

JANIE FINLAY MP

Winter Newsletter 2022

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Congratulations to Australian Labor Leader Anthony Albanese on becoming the nation's Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Albanese worked incredibly hard to show the country that he is someone who is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and do the hard work for the betterment of our people.

It was great to see Prime Minister Albanese in the electorate of Bass throughout the election campaign supporting candidate Ross Hart, who ran a tight race and narrowly missed out on claiming the seat.

It was fantastic to see so many of our Federal colleagues in Tasmania throughout the election campaign. Congratulations to Helen Polley on retaining her Senate seat and to Julie Collins and Carol Brown on being sworn into the Ministry.



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at James Boags and Sons.



Bass Candidate Ross Hart, Janie Finlay and Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business Julie Collins.



Health and Aged Care Minister Mark Butler, Barbara Baker, Bass Candidate Ross Hart and Senator Helen Polley.



With Minister for Home Affairs Clare O'Neil.



With graduates from the FULL GEAR Program.



Pete from the Ravenswood Community Garden.



Visiting Starting Point Neighbourhood House with Labor Leader Rebecca White and Labor member for Bass Michelle O'Byrne.

COMMUNITY FORUMS



The cost of living is soaring and everyone is feeling the pinch.

Whether it be deciding to keep the heater going this winter, the cost of food or filling up at the petrol bowser, we know that people are doing it tough, especially with wages historically not increasing at the same pace.

Last week, I had the pleasure of visiting and speaking to people in the Ravenswood and Newnham communities with Labor Leader Rebecca White and member for Bass Michelle O'Byrne.

We heard many stories on people doing it tough under the cost of living pressures and people turning to living on the streets to survive.

My office has been doing a lot of work recently around housing and homelessness, and we know this is a very real issue facing many people with low vacancy rates for rentals and high rental prices.

On June 17, the Tasmanian Economic Regulator approved Aurora Energy's proposed 11.88 per cent increase in standing offer prices for Tasmanian residential and small business customers.

This equates to an average increase of \$227 a year for Tasmanian households and came into effect on July 1, 2022. The strain needs to stop.

The Labor Party is serious about supporting individuals, families and small businesses to ensure that life remains somewhat comfortable during the cooler months.

Labor has launched its online petition to Stop the Power Bill Shock off the back of Dean Winter introducing a bill to parliament in June to cap power price rises at 2.5 per cent, a move the government rejected.

If you would like to sign the petition, you can do so at <https://taslabor.com/stop-the-power-bill-shock/>

If you have any concerns regarding this or any other matter, I am happy to help where I can. You can contact me by calling my office 6324 2060 or email janie.finlay@parliament.tas.gov.au

COMMUNITY

It is wonderful to meet so many of you in my travels. I look forward to meeting more of you soon.



Dinner at the Branhholm Imperial Hotel.



Proud supporter of the Motivation Squad - DrillDance!



Catch up with the Petuna team at their Rowella site.



Speaking at the Salvation Army in Launceston.



Meeting with Northern Tasmania Darts.



A night out with friends supporting the Care for Africa Foundation and Rural Alive and Well at the Friendship Ball.



Visiting the Northern Suburbs.



Great to connect with members at the Polling Booth.



At the Nunamara Memorial Hall for Anzac Day.



Was proud to MC the Launceston Pacing Club's fundraiser for the McGrath Foundation.



Janie Finlay addresses media in Hobart regarding the proposed rule changes to the Rock Lobster Fishery.

ROCK LOBSTER FISHERY RULES

For the past few months I have been working with Rock Lobster fishers of all sizes to ensure that the proposed rule and policy changes to their industry represent their views.

The rule changes, which will take effect after November 1, 2022, are intended to improve the management of the fishery for future years.

This will ensure that stock levels are sustainable for all Tasmanians for years to come.

I have been fortunate to meet with a number of fishers – both recreational and commercial - representative bodies and researchers about this important issue.

One proposed rule change within the consultation paper that has been highlighted as a concern is the expansion of 60-pots into the Northern region of the state's waters.

There are concerns around this that fishers will be catching stock in an area that is vulnerable to excess fishing efforts due to the low biomass and egg production in the area.

There is also concern that this expansion will only further support larger commercial operators, while smaller and generational

operators will be shut out of the industry, placing potential strain on the economic and social viability of regional communities.

I have raised this concern with the Primary Industries and Water Minister Jo Palmer in both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament across a number of weeks.

While the Minister has confirmed she supports fishers in regional communities, she is yet to clarify if she supports the proposed rule change.

In Estimates Hearings in June, Ms Palmer admitted that no research into the social and economic fallout of this proposed rule change has been undertaken.

This decision rests entirely in the Minister's hands.

I will continue to raise this concern with Minister Palmer and the Rockliff-Liberal Government until a resolution is found.

The Tasmanian Rock Lobster Fishery is a major contributor to the Tasmanian economy and we must protect it and the many small business operators that work within it.



Janie Finlay visits Branhholm dairy farmer Andrew Aldridge's property for a chat with TFGA Dairy Chair Geoff Cox.

SUPPORT OUR FARMERS

Attracting and retaining skilled labour is becoming harder for primary producers due to the shortage of suitable housing and employee accommodation.

Coupled with the rising input costs including fuel and energy prices, it is creating a perfect cost-of-living storm for small business operators and workers alike.

In the past quarter, I had the pleasure of meeting with Branhholm dairy farmer Andrew Aldridge among his beautiful herd of dairy cows to discuss this matter. We were also joined by TFGA Dairy Council chair Geoff Cox.

Farmers want to be able to retain their workers for the long-term but attracting workers to remote or rural areas is hard, especially if you expect your worker to drive hours to and from work and spend their hard-earned wage on petrol and/or accommodation.

It is estimated that between 700 and 800 workers are needed on our dairy farms across the state.

From conversations with Andrew and those within the industry, I know that when agricultural positions are offered with an accommodation incentive,

as well as a base salary, these jobs become more appealing.

There is nothing from stopping a farmer putting short-stay accommodation like an AirBnB on their property, but when it comes to an actual dwelling, the rules differ.

Our farmers are being hamstrung by planning and this issue must be addressed as the agricultural sector continues to grow.

I raised this issue in Estimates Hearings with Primary Industries and Water Minister Jo Palmer to ensure that we don't have a workforce crisis in the future that will see this industry suffer.

Minister Palmer has said that she is a strong support of the dairy industry and is aware of some of the concerns I have raised.

She put on record that the issue would be raised with Planning Minister Guy Barnett in the coming weeks.

I have called on the government to address the issue of on-site accommodation for some time and look forward to seeing the removal of these barriers so that this important industry can continue to thrive.

SUPPORTING SALMON SECTOR

Tasmania's \$1 billion salmon industry spends around \$500 million employing some of our state's suppliers and businesses.

It is an industry that contributes to the fabric of small regional communities and one that is well regulated and world-renowned.

In Estimates Hearings recently, I asked the Primary Industries and Water Minister Jo Palmer about the advice or research that was provided to government that led to the 12-month moratorium on the state's salmon industry.

Ms Palmer responded that it was put in place to give the time to adequately consult on and develop the 10-year salmon plan.

If a moratorium has been put in this place for this reason then why isn't the rock lobster industry going through something similar while it consults on its proposed rule changes?

This is something I raised with Minister Palmer in Question Time recently and through my Budget Reply.

Indeed, clarification is still needed on what the 12-month moratorium on 'no new net leasable areas' mean.



Minister Palmer said one thing and then her colleague, Minister Nic Street, came in later in the day to articulate what the Minister meant.

The salmon industry in this state has had a bumpy 12 months and it is time that the government stand up for the industry and be transparent on their motivations.

This decision not only impacts the big salmon players and transport companies but also workers like Jason.

Jason has worked in the Tasmanian salmon industry for 17 years and is one of 36 workers on the net slab at Huon Aquaculture.

I have asked the government that if the moratorium on salmon farming continues and underpins the 10-year plan, what will this mean for Jason, his family and his community

And I will continue to ask questions until we know the answer.

SPOTLIGHT ON... KELP

Tasmania is known for its iconic kelp forest. Over the past 50 years, there has been a 95 per cent reduction in Giant Kelp Forests on Australia's East Coast.

Tasmania is home to the remaining, small and isolated stands of this nationally important species, which was listed as a Threatened Ecological Community under the EPBC Act in 2012.

Restoring our Giant Kelp will not only protect

and support jobs and the economic returns of Tasmania's fisheries, it will also have social and cultural benefits for all Tasmanians.

The restoration will also assist in regenerating the biomass of many of our wild fisheries including abalone, rock lobster and other species.

The Australian Labor party has a long-standing and proud record when it comes to ocean protection and in the lead-up to this year's Federal Election pledged to work with states to assess the adequacy of the protection of these areas.



We Need You!

Volunteer with Janie

Thank you for your support since being elected as your representative member.

If you would like to volunteer with our team or remain open to having future election signs at your property, I would love to hear from you.



*Thank
you!*

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