

Minister for Education, Children and Youth
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Parks

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29 MAR 2023

Mr Mike Jaques
Sent via email: moremarineparks@gmail.com

Dear Mike

I refer to your email correspondence of 14 February 2023 regarding marine protected areas in Tasmanian coastal waters.

The Tasmanian Government remains committed to the effective management of its marine park reserve system comprising 21 marine reserves and marine conservation areas that protect and conserve species and habitats across a number of bioregions. The Tasmanian Government has a combination of policies and legislation that contribute to the conservation and protection of marine species and habitats. Collectively, these provide appropriately robust measures and controls for conservation management of Tasmania's coastal waters.

I note that the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP - Australian Government Minister for the Environment and Water announced on 23 February 2023, plans to expand protection of the waters surrounding Macquarie Island in the Southern Ocean. The Macquarie Island Marine Park is one of 14 marine parks managed by Parks Australia under the South-east Marine Network Management Plan 2013-2023. Our Government and the broader public will be consulted as part of the statutory consultation process due to commence in March 2023 on both the proposal to expand the marine park, as well as the intention to prepare a new management plan for the South-east Network. The Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas) works closely in partnership with the Commonwealth through Parks Australia to collaborate and share information and to undertake compliance or threatened species protection activities for marine protected areas off the coast of Tasmania.

We are committed to the sustainable management of our rich and diverse marine environment to support healthy ecosystems and for the benefit of all Tasmanians and visitors to our State. The Tasmanian Government is not of the view that further inclusion of State waters into marine reserves is the best approach to increasing protection of Australia's marine areas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Jaensch", written over the words "Yours sincerely".

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Parks