group 1 – Culture and Tourism

1.1 Office of the Coordinator-General

1. There has been no update to the Coordinator Generals portal for the following projects:

The Office of the Coordinator-General (OCG) is able to provide advice on the status of proposals within the Tourism Expression of Interest process.

The information regarding the status of Tourism EOI proposals on the OCG webpage is accurate, noting that – following receipt of information from the Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) on 24 September 2024 – the status of one project will be updated (as described below).

As an outcome of the 2022 Tourism EOI enhancement, and to address concerns about land banking, proponents are required to provide the independent EOI Panel with evidence of progress towards final approvals in order to remain within the process. The panel considers this information and makes recommendations to the Minister as to whether the proposal should remain within the process or be withdrawn by the Minister.

Since 2022-23, five proposals have been voluntarily withdrawn by their proponents when asked to provide evidence of progress. The Minister has withdrawn an additional three projects, noting that one of the three proposals involved two sites, and one site had secured all necessary approvals and is now operational. Therefore, statistics pertaining to the Tourism EOI process have registered two withdrawals, not three.

There are no dormant accepted concepts, but the pathway to approval for many projects within the Tourism EOI process is not always linear, which is sometimes challenging to reflect with the status of accepted concepts. It also highlights the important role the EOI process plays in ensuring proposals are appropriate and viable before being progressed. Once a project reaches operational status its progress through the EOI process is complete. Details of leases and licenses issued for successful proposals can be found at the PWS Lease and License Portal: <https://leaseslicences.nre.tas.gov.au/>.

a. Freycinet Eco-resort – the proponents listed sold the business and left the area

As stated on the Tourism EOI webpage (https://www.cg.tas.gov.au/investment_opportunities/tourism_eoi_process), this project had progressed through the process, with a licence signed and commercial operations commenced. This proposal did not involve the establishment of infrastructure on reserved or Crown land.

The PWS has advised the OCG that the business was impacted by COVID, and that the original proponent subsequently transferred the business to Coles Bay Holdings (CBH). A new license was issued to CBH's operational entity, Freycinet Enterprises Pty Ltd.

Freycinet Enterprises advised PWS in 2023 that walks were not being offered but that they intended to resume them in 2024.

b. Overland Track Experience – one letter exists saying the proponent will do some market research at some point – this one action after a full decade

As stated on the Tourism EOI webpage (https://www.cg.tas.gov.au/investment_opportunities/tourism_eoi_process), this project had progressed through the process, with a licence signed and commercial operations commenced. This proposal did not involve the establishment of infrastructure on reserved or Crown land.

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c. South Coast Tracks Walk – one letter exists suggesting an RAA is being prepared, the proponent is in deep financial problems and the RAA process is a shambles

As stated on the Tourism EOI webpage (https://www.cg.tas.gov.au/investment_opportunities/tourism_eoi_process), Wild Bush Luxury's Project has had its initial concept accepted.

The proponent has been required to provide the Tourism EOI Panel with evidence of progress. The Panel considered the information provided at its most recent meeting, and concluded that the proposal should remain within the process.

d. Maria Island Experience – one letter exists blaming the government for failure to finalise the Maria Island management plan.

As stated on the Tourism EOI webpage (https://www.cg.tas.gov.au/investment_opportunities/tourism_eoi_process), Wild Bush Luxury's Project has had its initial concept accepted.

The proponent has been required to provide the Tourism EOI Panel with evidence of progress. The Panel considered the information provided at its most recent meeting, and concluded that the proposal should remain within the process.



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e. Project Point Adventure – no trace of this online, anywhere yet your portal says its operational.

As stated on the Tourism EOI webpage (https://www.cg.tas.gov.au/investment_opportunities/tourism_eoi_process), this project had progressed through the process, with a licence signed and commercial operations commenced. This proposal did not involve the establishment of infrastructure on reserved or Crown land.

We understand that the PWS received an email notification from the proponent on 19 August 2024 of the intention to cease operating the business within the reserve estate, and to return the related license. PWS has advised that the proponent indicated great satisfaction with the EOI process, and identified a change in business direction as the reason for the withdrawal.

1.2 Industry and Business Development

2. Breakdown cost of previous two trade missions. (TR)

The previous two trade and investment missions conducted by the Tasmanian Government include the United Kingdom (UK) in September 2023 and the United States of America (USA) in April 2024. Both missions were led by the Department of State Growth. An outline of each program is available online at the [State Growth Right to Information](#) page.

UK Trade and Investment Mission

This UK Trade and Investment Mission took place from 5 to 21 September 2023. The mission delegation comprised of four Tasmanian Government representatives and nine Tasmanian Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industry businesses. The breakdown of costs is:

UK Trade and Investment Mission Budget - September 2023		
Advanced Manufacturing/Maritime		
Flights	\$17,525.40 *	
Accommodation and meals	\$15,099.29	
Transport	\$5,028.02	
Events, functions, meetings, printing	\$545.64	
Sub-Total		\$38,198.35
Investment		
Flights	\$20,041.82	
Accommodation and meals	\$17,181.01	
Transport	\$2,968.41	
Sub-Total		\$40,191.24
Final Mission Costs		\$78,389.59**

*Additional to this figure is a credit of \$5,942.60 that was used towards the cost of airfares

** Excluding GST (GST does not apply to international travel)

USA Trade and Investment Mission

The USA Trade and Investment Mission took place from 30 March to 11 April 2024. The mission delegation comprised of nine Tasmanian Government representatives and 16 delegates from 12 Tasmanian businesses.

USA Trade and Investment Mission Budget – April 2024			
Trade & Investment Mission budget			
Flights	\$56 517.51		
Accommodation, meals and incidentals	\$38 851.40		
Transport	\$22 375.64		
Events, functions, meetings	\$66 931.61		
Trade Advocate	\$63 528.32		
Sub-Total		\$248 204.48	
Investment Stream			
Flights	\$21,592.07		
Accommodation and meals	\$10,300.81		
Transport	\$ 3,414.53		
Sub-Total		\$35,307.41	
Maritime Stream			
Flights	\$24,509.84		
Accommodation and meals	\$ 8,760.95		
Transport and mobile phone roaming fees	\$ 1,018.85		
Sub-Total		\$34,289.64	
Final Mission Costs			\$317,801.53*

* Excluding GST (GST does not apply to international travel)

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Minister for Infrastructure