



The Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Skills and Training
Level 5 Salamanca Building
4 Salamanca Place
Hobart TAS 7000

25 November 2024

Dear Minister,

I write to express support for the application lodged by Seafood and Maritime Training (SMT) for \$2.5 million for recurrent industry training under the existing worker and job seeker funds.

If the application were not successful, SMT would likely be unable to provide the training required by Tasmania's maritime industries. No other training organisation would be able to deliver training at the high quality of SMT. Over time, Tasmania's maritime industries would suffer. Fewer productive, private sector jobs would be offered in Tasmania's regions, and Tasmania would fail to realise the natural advantage of its coastline.

Long term funding to SMT should be as secure as funding to TAFE. Skills Tasmania may prefer to direct government support towards the department-like behemoth of TAFE, but service and responsiveness to industry is better with the small, agile, and connected SMT.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Spender".

Duncan Spender
CEO
Oysters Tasmania