

# QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

## Legislative Council

ASKED BY: Hon Meg Webb MLC, Independent  
Member for Nelson

ANSWERED BY: Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC, Leader of the  
Government in the Legislative Council

### QUESTION:

*Can the Government advise on the following:- Regarding the Marine Farming License and the Environmental License for lease number 55 in Long Bay, Port Arthur which is due to expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.*

*Can you clarify whether those Marine Farming and Environmental Licenses have been extended, and if so:*

- (1) When was that decision made?*
- (2) What are the terms and conditions of those renewals?*
- (3) Is restocking of the Long Bay lease currently underway, and has there been any reduction in the allowable biomass for that lease?*
- (4) Who did you consult before extending the Long Bay Marine farming license?*

ANSWER:

I have sought advice from the independent Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) with respect to environmental licencing and have been advised of the following:

*Tassal applied for the renewal of the environmental licence at Long Bay within the prescribed period under section 42S of the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994. The application is under consideration and no decision has been made at this stage under section 42T on the renewal of the environmental licence.*

*Should the environmental licence be renewed, it will be publicly available via the LISTMap service.*

*The EPA understands that Tassal commenced stocking their Long Bay lease on 6 November. In recent years Tassal has commenced stocking the lease in either August or September. There is no biomass limit for the Long Bay lease, however, on 7 July 2023 the EPA Director imposed a Total Permissible Dissolved Nitrogen Output (TPDNO) which had the effect of reducing finfish production at the lease by 20% compared to recent years. In order to comply with the TPDNO, Tassal has elected to stock the lease for a shorter period of time. The EPA Director also imposed additional reef monitoring requirements to assess the effectiveness of the TPDNO determination in reducing*

*organic enrichment effects on the inshore rocky reef assemblages within Long Bay.*

*In relation to the environmental licence, the EPA has meet with two members of the Tasman Peninsula Marine Protection Group and a member of the Tasmanian Independent Science Council to receive submissions in relation to the application to renew the environmental licence.*

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

The Hon Roger Jaensch MP  
**Minister for Environment and Climate Change**

Date: 15 November 2023