

**Minister for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Parks and Environment**

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Mr Dean Winter  
Leader of the Opposition  
Via Clerk of the House  
Email: [laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for your question on behalf of your constituents to the Premier on 18 September 2024 regarding the status of the Transformer project at Ida Bay. I am responding on the Premier's behalf.

The Transformer artwork and visitor centre is to be built and operated in the Ida Bay State Reserve and will be a major drawcard for Tasmania and in particular the South of the State. The proposal is largely privately funded, with contributions from both the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

The project has not been without controversy, given the local government authority originally rejected the proponent's Development Application in September 2021. Rather than appeal the decision, Darklab instead sought to seek an alternate location at the site for the visitor centre. This required the proponent to undertake additional planning work.


The updated Development Application on the new site was approved by the Huon Valley Council on 24 May last year. Darklab then submitted a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) for assessment late last year. The PWS have since assessed the EIS and approved the project to proceed.

A draft lease agreement has been provided to the proponent in July this year to support the development to commence. The PWS are awaiting the return of an executed agreement and/or any advice from the proponent and will continue to stay in regular contact to provide any further assistance as required.

For further information in relation to the projects progress, you may also wish to contact the proponent directly.

Thank you for your question and your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



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