

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
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7th November 2025

Mr Marcus Vermey MP
Member for Clark
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr Vermey

I am writing in response to a question raised in Parliament on 4 November 2025 on behalf of your constituent's concerns about the recent dry conditions and its potential impact on Tasmania's energy security.

I recognise that Tasmania has experienced some historic dry conditions recently, with the last two years being some of the driest on record. However, despite very low inflows, I can confirm that Hydro Tasmania has maintained Tasmania's energy security, keeping dam levels above the Prudent Storage Level (PSL) and well above the High Reliability Level (HRL).

These levels form part of the Energy Security Risk Response Framework, which was implemented by the Tasmanian Government in 2017 as a rigorous and transparent framework for the management of water storages. The PSL, and more conservative HRL, act as triggers to signify additional monitoring of water use by ReCFIT and the independent Regulator, along with an action plan for more conservative water management by Hydro Tasmania.

It is important to note that the PSL is the early indicator to monitor water in storage; not a crisis point. However, not reaching this level even once across two years of historically low inflows demonstrates extremely strong water management by Hydro Tasmania. The business has prudently managed its storages through the dry conditions and has taken steps to mitigate the financial impact wherever possible. This involves importing more energy over Basslink and utilising gas generation at Tamar Valley Power Station.

As Australia continues to transition to renewables and rainfall becomes more variable, it is essential that our energy system is robust and resilient to future changes. This is why the Government is progressing Marinus Link and bringing on more on island generation. Developing more wind and solar in Tasmania increases the diversity of energy generation, making our system more robust to future weather outcomes. Marinus Link Stage One will more than double our interconnection capacity to Victoria, allowing us to import and export substantially more energy. Together, these outcomes will safeguard Tasmania's energy security for future generations.

I trust this information is useful to yourself and your constituent. Please thank them for their interest in Tasmania's energy security.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink. It begins with a stylized 'N' and 'D' on the left, followed by a large, loopy 'G' and 'U' that are connected. The signature ends with a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables