



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

Mrs Lara Alexander MP
Independent Member for Bass
By Email: lara.alexander@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Lara *Lara*

I write to express my deep concern at threats made in early January by Mr Tucker to withdraw his commitment to confidence and supply, and your public comments that you would “strongly consider” any no confidence motion in the Government. These combined actions have led me to reflect on the Memorandum of Understanding in place with both of you and consider the best way forward for Tasmania.

In my view, my Government has upheld and delivered on our end of the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), substantially:

- The Macquarie Point Stadium has been declared a Project of State significance, and the Act amended to require a Parliamentary vote at the end of the process;
- The AFL agreements have been published in full; and
- Additionally (although not written into the Agreement), my Government supported a parliamentary Inquiry being set up to allow for deeper scrutiny of the Marinus Project.

It has unfortunately become clear to me that due to the shifting of the goalposts and “gaming” of Parliamentary motions by Labor, the current Agreement we have with you and Mr Tucker is not providing the stability and certainty Tasmania needs.

Although the MOU purports to provide supply and confidence, both yourself and Mr Tucker have at different times threatened to tear the agreement up if you don't get the policy outcomes you are seeking – policy outcomes which extend beyond those originally agreed.

Your support for political motions by Labor and the Greens, coupled with an openness to consider no confidence motions in the Government, is bad for business and investor confidence and is damaging Tasmania.

As a result, the Parliament is becoming unworkable.

Proposed Way Forward

I would therefore like to propose that you and Mr Tucker enter into a new confidence and supply Agreement for the remainder of the term, an agreement which provides the stability and certainty Tasmanians deserve, and indeed voted for at the last election.

Key tenets of this new Agreement would include:

- You and Mr Tucker to commit to providing Confidence and Supply except in instances of corruption and malfeasance ;
- You and Mr Tucker to commit to not support Labor, Green or other independent bills, amendments to bills, or motions, unless agreed by the Government;
- You and Mr Tucker to retain the right to bring forward your own motions and amendments to Government bills; and
- Other practical matters that might be agreed.

For the avoidance of doubt, I wish to be clear: additional policy outcomes are not up for negotiation as part of either the formulation of a new Agreement, or on the floor of the Parliament afterwards in return for continuing confidence and supply.

While I am happy to work with you on policy and constituent issues, it is not acceptable that every discussion is held with a 'my way or the highway' approach. I will accept genuine cooperation that is in the best interests of Tasmanians, but I will not allow the Government to be held to ransom every sitting week.

I wish to remind you that both you and Mr Tucker were elected as Liberal candidates on a platform of providing stable, majority government.

A new Agreement along the lines of what I have outlined, will provide Tasmanians with that stability and certainty they voted for, while allowing you and Mr Tucker to independently raise issues, concerns and proposals on behalf of your constituents.

Needless to say, given Mr Tucker's letter on 12 January where he repeated a threat to withdraw confidence and supply, if we are unable to reach a new Agreement prior to the resumption of Parliament on 5 March 2024, I will be forced to consider all options, including potentially advising the Governor to dissolve the House.

Lara, in conclusion I hope we are able to reach a new Agreement along the lines I have outlined. There is much to be done for Tasmanians in the year ahead, and I don't want an early election if one can be avoided.

I would welcome a written response from you outlining your position and priorities for this year. Our next weekly meeting is scheduled for Friday 9 February; I propose we dedicate this time to canvassing these matters.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier