

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Racing

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7665
Email: minister.howlett@dpac.tas.gov.au



Mr Rob Fairs MP
Liberal Member for Bass
Email: rob.fairs@dpac.tas.gov.au

30 August 2024

Dear Mr Fairs

Thank you for your constituent question asked in Parliament on 31 July on behalf of a constituent as follows:

My question is for the Minister for Minister for Primary Industries and Water. As recent commentary in this Place has demonstrated, there are many constituents across the state who want to see the Government taking action to boost animal welfare. I understand that you have been highlighting the work of The Livestock Processing Taskforce, which I understand has been meeting regularly, conducting workshops, and taking on feedback. Can you please detail some tangible and real world actions taken by this Taskforce, and how these actions will make a real difference to farmers and the wider community?

As part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, the Tasmanian Government is taking action to improve animal welfare in livestock processing.

The Tasmanian Livestock Processing Taskforce has developed new animal welfare guidelines and a strategy to meet the expectations of both the Tasmanian meat processing industry and the community regarding the management of livestock at livestock processing establishments.

The Guidelines will set minimum standards for handling livestock, including transport and slaughter requirements, and will be supported by education programs.

The guidelines follow the introduction of mandatory video monitoring in livestock processing facilities, which came into effect on 30 June 2024. Ensuring every facility has cameras is an important tangible action taken to improve animal welfare.

Tasmania's Chief Veterinary Officer and an independently-recognised world expert on benchmark practices have both provided input into the Guidelines.

The draft Guidelines, and supporting implementation strategy, will now be presented to the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee and then to the Government for approval along with the Taskforce's Final Report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Howlett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water