

**Minister for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Parks and Environment**

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6 June 2024

Ms Rebekah Pentland  
Member for Bass  
Via Clerk of the House

Email: [Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au](mailto:Laura.Ross@parliament.tas.gov.au)

Dear Ms Pentland

Thank you for your question in relation to Shekinah House's plans to expand its homelessness accommodation facilities and their interest in property located at 34 Bourke Street, Launceston.

I have sought advice from the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service (PWS), who manage Crown Land in Tasmania and can provide you with the following information.

PWS received an inquiry from Ms Louise Cowan from Shekinah House on 24 November 2023, in relation to lease arrangements for a property located at 34 Bourke Street, Launceston. At that time, Ms Cowan was advised that the property was currently subject to an active lease arrangement, however, the current lessee had made an application to PWS on 27 June 2023 seeking to terminate their lease.

The lessee (Launceston City Council) is working through the required processes in order to hand the property back to the Crown. This involves the lessee providing PWS with a property condition report, which will then be followed by a final inspection of the property by PWS prior to termination.

I am advised that the lessee submitted a property condition report to the PWS on 9 April 2024.

Following a final inspection of the property by the PWS and subsequent termination of the lease, the PWS could commence negotiations for a new agreement directly with Shekinah House. This is expected to occur within the next 4-6 weeks.

I encourage Shekinah House to make contact with Mr Julian Gill, Manager Property Services in PWS, who will be able to assist them in relation to taking on a Crown lease for the property. Mr Gill can be contacted at [julian.gill@parks.tas.gov.au](mailto:julian.gill@parks.tas.gov.au) or by phone on 0400 600 034.

Thankyou again for your question. Should you or Shekinah House have any further questions in relation to this property, my office will be very happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

Hon Nick Duigan MLC  
**Minister for Parks and Environment**