

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Environment

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23 August 2024

Ms Janie Finlay
Member for Bass
Via Clerk of the House

Dear Ms Finlay

I write in response to your question on behalf of your constituent in relation to the Divo at Beauty Point.

The Tasmanian Government understands the community interest around Divo, but unfortunately, the removal was necessary following an engineering assessment that found the structure was at imminent risk of collapse. This was due to the age of the structure, found to be end of life, with severely corroded fasteners and rotten timbers.

These findings presented an unacceptable and real risk to the public. While the Government understands the disappointment around the removal, safety remains paramount. We will continue to put the safety of the local community and the public first.

The Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS) is not the relevant authority for statistics on drowning or injury information. However, Royal Life Saving Australia have released the National Drowning Report on Tuesday, 20 August at Parliament House in Canberra, which provides relevant information that may be of assistance to your constituent. Unfortunately, the report shows an increase in drowning deaths over the past 12 months, which demonstrates that management authorities must take a considered and risk management approach when considering aquatic infrastructure assets in public waterways.

As you would be aware, the Divo is a historical structure that was installed over 50 years ago and prior to better understanding of the risks and hidden dangers that waterways and diving activities can present. This includes an understanding that having a diving platform in a tidal area comes with risk. It's imperative that these types of structures are installed where there is a water depth of at least 1.5m to support this type of activity.

PWS and Council have worked together to explore alternative locations. The investigations and assessments undertaken determined that the beach is extremely shallow with the minimum distance to achieve a suitable depth for diving at absolute low tide of 270 metres from the rock wall on the foreshore, or 226 metres beyond the previous Divo location.

If there are organisations or proponents who believe that an aquatic infrastructure asset could be safely managed at this location, then a proposal could always be put forward to Council and PWS for assessment.

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

Yours sincerely

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

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Parks and Environment