

Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Level 5, 4 Salamanca Place HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7670
Email: minister.pearce@dpac.tas.gov.au



Mr Carlo Di Falco MP
Member for Lyons

2 DEC 2025

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

Dear Mr Di Falco *Carlo,*

In Parliament on 13 November 2025, you asked the following question on behalf of your constituents:

I've been contacted by a constituent concerned about claims suggesting that the draft Primary Produce Safety (Horticulture Produce) Regulations 2025 will implement new national health standards which will stop people from selling or sharing fruit and vegetables grown in their own backyards. Can you confirm that these regulations are not intended to apply to backyard growers, hobby gardeners or neighbours who sell or share small amounts of produce directly to locals or from a roadside stalls, that is, people not operating as a business or supplying retailers or wholesalers? And that these small local exchanges within communities will remain unaffected by the proposed changes?

Firstly, thank you for sharing your constituent's concerns regarding the potential impacts of the draft *Primary Produce Safety (Horticulture Produce) Regulations 2025* on small producers. As you may be aware, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania is currently undertaking public consultation on the draft regulations and this has been extended to 19 December 2025.

These new regulations aim to align Tasmania with national standards due to rising foodborne illness outbreaks, such as the recent recall of the alfalfa sprouts due to potential salmonella contamination.

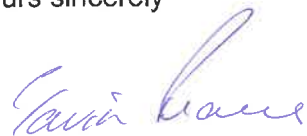
I am aware that some smaller growers have concerns that they will be burdened with the same fees and compliance obligations as large producers when the new production standards are introduced for berries, melons and leafy greens. Biosecurity Tasmania has prepared additional information for inclusion in the explanatory information on the Department's website and this includes examples of tiered modelling for feedback.

Importantly, the Government has committed to make small producers exempt from fees in a tiered system. Home horticulture activities are already exempt in the proposed regulations.

Input from industry large and small is vital to getting the regulations right in Tasmania and I encourage your constituent to review the information available and provide feedback here: [Have Your Say on the Development of the Primary Produce Safety \(Horticulture Produce\) Regulations | Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania](#)

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "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