



The Honourable Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Level 5, Salamanca Building, 4 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7000

10 March 2022

Dear Minister,

On behalf of Oysters Tasmania and Tasmania's oyster growers I would like to thank you for meeting with me and the Oysters Tasmania Chair, Andrew Gregson, last week.

We appreciate your consideration of our request for some measure of relief re the upcoming levy covering ShellMAP monitoring and testing costs incurred by the Department in 2021-22.

2021-22 has been unusually challenging for oyster growers, with COVID-related hospitality slowdowns affecting oysters more than other seafood, extraordinary cost pressures, particularly with respect to fuel, freight and logistics, and a high number of regulated closures of oyster growing areas.

The Department has incurred markedly higher ShellMAP monitoring and testing costs than in previous years (and flags cost saving opportunities in the next financial year). If this year's costs are fully passed on to oyster growers the 'fee shock' will be considerable.

Oyster growers greatly appreciate the previous generous support provided to the industry. Growers have strong prospects for 2022-23, and are supportive of the partnership model where they contribute to the costs of regulation that is very much in the interests of the industry. Oyster growers are unusual among farm industries in making a specific contribution to the budget, and also impose few costs on the community.

Thank you again for your time, the Government's strong record of support, and your consideration of our request.

I will be in touch with individuals in your Ministerial Office to discuss a 'Wine and Oysters in the House' event this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Spender', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Duncan Spender
Chief Executive Officer
Oysters Tasmania