

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Mr Peter George MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jeremy Rockliff, Premier

QUESTION:

My question is from constituent Cassandra Faux of Geeveston, a small business owner with a Masters in clinical microbiology. She says: I'm deeply concerned by the government's fast-tracked approval to use the antibiotic florfenicol in diseased salmon pens without public consultation, transparent risk-assessment, or environmental accountability. As a small business operator, I ask why the multi-million dollar salmon industry appears to receive shortcuts and exemptions from the level of scrutiny, compliance, and community consultation that is required of small-scale food producers, tourism and hospitality businesses. Will the Premier explain on what basis approval was granted to use the antibiotic florfenicol, and how it aligns with Tasmania's stated commitment to science-based regulation, environmental protection, and a clean, sustainable brand reputation built over decades?

ANSWER:

I am advised that the application for emergency use of Florfenicol in Tasmanian salmon farms was considered by the independent federal regulator, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

As the independent regulator, the APVMA was responsible for assessing the application and making a decision.

Specific questions on the basis for which any decisions have been made should be directed to the independent APVMA.



Hon Jeremy Rockliff
Premier

Date: 2 December 2025