Consultation and Feedback Summary

Designated Area Migration Agreement for Tasmania

Project and consultation overview

The Department of State Growth (Global Education and Migration [GEM] branch) is developing a business case for a Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) for Tasmania. This new migration option would provide flexibility on existing employer sponsored visa conditions, which could increase the pool of people available to help fill workforce shortages.

Throughout May, June and July 2025, GEM conducted comprehensive stakeholder engagement and consultation on its proposed occupations and visa eligibility concessions. The consultation has now concluded with 38 individual submissions across Tasmanian economic sectors. This information will be used to update the business case to the Department of Home Affairs. If approved, the DAMA will be implemented from early 2026.

Delivery of engagement

The consultation period for the DAMA opened on 12 May 2025 and closed on 14 July 2025. Some in-person engagement took place with internal departmental and other intergovernmental stakeholders prior to and during this period. Individual meetings with some peak organisations also took place during the consultation period, upon request for briefings by those organisations' representatives.

The consultation was primarily delivered via Engage at State Growth, the department's online engagement platform. GEM created a landing page to outline the DAMA and what feedback it was seeking, and then split the site into sector pages, where users could get more details about their specific industry. The link to view the now closed site is engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/migration-tas

The industry pages included a list of proposed occupations for that industry, which GEM is considering including in the DAMA business case. Users could download this list and review it then complete a short survey which allowed detailed responses. Requiring users to include their email address to submit the survey, ensured credible submissions and allowed the team to follow up with any questions.

Representatives from industry peak organisations were invited directly to participate and in so doing organically spread details of the consultation to additional contacts, via newsletters, social media and direct email. This increased the initial reach considerably and resulted in the high quality and quantity of submissions received.

Data and findings

During the consultation period, there were 563 unique visits from 401 individual visitors, which resulted in 35 survey submissions. The submissions covered all surveyed industry sectors except for Aquaculture, Other Trades and Retail, of which no submissions were received, however based on the data we have analysed for these sectors, we are confident our proposed occupations are appropriate.

Three additional submissions were received via the dedicated Migration Consultation email.

Where a representative's expertise crossed into multiple industry sectors, they were encouraged to submit responses for all relevant industries. For example, an agricultural organisation was broadly interested in occupations related to agriculture but also employed support services such as accountants, IT support, administrative officers etc.

The total of 38 individual submissions across most Tasmanian economic sectors suggests a real interest in using migrant workers to fill skills gaps in the workforce. This number also indicates the platform used to deliver the engagement was an appropriate method.

Number of submissions by industry

All submissions received via Engage at State Growth unless otherwise noted

Industry sector	*Number of submissions received*
Aged Care, Disability and Community	2
Agriculture and Food Production	7 (1 via email)
Aquaculture	0
Automotive	2
Construction	4 (1 via email)
Education and Childcare	5 (1 via email)
Engineering and Manufacturing	3
Finance	1
Health and Allied Health	4
Hospitality and Tourism	5
ICT	1
Mining, Resources and Energy	1
Other trades	0
Personal and Professional Services	2
Retail	0
Transport and Logistics	1

The responses indicate that industries are broadly supportive of the proposed occupations and visa concessions and suggest that these will increase the candidate pool for their workforce. For example, a representative for Education and Childcare sector said that increasing the age limit would assist them in attracting skilled educators from overseas.

Many submissions included additional occupations to be considered for inclusion in the DAMA. Suggestions also included variations on existing titles to better align with Awards or other industry standards.

One of the most common pieces of feedback received was that the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) is too high and does not align to the salary being paid to local workers.

Next steps

We will analyse the information provided on occupations and minimum salary discounts and compare it against our proposed occupation lists and concessions.

Where sufficiently justified and appropriate, this information, along with observations about the TSMIT and occupation titles, will be incorporated into our final business case to the Department of Home Affairs.

Providing negotiations are positive and the DAMA proposal is accepted, we expect to implement the new visa option from early 2026. A program of business and industry outreach is in development to build awareness and assist employers in using the new option.