

# Tasmanian Agritourism Regulatory Review Report

Summary | October 2025



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Cover image: Eat Well Tasmania. Photo courtesy of Samuel Shelley and Brand Tasmania.

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# Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
AHT	Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
CBOS	Consumer, Building and Occupational Services
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water (Commonwealth)
EMPCA	<i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i>
EPA	Environment Protection Authority Tasmania
EPBCA	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
HCHA	<i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i>
LGAT	Local Government Association of Tasmania
LUPAA	<i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i>
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
PWS	Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service
RTO	Regional Tourism Organisations
State Growth	Department of State Growth Tasmania
TFS	Tasmania Fire Service
TSIC	Tasmanian Seafood Industry Council
TVIS	Tasmanian Visitor Information Signage system
TWSA	Tasmanian Whisky and Spirits Association
The project	The Tasmanian Agritourism Regulatory Mapping and Review Project



**Era Advisory acknowledge palawa as the Traditional Owners of lutruwita (Tasmania).**

**They are the original custodians of our land, sky and waters.**

**We respect their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.**

**We honour and pay our respect to Elders past and present, whose knowledge and wisdom has and will ensure the continuation of culture and traditional practices.**

**We acknowledge that their sovereignty has never been ceded.**

**Always was, always will be.**

# Contents

Glossary	4
Acknowledgement of Country	4

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<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	7
1.1	About the project	8
1.2	Stakeholder engagement	9

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<b>2</b>	<b>Regulatory mapping</b>	11
2.1	Potential approvals required	12
2.2	Relevant regulators	14
2.3	Costs and timeframes	16

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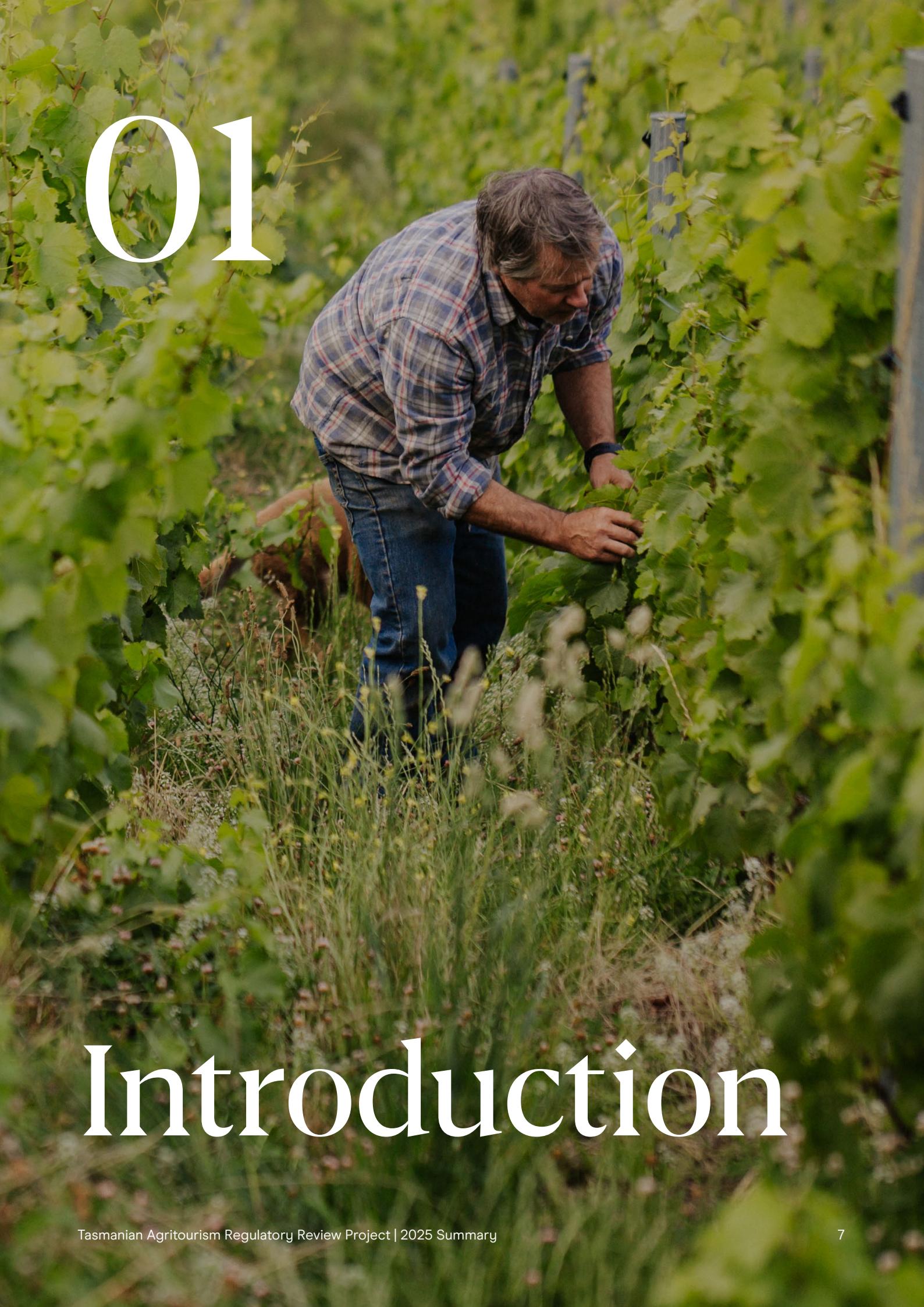
<b>3</b>	<b>Key issues</b>	19
	Lack of accessible information	20
	Regulatory complexity	20
	Experience and expertise of practitioners	20
	Inconsistency in interpretation	22
	The ‘coal-face’ experience	22
	Regulation not always fit for purpose	22

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<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations and actions</b>	25
	Recommendation 1	27
	Recommendation 2	32
	Recommendation 3	34
	Recommendation 4	35



Vineyard | Granton, Southern Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Moon Cheese Studio and Brand Tasmania

A man with grey hair, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt and blue jeans, is bent over in a vineyard. He is reaching up towards the leaves of a grapevine. The vineyard is filled with green grapevines and tall, dry grass in the foreground. The lighting suggests it is late afternoon or early evening.

01

# Introduction

# 1.1 About the project

The Agritourism Regulatory Mapping and Review Project (the project), was part of the Accelerating Agritourism initiative funded by the Australian Government's Recovery for Regional Tourism program, aimed at supporting new and existing businesses entering Tasmania's agritourism sector.

Agritourism involves on-farm visitor experiences such as farm-stays, pick-your-own produce, cellar doors, and workshops, with operators deriving primary income from agriculture and enhancing it through visitor engagement.

In 2022, Era Advisory (then known as ERA Planning and Environment) was engaged by the Department of State Growth (State Growth) to map and review the agritourism regulatory environment with the aim to:

- Improve the agritourism sector's understanding of the relevant regulatory approvals across business and government.
- Identify key barriers to entry for existing and emerging agritourism business types across Tasmania.
- Identify ways to streamline and simplify the current agritourism regulatory approvals process.
- Promote an understanding of key agritourism business types to facilitate consistent interpretation of regulatory instruments and requirements across Tasmania.

The project focused on the end-to-end regulatory processes involved in establishing an agritourism business in Tasmania. The project was underpinned by stakeholder engagement to identify key barriers and ways to streamline or improve processes. It was coordinated by a cross-agency working group comprised of representatives from State Growth, Tourism Tasmania, Office of the Coordinator-General, Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and Department of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).

Project deliverables include the Agritourism Regulatory Mapping and Review Report (available separately) and the preparation of reference materials available from the Business Tasmania website known as the '[Tasmania Agritourism Toolkit](#)' and the '[Agritourism Guide for Regulators](#)'.

## About this review

Agritourism remains an important industry sector for Tasmania. It provides an opportunity to integrate farming and rural life with tourism to create an immersive and uniquely Tasmanian visitor experience while also providing an opportunity to diversify farm income, increase financial resilience and boost regional economies.

The original report identified key issues and a suite of recommendations and potential actions. To ensure these remain relevant and appropriate, Era Advisory (with support from technical subconsultants) have undertaken a review to consider any regulatory changes over the past three years.

This summary report presents the outcomes of the review and the original report with an updated suite of actions.

## 1.2 Stakeholder engagement

The project involved extensive engagement with industry stakeholders, particularly small-scale, owner-operator agritourism businesses, to gather feedback on their experiences navigating Tasmania's permits and approvals processes. The engagement:

- Provided agritourism businesses, councils, and regulatory bodies the opportunity to share feedback on the regulatory environment.
- Facilitated a positive experience through relevant communication channels and prompt responses.
- Encouraged stakeholders to contribute their stories and ideas for commonsense process improvements.

Up to 40 businesses were invited to participate, with in-depth case studies conducted for 10 different agritourism business types. Engagement also included local councils, regulatory bodies, regional tourism organisations, and primary industry associations.

The engagement process provided a comprehensive understanding of the practical challenges and opportunities within Tasmania's agritourism regulatory environment, directly informing the identification of the key issues and the project's recommendations and reference materials.

To inform this review, the Department of State Growth have undertaken further engagement with State Agencies to identify any relevant regulatory changes.

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**A full summary of the engagement is outlined in the original report which is separately available.**

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Chef Cooking | Tamar Valley, Northern Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Moon Cheese Studio and Brand Tasmania

# 02

# Regulatory mapping

## 2.1 Potential approvals required

The desktop mapping exercise determined that there are nine legislative systems and 16 specific approvals that potentially apply to agritourism businesses in Tasmania.

Permits are obtained in three stages: consents to proceed, construction and works permits, and operational permits. These cover things like planning permits, building and plumbing permits and food business registration.

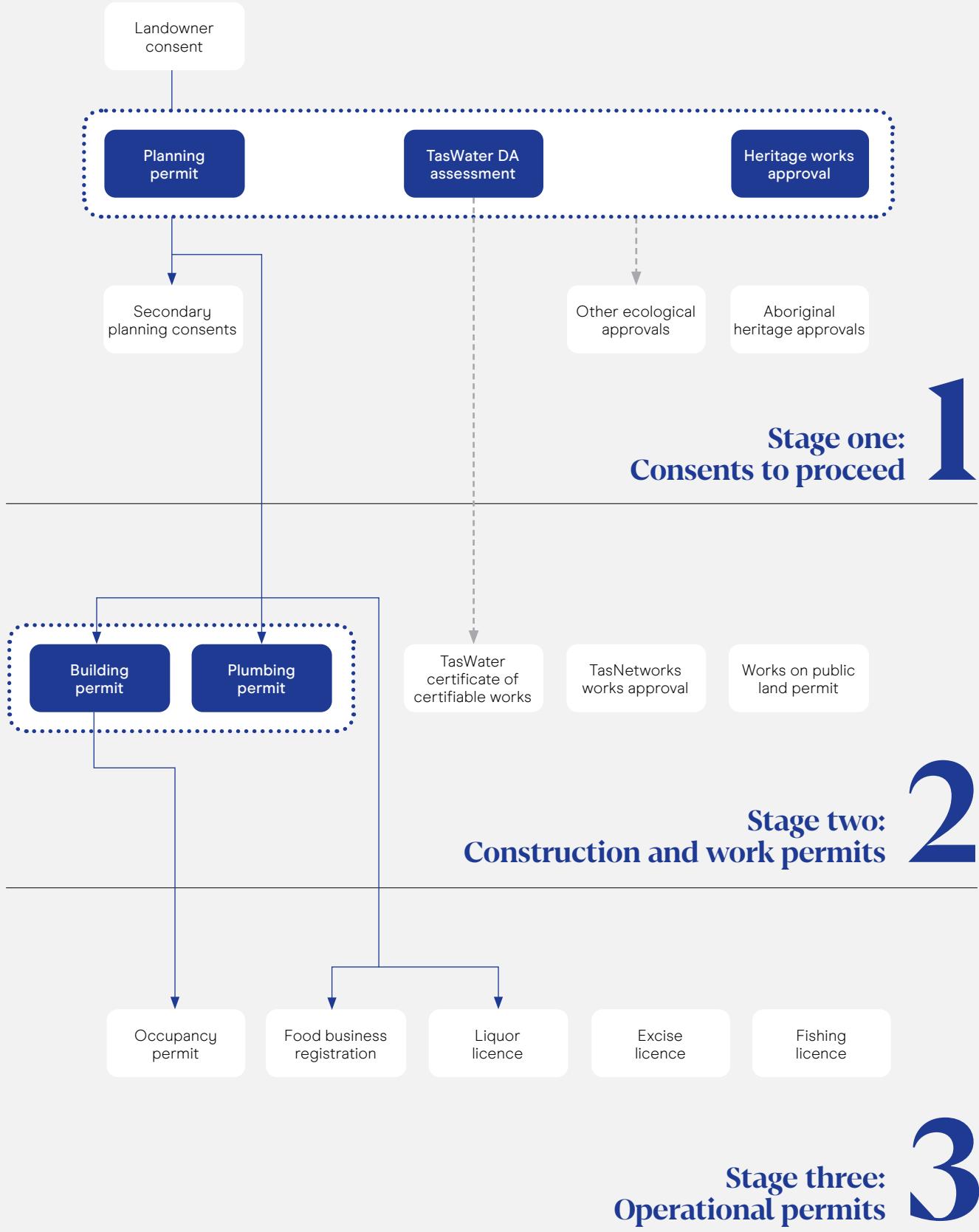
**A regulatory mapping summary is provided over page, with a more comprehensive outline provided in the original report, which is separately available.**

### 2.1.1 Current situation

There have been no significant legislative changes since the original report and the range of potential approvals remains the same. Specific changes important to note are:

- All local Councils, except for Kingborough Council, have now transitioned to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. The State Planning Provisions referred to in the original report have however remained the same.
- Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania have updated their standards and procedures so that the process of determining if a permit is required is now slightly different, although continues to follow a broad process around desktop assessment, on-site assessment (if required) followed by permit process (if required).
- Food businesses that sell unpackaged, ready to eat food for direct consumption such as those selling cheese or tasting plates, are now required to appoint at least one trained Food Safety Supervisor. The supervisor must be trained by a registered training organisation every five years.
- There have been changes to the National Construction Code (NCC), so that references to specific parts of the NCC may now be different.

None of these changes have an impact on the analysis undertaken at the time, nor the key issues identified. More specific changes relevant to actions have been considered in the updated suite of actions at section 4.



## Key

- Integrated legislative processes
- Legislative dependencies
- Connected processes

**Likely approvals by business type are outlined in the toolkit**

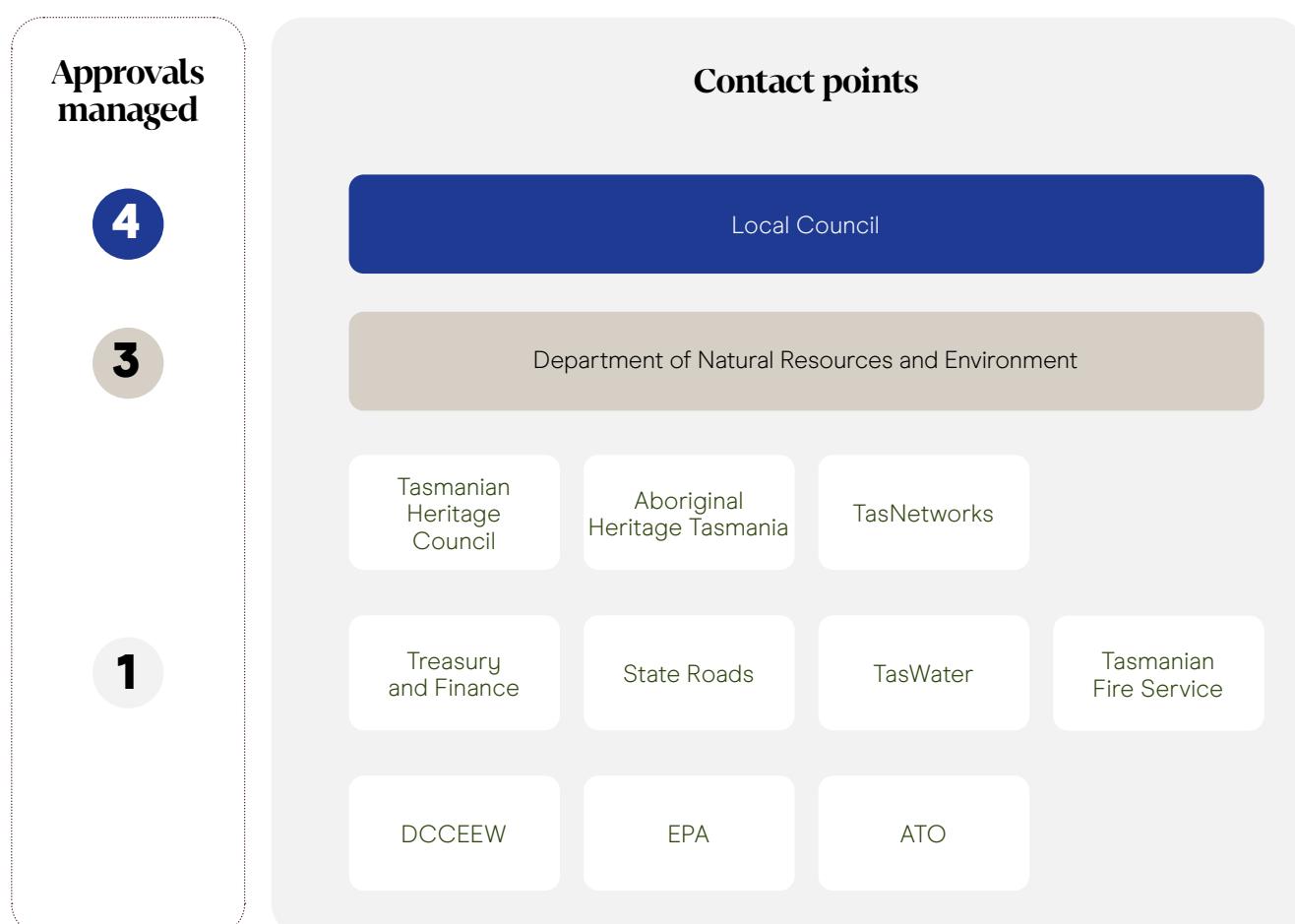
## 2.2 Relevant regulators

The potential approvals required for agritourism businesses are managed by up to 12 different regulators, meaning lots of different contact points for proponents. Local councils are responsible for the most approvals, including those most likely to be required. These include planning permits, building permits, plumbing permits and food business registration.

Sometimes landowner consent is also required by a local council. However, these are often managed by different divisions or departments within a Council and there is often not a centralised contact point for proponents.

The other regulator who covers more than one approval and is often a key contact point for proponents, is NRE, who may be involved because of landowner consents and works on public land permits where crown land is involved or for state-level ecological approvals or fishing licenses/permits. However, like Councils, the approvals managed by NRE involve different sections or units and there is no centralised contact point.

Other regulators shown below manage one approval each.





## 2.3 Costs and timeframes

Costs and timeframes can vary significantly. Costs can be put into two categories: permit/licence application fees, and the cost of preparing documentation required to satisfy authority requirements.

In most circumstances fees can be quantified upfront, although it is recognised where local council assessment occurs, fees vary across the state and can depend on the project's scale and construction cost. Other costs can vary significantly, with influences including the scale and nature of the business, its location and siting, the extent of building work proposed and the condition of any existing buildings to be used.

Timeframes can also be put into two categories: the assessment timeframe by the relevant authority or regulator, and the time required to prepare documentation. For many approvals there are statutory timeframes applied in legislation. However, the key timeframe issue is less about statutory assessment timeframes and more to do with the preparation of documentation and satisfying further information requests.

Timeframes for preparing documentation are often underestimated and can be affected by the capacity of technical practitioners or consultants as well as limited resourcing in authorities, resulting delays in responding to non-statutory tasks or requests. Today, it is very unlikely to be able to obtain all relevant approvals in a few months, and it is more likely to take between 12 and 18 months, excluding the construction period.

Sometimes proponents perceive re-use of existing buildings to be a simpler task, however repurposing of buildings is often the more complex option, sometimes increasing both costs and timeframes. Additionally, building approval timeframes are now often taking longer in the design documentation phase.

Rising construction costs have resulted in a significant increase in the number of projects going through value management after approval. Value management is where contractors review the approved documentation and consult with the proponents on where cost savings can be made and often requires design documentation to be revised. This process can cause delays of six months or more and can require building approvals to be reassessed and reissued.

<b>Project element</b>	<b>Indicative cost</b>
<b>Council fees</b> (Councils charge fees for many approvals required by agritourism businesses including planning permits, some secondary consents such as minor amendments, building permits, plumbing permits, inspection fees, place of assembly licenses for events and food business registration)	Determined by individual councils. Each council's fees and charges schedule are available on their website. These schedules are updated yearly in accordance with each Council's budget process. Planning, building and plumbing permit fees are usually based on cost of works.
<b>TasWater</b>	Determined by TasWater through their fee and charges schedule. The fees associated with assessment of development applications and certificate of certifiable works are, as of August 2022 between \$550 to \$1,750. For up-to-date information visit: <a href="https://www.taswater.com.au/building-anddevelopment/fees-charges">https://www.taswater.com.au/building-anddevelopment/ fees-charges</a>
<b>TasNetworks</b>	Each project individually costed.
<b>Liquor license</b>	Between \$170 and \$1,360 for the application fee with an ongoing annual fee of between \$442 to \$952.
<b>Design documentation</b> (including building design, engineering drawings, building services and plumbing design)	\$20,000 to \$300,000, depending on scale and complexity of development
<b>Private certification</b> (building surveyor)	\$4,000 to \$50,000 depending on scale, complexity and number of referrals
<b>Planning report or technical reports</b> (bushfire hazard management plans, heritage impact assessment, geotechnical assessment, inundation assessments, soil assessments, traffic assessments or other technical reports)	\$3,000 - \$20,000 per report depending on complexity of issues



Ana Pimenta, Cattle Farmer | King Island, North West Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Alastair Bett and Brand Tasmania

# 03



# Key issues

# Key issues

The engagement process undertaken as part of the project identified six key issues, outlined below and explored in more detail in the original report which is separately available.

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## Issue 1      **Lack of accessible information**

Businesses consistently reported difficulty in finding clear, accessible information about the regulatory process. Many operators did not know who to speak with, what steps were involved, or how long the process would take.

Information available on public websites was often technical, fragmented, or incomplete, making it challenging to understand the end-to-end requirements. The absence of checklists or fact sheets and limited access to knowledgeable staff compounded these difficulties.



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## Issue 2      **Regulatory complexity**

The regulatory framework is complex, involving multiple agencies and overlapping requirements for planning, building, health, safety, and compliance. Businesses found it difficult to determine which approvals applied to their operations and which consultants or experts to engage.

Regulatory reforms intended to streamline processes have, in practice, increased administrative burden and confusion, especially for small operators without regulatory expertise.



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## Issue 3      **Experience and expertise of practitioners**

A lack of experience and expertise among both regulatory officers and industry consultants was frequently cited. Businesses encountered inconsistent advice, costly errors, and delays due to practitioners' limited understanding of agritourism operations or rural contexts.

The quality of professional advice varied, and there was little accountability for poor or inaccurate guidance, leading to additional costs and frustration for operators.





Eat Well Tasmania | Hobart, Southern Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Samuel Shelley and Brand Tasmania

## Issue 4

### Inconsistency in interpretation

Regulatory interpretation varied widely across councils and officers, resulting in inconsistent application of standards and requirements. Businesses described experiences where similar proposals were assessed differently, leading to confusion and unpredictability.

Strict or literal interpretation of regulations, particularly around food safety and building standards, often imposed unreasonable burdens on small operators.



## Issue 5

### The 'coal-face' experience

The process of interacting with regulators was described as traumatic and disempowering by many businesses. Operators felt unsupported, dismissed, and subject to an 'enforcement' rather than 'enabling' mindset. Businesses reported that customer service was often lacking, with poor communication, unexpected compliance demands, and a lack of empathy or practical assistance. These negative experiences were exacerbated by staffing shortages and siloed operations within regulatory bodies.

Regulatory officers, meanwhile, reported increasing complexity, higher workloads, and pressure to meet statutory timeframes without adequate resources. Some positive initiatives were noted, such as preliminary planning assessments that are now being provided by Councils.



## Issue 6

### Regulation not always fit for purpose

Existing regulations were often not suited to the realities of small-scale, niche agritourism businesses. 'One size fits all' requirements meant that small operators faced the same regulatory hurdles as large enterprises, which was frequently impractical and costly.

Specific issues included prohibitions on function centres in agricultural zones, expensive infrastructure upgrades, and unsuitable licensing frameworks for activities such as mobile or micro abattoirs and on-water experiences. Businesses and some regulators advocated for greater flexibility, scaling of requirements, and industry-specific guidelines to better support agritourism growth.





Killara Distillery | Richmond, Southern Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Moon Cheese Studio and Brand Tasmania



Two Metre Tall Brewery | Derwent Valley, Southern Tasmania  
Photo courtesy of Moon Cheese Studio and Brand Tasmania

# 04

## Recommendations and actions

# Recommendations and actions

The recommendations address key issues identified through the Project and have been updated following this review. There are four main recommendations, each with specific, practical solutions aimed at the agritourism industry.

While agritourism activities are only small component of all approvals dealt with under legislative systems, some broader reforms under recommendation four could ease the regulatory environment without significant impacts and address issues that would be experienced across other industries.

The recommendations take a holistic approach to resolving the issues; alignment with key issues is identified in each table.

To provide clarity on the changes made through this review, each action has been categorised into one of three groups:

 **REVISED:** Indicates a substantial change to the original action, reflecting updated priorities or new requirements.

 **REFINED:** Represents a minor adjustment or improvement to the original action without altering its core intent.

 **RETAINED:** The original action remains unchanged, as it continues to be relevant and appropriate.



# Recommendation 1

Make sure the regulatory environment is fit for purpose.

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>1.1 (REFINED)</b> <b>Promote the retention of agritourism-specific policies in the upcoming Tasmanian Planning Policies</b>	<p>Over the past 10 years, the Tasmanian Government has reformed the planning system in Tasmania. As part of that reform, draft Tasmanian Planning Policies that are a legislative policy document under the <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> have been prepared and are currently with the Minister for Planning for declaration.</p> <p>These draft policies include strategies that will be used to inform future planning decisions including changes to the State Planning Provisions. The draft policy under 'Section 4.1 Agriculture' includes a strategy aimed at supporting diversification and value-adding of primary industries including through agritourism.</p> <p>State Growth and Tourism Tasmania should promote the retention of this strategy and encourage policies that recognise agritourism businesses, the role that they play in supporting farming activities and the visitor economy, and the type and scale of agritourism businesses that are consistent with the Tasmanian brand values.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information
<b>1.2 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Request that the State Planning Provisions are amended to emphasise the role of agritourism in supporting agricultural activities in the Agriculture and Rural zones</b>	<p>Planning system reform in Tasmania has seen all local councils, with the exception of Kingborough Council, transitioning to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which is structured around State Planning Provisions for local councils to spatially apply through Local Planning Provisions.</p> <p>The State Planning Provisions give effect to the State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land as well as the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies. The State Planning Office has begun a review process for the State Planning Provisions in line with the legislative requirement for 5-year reviews.</p> <p>Changes to be considered should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— A new definition of 'agritourism' in the State Planning Provisions so it is recognised as a legitimate activity.</li><li>— Clarification of the existing occasional event exemption by defining 'occasional' and providing examples of the types of events. The exemption can be currently interpreted as excluding events that occur with regular timing - such as an annual or seasonal event. It can also be interpreted as excluding events that are held on private land with an entrance fee as not being for a cultural or social purpose.</li><li>— New exemptions for some small scale agritourism activities in the Agriculture or Rural zones where there are no relevant overlays, heritage listing or presence of other land hazards such as inundation.</li></ul>	 <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity   <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>1.2 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Request that the State Planning Provisions are amended to emphasise the role of agritourism in supporting agricultural activities in the Agriculture and Rural zones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Conversion of outbuildings for visitor accommodation up to a certain number of people.</li> <li>— Visitor tours of existing farming operations.</li> <li>— Farm gate or cellar door sales up to a certain floor space area.</li> </ul> </li> <li>— These exemptions will allow agritourism businesses to open up to the public and broaden income streams without high up-front establishment costs.</li> <li>— Recognition in the Agriculture and Rural zones of agritourism and associated value in the zone purpose statements and use standards so that it is a relevant consideration in planning assessments.</li> <li>— Inclusion of the 'function centre' use as a discretionary use in the Agriculture and Rural zones, subject to assessment under appropriate use standards, so that agritourism operators can host weddings, food and cultural gatherings or other events.</li> <li>— Inclusion of a permitted pathway through the use standards for some agritourism uses subject to scale and locational considerations to provide a more certain and efficient approval pathway. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Visitor accommodation including in new buildings up to a certain scale and subject to siting considerations.</li> <li>— Agritourism events like weddings, food, cultural or music events up to a certain scale and intensity.</li> <li>— Food and alcohol processing up to a certain scale.</li> <li>— Retail sales and food service up to a certain scale and where in existing buildings.</li> </ul> </li> <li>— Clarifying requirements in the Parking and Sustainable Transport Code for driveway and parking areas in rural areas so that expectations are not for fully sealed surfaces, alleviating this potentially significant upfront capital cost.</li> <li>— Any recommendations arising from action 1.3.</li> </ul>	 <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity   <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information
<b>1.3 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Request that CBOS review technical requirements to provide for scaling: fire regulations, accessibility, food preparation and wastewater systems</b>	Many of the building and plumbing requirements relating to agritourism businesses are a 'one size fits all' approach as they fall in the 'commercial' categories. There may be opportunities to provide additional scaling into the system, in a similar way to the exemptions and permitted pathways for planning to reduce the regulatory burden and costs for the very small-scale operators. It is however recognised that this will require wider input from the building industry.	 <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity   <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>1.4 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Work with State Roads to review the Tasmanian Visitor Information System (TVIS) to make them more accessible to and suitable for agritourism businesses.</b>	<p>The current system is facilitating a culture of illegal signage. The TVIS should be reviewed so that its policies and requirements are suitable for, and accessible to, agritourism operators, particularly for small scale businesses, those who are not directly accessible from highways or with variable operating hours.</p> <p>The review should include liaising with agritourism operators to clearly define the current signage impediments and opportunities to facilitate visitor wayfinding and be recognisable across the state as representative of the brand.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information
<b>1.5 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Work with State Roads to develop more reasonable requirements for road access upgrades for agritourism businesses</b>	<p>The regulatory standards for road access generally refer to the requirements of road authorities. A large portion of agritourism businesses are located on key touring routes, which are predominantly state roads managed by State Growth.</p> <p>State Growth's access-upgrade requirements are often cost prohibitive. More reasonable requirements should be developed to alleviate the cost burden on small agritourism businesses, such as creating a capital works upgrade list that can be actioned as part of a broader works program.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information
<b>1.6 (REFINED)</b>  <b>Support the TWSA in its current efforts to trial an updated Australian Standard for fire protection in distilleries and to create a guidance document for regulators, consultants and the distilling industry</b>	<p>Depending on the volume of alcohol stored on site, distilleries are regulated under the Bushfire-Prone Areas Code contained in the planning scheme that includes requirements for the storage of hazardous goods. Distilleries are also regulated under the NCC and Australian Standard 1940 (AS 1940) regarding building fire safety and hazard management requirements.</p> <p>These requirements are not always triggered, as the regulations are not well understood. In other cases, solutions have been over-engineered. AS 1940 was written for the petrochemical industry and the standards do not always apply to distilleries because petroleum liquids have different properties to ethanol.</p> <p>In the past three years, the TWSA and a working group of regulators including the TFS, Work Safe Tasmania and CBOS have held roundtable discussions in response to this issue. A guideline has now been issued, although the TWSA is now working towards more specific guidance in the form of frequently asked questions.</p> <p>The TWSA also continue to advocate for a new Australian Standard for fire safety in distilleries to ensure regulations appropriately manage the risks.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners   <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation   <b>Issue 6:</b> Regulation not always fit for purpose
<b>1.7 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Request the TFS to review, in consultation with industry, requirements for Dangerous Goods Handling Reports and Hazard Area Reports for alcohol production facilities</b>	<p>The current reporting requirements are very expensive for business operators, and it is possible that the specific regulatory purpose could be satisfied another way. In addition, there are very few consultants who have the relevant certification to prepare the reports, adding to the list of expert shortages across Tasmania and the subsequent delays.</p> <p>Reviewing this requirement could simplify this process and reduce costs, as an interim measure, while broader TWSA efforts are being progressed.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>1.8 (REFINED)</b>  <b>Continue to provide financial support solutions for agritourism businesses to assist with obtaining relevant approvals and become compliant.</b>	<p>The original report identified that making financial support options available for existing businesses, under a certain annual turnover, would help small businesses to become compliant while avoiding closures or lengthy non-compliant period.</p> <p>In the past three years, funding has been made available by the State Growth, although it is likely there is still some work to be done in this space.</p>	 <p><b>Issue 5:</b> The 'coal-face' experience</p>  <p><b>Issue 6:</b> Regulation not always fit for purpose</p>
<b>1.9 (REVISED)</b>  <b>Undertake a targeted review of the regulatory environment for mobile abattoirs and micro-abattoirs focussing on planning, environmental, building and plumbing approvals.</b>	<p>An emerging issue in the agritourism industry that was identified during stakeholder engagement is supporting small scale producers with additional options for the slaughtering of animals. There are currently very limited options in Tasmania.</p> <p>The issue of mobile abattoirs was specifically raised, although Biosecurity Tasmania have now advised that they do permit this to occur subject to appropriate planning, building and environmental health approvals. Given mobile abattoirs are not fixed on land, in most circumstances a planning, building and environmental health permits is unlikely to be required, provided that waste is disposed of into suitably approved facilities.</p> <p>Sprout Tasmania has recently undertaken a review of constraints in the processing of livestock in Tasmania's farming sector. Their report '<a href="#">Tasmanian Livestock Service-kill Processing Investigative Report</a>' published in April 2025 examined the constraints in the processing of livestock in Tasmania and included recommendations associated with facilitating and streamlining approvals.</p> <p>While small-scale or micro abattoirs were not raised in stakeholder engagement associated with the original report, the Sprout Tasmania report is based on extensive engagement with farmers across Tasmania and represents a more detailed and contemporary position on livestock processing in Tasmania, which is also relevant to agritourism operators.</p> <p>Other jurisdictions in Australia have been progressing a range of regulatory reforms in response to this issue and it is worthy of deeper investigation to identify solutions. The review should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Establishing a clear definition of 'micro-abattoir' based on industry consultation that can be used as a basis for the review.</li> <li>— The appropriateness of level 2 thresholds under Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994 for food production and animal and plant product processing based on the contemporary environment around processing technology, environmental management and residual environmental risk.</li> <li>— Incorporating a definition in the State Planning Provisions for small-scale/micro-abattoirs as well as reviewing the status of micro-abattoirs in the Agriculture Zone and applicable distances under the Attenuation Code.</li> <li>— Providing additional clarity on building approval requirements, including documentation and referrals.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity</p>  <p><b>Issue 6:</b> Regulation not always fit for purpose</p>

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>1.10 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Support the TSIC in calling for charter and agritourism on-water licences</b>	<p>An emerging issue in the agritourism industry for foraging-based experiences are limitations around being able to catch and serve seafood as part of the visitor experience. Current licensing does not recognise tourism operators, being focussed on either recreational user or commercial fisheries and therefore restricts what businesses can offer on-water.</p> <p>While a permit instead of a license can be applied for and issued under the Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995., these have a 12-month expiry, creating a regulatory burden through annual reapplications.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information
<b>1.11 (REVISED)</b>  <b>Request that the Department of Health introduce statutory guidelines to clarify that distilleries, wineries and breweries are not 'food preparation areas'</b>	<p>Statutory guidelines assist in ensuring that businesses are not incorrectly classified as food preparation areas and asked to adhere to fit-out requirements that are not suitable for the primary operation. They can also help resolve conflicts between food safety regulations and work health and safety standards, such as ventilation.</p> <p>Regulatory officers will be better equipped to assess applications for distilleries, wineries and breweries, promoting consistency across local council areas and facilitating better interactions between businesses and regulatory bodies.</p> <p>A statutory guideline has recently been prepared and is currently in draft following industry consultation and should be finalised as soon as possible.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information   <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity   <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners   <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>1.12 (RETAINED)</b>  <b>Examine the introduction of internal service standards for permits or licences without statutory timeframes</b>	Introduce service standard timeframes for all permits, licences and approvals for agritourism businesses that do not have statutory timeframes to provide transparency and certainty in the regulatory approval process governing agritourism. Timeframes should be published on the Business Tasmania Website and website of relevant regulatory agency.	 <b>Issue 5:</b> The 'coal-face' experience
<b>1.13 (REVISED)</b>  <b>Update liquor licensing regulation to simplify and streamline requirements as well as provide same fee for distilleries as for wineries and cellar doors</b>	<p>The liquor licensing process was identified through the stakeholder engagement process as exceptionally difficult to navigate with operators often applying for one permit type and then realising they needed another.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Treasury and Finance have established fee concessions for liquor licenses for wineries and cellar doors. These fee concessions were put in place to assist the wine industry grow and prosper in Tasmania when the industry was in its infancy.</p> <p>The TWSA submitted that similar concessions should be made to the distilling industry for the same reasons. Given the emerging importance of distilleries in the agritourism industry this is considered a reasonable position.</p> <p>The complexity involved with the liquor licensing process has more recently been recognised by the Tasmanian Government in their <u>reform announcement</u> to deliver a fairer and simpler liquor licence system.</p>	 <b>Issue 6:</b> Lack of accessible information

# Recommendation 2

Recommendation: Provide easily accessible information to support agritourism businesses in the regulatory process.

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>2.1 (REVISED)</b> <b>Maintain the Tasmanian Agritourism Toolkit: navigating the regulatory process as a resource for operators by updating when required.</b>	<p>Prepared and released in 2022 as part of the Project, the toolkit is a plain English guide for the non-expert that provides an overview of the regulatory process and will help businesses understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— what permits and licences are required up front</li><li>— who the first contact points should be</li><li>— what consultants and reports may be required.</li></ul> <p>The toolkit provides tips on what to think about in the business feasibility stage, how to streamline the regulatory process, and what timeframes and costs to expect. The toolkit should be kept up to date.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity
<b>2.2 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Develop and facilitate an 'approvals' master class for agritourism businesses</b>	<p>While the toolkit will provide a good first point of reference for agritourism proponents, an 'approvals' master class will allow for a more in-depth understanding for those who require it. The master class should be presented by experts in the regulatory process and should provide for questions.</p> <p>A master class will empower businesses with information to help them make informed decisions about the process of starting or expanding their agritourism business.</p> <p>A master class could be held on a regular basis (once or twice yearly) and could be recorded so it can be accessed online.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity
<b>2.3 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Grow specialist support services in Business Tasmania that are dedicated to agritourism to support business owners</b>	<p>A small agritourism team established within state government would provide support and advocacy to businesses. This would improve access to information and the 'coal-face' experience, whilst also alleviating pressure on time-poor regulatory officers.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 5:</b> The 'coal-face experience'

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>2.4 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Create a technical support panel for agritourism operators, or implement an alternative financial support measure, to assist them in obtaining approvals or bringing existing facilities up to standard</b>	<p>A technical support panel established through the new specialist support service (recommendation 2.3) comprising relevant private sector experts will help agritourism businesses by providing an opportunity to provide advice about specific approval requirements or process issues while they are engaged in the process, without having to personally engage that expert.</p> <p>The technical support panel will provide an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— sense check ideas and promote the consistent spread of information</li> <li>— remove pressure from councils to act as an advice line, which can conflict with their independent assessment function</li> <li>— provide a second line of defence in case businesses obtain incorrect information.</li> </ul> <p>It is recommended that the technical support panel is established through an EOI process with relevant private sector practitioners to determine suitability of skills and experience, and that there is reimbursement of costs in providing advice through government support to the expert. This avoids the common issues of free expert advice lines, where responses are not prioritised by the expert due to paid work commitments or agritourism businesses are encouraged into commissions.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity  <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>2.5 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Provide access for agritourism businesses to relevant Australian building standards for agritourism businesses</b>	Relevant Australian Standards should be more easily available and affordable to agritourism businesses through support by State Government. Business Tasmania should purchase access to Australian Standards relevant to Agritourism developments and make available to agritourism business either through advice, website or some other mechanism.	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity
<b>2.6 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Encourage councils that are not already doing so to establish a one-stop shop, pre-application advice service</b>	<p>A one-stop shop, pre-application service where potential proponents can submit an initial concept and be provided with written advice that covers all regulatory requirements is already provided by some councils and was identified as helpful during the engagement process. Some councils charge a small fee for this service.</p> <p>Encouraging councils, particularly those in rural areas, to provide a similar service would be broadly beneficial, particularly for the mum-and-dad type agritourism proponents. Setting up the service so that it can be done electronically without the need for a face-to-face meeting, where all people need to be in the room at once, helps to overcome resourcing constraints in smaller councils where many regulatory staff only work part time. A small fee is considered reasonable and helps to overcome the cost burden to council.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity  <b>Issue 5:</b> The 'coal-face' experience

# Recommendation 3

Create greater awareness of the agritourism industry and the policy context with regulators.

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>3.1 (REVISED)</b> <b>Maintain an 'About agritourism' fact sheet to regulators</b>	<p>Through the process of engaging with regulators it became apparent that there was a general unawareness of the agritourism industry and the policy priorities of State Government to grow the visitor economy through this industry. There were also varying definitions used by regulatory staff, some of which did not reflect the contemporary agritourism environment.</p> <p>As part of the Project in 2022, a fact sheet for regulators was prepared and released. This fact sheet provides information on what agritourism is, its importance to the economy and the policy context, and is a useful tool to creating greater awareness and indirectly improving the administration of regulatory requirements. This fact sheet should be kept up to date.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>3.2 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Facilitate regional sessions for regulators on this project and key issues</b>	<p>A better understanding by regulators of how businesses experience the regulatory system and the key issues that have arisen will go a considerable way to supporting agritourism businesses in the regulatory process. It will provide a more holistic appreciation of the role of the regulatory environment as an enabler of the right forms of economic activity in the agritourism industry.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 5:</b> The 'coal-face' experience
<b>3.3 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Facilitate 'understanding agritourism' training for regulatory staff, private certifiers and other regulatory decision-makers such as local councillors</b>	<p>Similar to the more in-depth understanding that the master class will provide to agritourism proponents over the toolkit, a specific training program for all decision-makers in the regulatory process will help them gain greater depth of knowledge of agritourism activities and how they interact with the process and specific regulatory requirements. This will also go a considerable way to resolving the issues identified.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>3.4 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Provide regulator access to the new specialist support services</b>	<p>With the establishment of specialist support services (recommendation 2.3) it will be possible to also support regulators on a day-to-day basis should they have questions about the agritourism industry, which will help them in their administrative role. This access can also be used as a feedback loop for regulators to raise new or emerging issues relevant to the agritourism industry.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners

# Recommendation 4

Increase the capacity of regulators and experts to assess agritourism proposals.

Action	Summary (as of 2025 review)	Issues alignment
<b>4.1 (REVISED)</b> <b>Prepare guidelines in consultation with the Department of Health on allowable solutions under the relevant Australian standards for commercial kitchens and food preparation areas</b>	<p>Guidelines help improve interactions and outcomes between businesses and regulatory officers, by providing information on allowable solutions as they relate to small agritourism operations, which both parties can rely on.</p> <p>Businesses will be empowered with information, and regulatory officers will have confidence that their interpretation adequately addresses the risks and reflects the advice of the Department of Health.</p> <p>This will help businesses understand the steps and promote consistency in interpretation.</p>	 <b>Issue 1:</b> Lack of accessible information  <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity  <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>4.2 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Facilitate training, with the Department of Health, for council environmental health officers on how to interpret and apply food preparation requirements for agritourism businesses</b>	<p>In conjunction with recommendation 3.1, training for environmental health officers will provide greater understanding of various agritourism food service businesses, the food safety risks, and allowable solutions appropriate for the size and scale of the operation. This will help regulatory officers apply regulation and support resolving issues identified regarding complexity and consistent interpretation.</p>	 <b>Issue 2:</b> Regulatory complexity  <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners  <b>Issue 4:</b> Inconsistency in interpretation
<b>4.3 (RETAINED)</b> <b>Request that CBOS strengthen its professional certification review and auditing program</b>	<p>The engagement process identified some examples of where private consultants and service providers are not providing accurate advice or discharging their statutory obligations appropriately. Adequately managing the professionals operating in any industry is important to maintain appropriate standards and integrity. Like any other industry, technical experts and consultants should refresh their skills with regular training and professional development and be accountable for non-compliance.</p> <p>Ensuring the professional certification review program is adequate will resolve issues raised about experience and expertise.</p>	 <b>Issue 3:</b> Experience and expertise of practitioners

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