

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

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Mr Craig Garland MP
Member for Lyons

3 DEC 2025

C/- Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Garland

In Parliament on 6 November 2025, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents:

Why did the Tasmanian government cut funding for the 1800 hotline for reporting injured or disease birds of prey? That line was crucial for rescue coordination and data collection and it is hard to understand why that prime public service was pulled. Who made the decision to stop the funding and what, if anything, has replaced the reporting-inresponse system that used to exist for wildlife emergencies?

Firstly, thank you for the question on behalf of your constituents. I am responding in my capacity of Minister for Primary Industries and Water.

The Tasmanian Government acknowledges both the individuals and organisations who are part of the valued wildlife rehabilitation sector in Tasmania. In support of the sector, the Government provided funding of \$460,000 over the past four years. This funding contributed to the development of the sector's Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy and Action Plan, which was based on extensive consultation. One of the aims of the Strategy and Action Plan is to increase the sector's capacity and sustainability.

To support delivery of priorities in the Strategy funding of \$411,400 has been provided to Wildlife Network Tasmania, the peak body for wildlife rehabilitation in the state. Wildlife Network Tasmania has implemented a statewide training program for the sector that will attract new rehabilitators, as well as upskill existing rehabilitators with best practice rehabilitation techniques.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), as the regulator of the sector, continues to work closely with Wildlife Network Tasmania, and other key stakeholders in Tasmania.

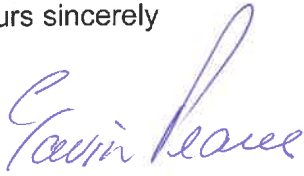
In relation to the funding for the 1800 Raptor Hotline, there are many community organisations in Tasmania that advertise a public hotline to assist injured and orphaned wildlife – Raptor Refuge is one of these. Bonorong Wildlife Rescue and WIRES also offer statewide coordination services and are the largest providers in the state.

Government funding for the wildlife rehabilitation sector is currently focused on delivering holistic, strategic actions to build the sustainability and capacity of the sector, through delivery of the

Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy. Through this strategy we are focused on long term solutions rather than short term actions.

Thank you again for raising this matter on behalf of your constituents.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gavin Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'G'.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water