CRAIG GARLAND
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WINTER 2025

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FREE COMMUNITY NEWS

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REFLECTIONS ON MY 1ST YEAR

How do, Braddon! Just over a year ago, I was voted in to represent you in the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian Parliament. In February last year, when the state election was called, I wasn't even 100% sure if I was going to run as a candidate. Five elections in six years had left me feeling drained and 8 kilos lighter. But I decided to run one last time. I felt I owed it to those who supported and believed in me over the years. Everyone was saying I didn't have a chance. On election night, political commentators wrote me off. After voters preferences were distributed, somehow, I managed to scrape in, on the smallest primary vote in Tasmania's state political history (5.1%).

I'm very grateful to the people of Braddon for giving me a chance. I'm certainly not your typical parliamentarian. I sleep outside, in a swag, I didn't own a computer, I don't take notes, I don't shave, and I didn't have a clue how Parliament worked. While I was never going to cut my hair or wear a suit, I've made a few changes to try and fit in. I've dusted off an old op shop jacket. I bought a new pair of jeans, and some shoes. I've had to learn a lot of things very quickly, but I've also been helped considerably by the parliamentary staff and fellow Independents. It took over 8 months to get an electoral office up and running. Before that, I was working out of my car. But now I've got an office in Wynyard and a great team. I came into parliament wanting action on some key issues, but I made the mistake of thinking things would happen right away for me.

I now understand as an Independent, I need support from one of the major parties to get an outcome through Parliament. I also understand that change takes time, and that when governments rush into things, delays and mistakes happen. So, although progress has been slow, I believe the current parliament is more representative, and more productive.

Being an MP takes its toll. I hardly see my young family. I'm away more than I'm home. There's no clock-off time. And if you're doing it properly — turning up, listening, reading, helping people — it's all-consuming. Noone is doing this job for the money alone – you couldn't pay someone enough for the sacrifice you have to make. Although its hard work and I'm not here to get re-elected, I'm prepared to run in as many elections as I can to ensure that Braddon continues to have a strong independent voice for the community, the environment, and the future of Tasmania.

Publication authorised by Craig Garland, 56 Goldie Street, Wynyard. TAS 7325.

1ST YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- Meeting with key organisations and government departments to understand key issues.
- Advocating on a range of issues, such as energy matters, salmon farming practices, state finances, the stadium, the new Spirit Vessels, the environment, fishery matters, amongst many others.
- Making my maiden speech in Parliament in front my partner, my kids, my mother, my sisters, and friends.
- Moving into my new electorate office in Wynyard.

- Using question time and government briefings to get answers about the summer salmon disease outbreak in Southeast Tas.
- Keeping the community informed and engaged by hosting two Burnie Town Hall meetings, one on Energy impacts last September and one on Fisheries in Bass Strait in February.
- Amplifying the community's opposition against the Macquarie Point stadium proposal and advocating for the Tasmanian Devils teams to be based at York Park; speaking at three rallies.

- Providing regular community updates online about my work in Parliament & on topical current issues.
- Holding the government to account on their budget and strongly advocating for responsible steps to be taken to get Tasmania's finances in better shape.
- Speaking at rallies in Burnie and Devonport in opposition to expansion of the salmon industry.
- Being a member on the Energy Committee *(see back page for more details)* and the Integrity Committee.
- Attending and contributing to community forums on the proposed Northwest renewable energy zone and Bass Strait aquaculture research trials.
- Attending a wide range of community events across Braddon, in Hobart, & in Launceston.

- Supporting Saputo workers calling for fair pay.
- Successfully moving amendments to Government legislation.
- Introducing a motion that was passed, for an independent review into TasNetworks' response to the severe weather event in August-September 2024.
- Playing a key role in government accountability on the Spirit of Tasmania ferry & berth fiasco, which led to former Minister Michael Ferguson resigning from all ministerial portfolios. I spoke to Mr Ferguson over the phone, the day before Labor's planned vote of no confidence to inform him that he had lost my confidence. He resigned before a vote took place.
- Meeting with constituents and community members to listen to concerns and help them navigate options and work towards solutions.

MY MOTIONS TO PARLIAMENT

1. JUNE 2024 - **GOV'T SUPPORT FOR A ROBBINS PASSAGE RAMSAR NOMINATION**
Result: 11 For, 23 Against (Vote lost)
2. SEPT 2024 - **INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO TASNETWORKS' RESPONSE TO 2024 STORM**
RESULT: Approved without division vote
3. MARCH 2025 - **COST-BENEFIT RESEARCH for ON-LAND SALMON FARMS**
Result: 9 For, 22 Against (Vote lost)
4. MAY 2025 - **STADIUM REFERENDUM**
Result: 4 For, 30 Against (Vote lost)

If you are interested in speeches I've made, how I've voted, or debate on motions I've moved in Parliament, check out my website or my Facebook.

What can Craig do?

- Meet with you, listen to your issue, and help identify solutions
- Help you to understand and navigate the government system
- Direct you to relevant authorities, where appropriate, or raise your issue with the State Government on certain matters
- Provide meeting room access and use by community groups *(subject to booking availability)*

What can't Craig do?

- Provide legal advice or get involved in your legal dispute
- Provide health advice
- Provide instant fixes to your problems

To seek help with a matter, you can call, email or come into my office to outline what your situation is.

How does an Independent work amongst Political parties? As an independent MP, I consider every issue on its merits by taking into account the evidence, views of the community & my conscience. Did I mention I love fish? I strive for

Fairness, **I**ntegrity, **S**ustainability, **H**umility

in our political system. To read more about my values, my key objectives, and opportunities you have to help me out, please check out my new expanded website!

Speakers Q&A at this year's Fisheries Forum

My Local Coastal Fishing Tips

Winter: King George Whiting will be hungry and back inshore after spawning. Big Calamari, although low in numbers will start to frequent inshore areas. Plenty of couta + shortfin pike over seagrass beds, along with garfish and the odd cuttlefish. Silver trevally and mackerell in estuaries and sheltered bays.

Spring: Calamari, King George Whiting, Australian salmon, Gummy Shark, Silver Trevally, Snook, Barracouta, + Elephant Fish will increase in numbers at the advent of spring and warmer waters.

1 year celebration!

WANT TO FOLLOW A REEL INDEPENDENT? CHECK OUT MY VIDEOS ON FACEBOOK, INSTA, TIK TOK, X, & YOUTUBE LINKS ON MY WEB!

FISHING FOR FEEDBACK!

https://forms.office.com/r/sczc3GTx1g

Scan Me

I want to hear from you in my short survey. The best method is to scan the QR code or follow the link and complete it online. Alternatively, you can cut this section out and drop it into my Wynyard office!

Your First & Last name: _____ **Your Email:** _____

Are you a Braddon local? *(please tick)* **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

What are your main area(s) of concern? *(please number one or more boxes, with 1 being your highest concern)*

☐ **Energy**	☐ **Environment (Land/Marine)**	☐ **Housing**	☐ **Community**	☐ **Cost of Living**
☐ **Aboriginal Affairs**	☐ **Police, Justice, & Integrity**	☐ **Education**	☐ **Health**	☐ **Tourism**
☐ **State Finances**	☐ **Heavy Industry & Building**	☐ **Spirits & Ports**	☐ **Stadiums**	☐ **Local Council**

Currently what is your biggest concern for your community? *(please detail your response)*

_____

_____

Would you like to join my cohort of volunteers? *(please tick)* **YES** ☐ **NO** ☐

~ Thank you for completing this survey. Your Feedback is important to help me focus on the issues that matter to you! ~

Special Focus: Energy

Below is my draft Energy Policy for public comment

I support:

Energy development done right, in the right place:

1. Renewable energy development and storage must be done right, in the right place, for the benefit of Tasmanians.
2. Investment into Tidal Energy research and development.

Affordable Electricity Prices:

3. An end to Marinus Link, as it is too expensive and too risky.
4. Keeping Tasmanian Energy GBEs publicly owned.
5. An independent electricity exports review.

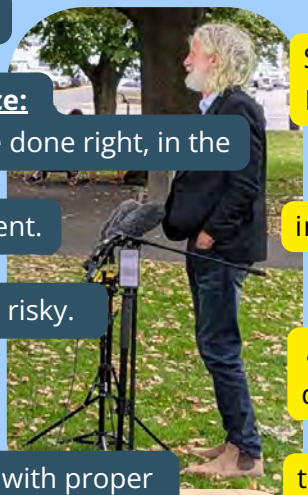
Infrastructure we need:

6. Strategically increasing renewable energy generation with proper planning and analysis of how much energy we really need as a state to avoid developing an excess of electricity infrastructure.

Powering the community and the consumer:

7. More government support for consumer energy resources.
8. Rooftop solar and battery targets and incentives.
9. More government support for renters and people on low incomes to access energy efficiency improvements for their houses.
10. More rooftop solar on social housing combined with community batteries.

Send me your thoughts via email before 29 July 2025!



Energy Committee Update

Since May 2024, I've been part of a Parliament committee looking into energy issues, including power prices. It has been incredibly interesting. It's a crucial time in the energy space, as Parliament prepares to make big decisions about whether to spend billions of dollars on electricity infrastructure like Marinus Link and new transmission lines. These decisions will impact our economy, our housing, our electricity bills, and our environment. I've travelled around Tasmania, to better understand our current electricity infrastructure and our future needs. During committee public hearings, I've heard from various experts in energy policy, energy economics and energy infrastructure, as well as the heads of government agencies like Hydro, Aurora and the Minister for Energy & Renewables. This evidence is not only important for the committee, but for the Government and the Parliament to make decisions about Tasmania's energy future.

Watch Parliament, broadcast live from 10am on **sitting days**

https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/

What question would you ask a Minister?

What motion or law would you bring to Parliament?

LET ME KNOW

What new policy ideas would you like to see?

What needs better Government funding in Braddon?

Write your ideas and drop them in to my office, 56 Goldie Street, Wynyard