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Tabled
L. Hiscott
Leader
19.11.2024

L. Hiscott

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC

Committee Chair

Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration 'A'

Parliament of Tasmania

By email ruth.forrest@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair

The Tasmanian Government thanks members of the Legislative Council Committee Government Administration 'A' for their work on the short inquiry into TasTAFE.

I was grateful for the opportunity to appear before the Committee alongside the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of TasTAFE on 5 December 2023.

It is clear all members of the Committee believe in a strong TasTAFE that delivers high quality vocational education and training (VET).

TasTAFE is a crucial part of Tasmania's VET system, and there has been significant interest in continuing to improve its outcomes for learners.

The Government acknowledges the recommendations contained in the Committee's Report, which pertain to scrutiny of TasTAFE by the Parliament, and the key findings.

TasTAFE is annually scrutinised as part of the Budget Estimates process and has been since it came into operation, often within the period dedicated to scrutiny of the broader Skills and Training (or equivalent) portfolio.

The Government agrees strongly that annual scrutiny is appropriate as a minimum, and we welcome the Parliament's interest in TasTAFE's performance and outcomes.

The hearing in December 2023 covered a range of matters relating to TasTAFE, including recruitment, the TasTAFE transition process and negotiations with respect to industrial relations agreements, as well as resourcing, staff wellbeing, engagement with industry and strategic work on cultural change within the organisation.

TasTAFE and the Government continues to work on these important issues, and we are committed to supporting TasTAFE to put the learner at the centre of its operations.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ellis', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills and Training

8/11/2024

Cc Jenny Mannering, Committee Secretary, jenny.mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au
Catherine Vickers, Clerk of the Legislative Council, catherine.vickers@parliament.tas.gov.au