

Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs

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Mr Simon Wood MP
Member for Bass
By email: Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Wood

Thank you for the Constituency Question you asked in Parliament on 17 September 2024 regarding the level of support provided for concessions in the 2024-25 State Budget, specifically:

"Recently I was speaking with Cindy and Graham from Legerwood, who asked me how this year's Budget will support those in their community with cost of living, particularly with the cost of Aurora bills, council rates and TasWater bills."

I am pleased to advise that the 2024-25 State Budget secures record investment in cost-of-living relief to assist low-income Tasmanians and provides over 100 different types of concessions, including energy bill relief and concessions, council rates remissions for pensioners and water and sewerage concessions.

The Budget includes funding of \$344.6 million over four years in concessions, with almost \$211 million allocated for electricity concessions.

As you would be aware, in 2023-24, the Government delivered \$74 million in energy bill relief, with \$250 to every Tasmanian household and \$300 to every small business as part of our Tasmania First Energy Guarantee, with funds released to retailers in late June 2024 and credited on each customer's next bill.

In 2024-25, Tasmanian concession customers will receive up to \$1 433 in electricity bill relief.

The annual electricity concession this year is approximately \$633. This is in addition to the \$250 Energy Bill Relief Rebate, \$300 in Australian Government energy support and the \$250 Tasmanian Government Renewable Energy Dividend.

For 2024-25, water and sewerage concessions of up to \$237.78 are available to eligible concession card holders (\$118.89 for water services and \$118.89 for sewerage services). Eligible concession card holders can also receive Council Rates Remission assistance of \$379 per annum as a TasWater customer, or up to \$559 for ratepayers who are not TasWater customers.

This is real and substantial assistance for Tasmanians who need it most.

Full details of the Government's concessions are set out in the Tasmanian Government's Discounts and Concessions Guide – which is available at www.concessions.tas.gov.au.

Hard copies of the guide are available from 30 August at Service Tasmania, libraries, councils and other offices.

Please thank your constituents for their query.

Yours sincerely

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

Michael Ferguson MP

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