

Minister for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Parks & Environment

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10 July 2024

Mr Rob Fairs MP  
Parliament House, Hobart, TAS 7000

Cc: [minister.howlett@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:minister.howlett@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Dear Rob

In Parliament on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June this year, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents to the Minister for Primary Industries, the Hon Jane Howlett MP

*In my electorate of Bass, there are many Tasmanian families who are small agricultural producers. Many of these families are experiencing hardships and I am aware that some have been finding this season the most difficult they have faced for a long time due to a growing number of challenging conditions and increasing costs.*

*I know the government provides a number of different services to provide support to our people in our agricultural regions, and I am well aware of the terrific work that organisations like Rural Alive and Well and Rural Business Tasmania do in these situations.*

*Minister, on behalf of the farmers in my electorate, can you confirm where producers can go or call to access advice and help and find out what the options are for themselves?*

As the acting Minister for Primary Industries I am please to respond on Minister Howlett's behalf.

Farmpoint is recommended as the central point of contact for farmers and their families experiencing hardship. The current demand on these services is particularly high given the dry seasonal conditions.

FarmPoint is designed to help producers navigate the large amount of information available online and connect them with the advice they need. It has links to support services such as Rural Alive and Well and Rural Business Tasmania as well as information on grant programs and approvals.

I recommend to your constituents to contact FarmPoint on its free hotline 1300 292 292 or email [farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au](mailto:farmpoint@nre.tas.gov.au).

Agricultural producers can also go to the FarmPoint website: [farmpoint.tas.gov.au](http://farmpoint.tas.gov.au)

If producers can't find what they need on the website, officers are on hand to answer enquiries by phone or email. They can also refer you to the best source of information within the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania or elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information for your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Duigan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC

**Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Water**  
**Minister for Energy and Renewables**  
**Minister for Park and Environment**