



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 27

WEDNESDAY, 15 APRIL 2026

- 1 **COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.
- 2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said: “We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the first inhabitants and the continuing custodians of this land.”
- 3 **PRAYERS AND REFLECTION.**— The President read Prayers.
- 4 **E-PETITION: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.**— Ms *Ratray* laid upon the Table of the Council the Government’s Response to the Honourable Member for Hobart’s (Ms *O’Connor’s*) E-Petition regarding increased regulation of quad bikes to improve safety and reduce injuries and deaths.
- 5 **TREASURY BUILDING COMPLEX.**— Ms *O’Connor* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — Regarding the Tasmanian Government’s plan to repurpose one of the State’s most iconic and historically-significant assets – the Treasury Building Complex in Hobart, the Expression of Interest phase closed on Wednesday, 17 December 2025 and I understand unsuccessful proponents have been notified.

Can the Government provide an update on:

- (1) The name of the successful proponent.
- (2) The nature of the successful proposal.
- (3) Whether it involves the sale or long-term lease of the Treasury Complex.
- (4) When there will be a public announcement about the details of this arrangement and the future of this public heritage asset.
- (5) A timeline for this project.

The Leader answered:

- (1) The Government has not yet selected a successful proponent. The process is ongoing, with submissions from the Expression of Interest phase having been evaluated and the project now progressing to the closed Request for Tender stage.
- (2) As the process has not yet concluded, no final proposal has been agreed. Proponents shortlisted for the Request for Tender stage will be invited to submit detailed development concepts, including both financial and non-financial elements, consistent with the Government’s objective for the repurposing the site to support economic growth and public access.
- (3) No final decision has been made regarding the structure of any transaction. Options, including sale or long-term lease arrangements, will be considered as part of the competitive tender process to ensure the best outcome for Tasmania.
- (4) The Government will make further announcements at the appropriate time following the completion of the closed Request for Tender process. This will ensure due process is followed and that all proposals are properly assessed before any final decision is made.

(5) The project is being delivered through a structured, multi-stage process:

- Registration of Interest phase completed in June 2025;
- Expression of Interest phase completed in December 2025; and
- Request for Tender phase anticipated to commence on 29 April 2026.

All stages in the process will include consultation with the public and interested parties.

Further milestones, including final decisions and announcements, will be determined following the evaluation of tender submissions.

6 PAPERS.— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) *Early Childhood Legislation Amendment (Child Safety) Act 2025*. No. 53 of 2025.
- (2) *Poisons Act 1971: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 6, Poisons (Application of Uniform Standard) Amendment Order 2026*.
- (3) Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2025.
- (4) Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2025.
- (5) Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2026.

7 SITTING SUSPENDED.— *Resolved*, That the Sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the Division bells. (Ms Rattray)

The Sitting was suspended at 11.05 o'clock a.m. and resumed at 12.19 o'clock p.m.

8 BILL NO. 58 OF 2025.— The Order of the Day was read for resuming the Debate on the Question, That the University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2025 be now read the Second time.

The Question was again proposed, and the Council resumed the Debate.

And the Question being put,

The Council divided.

AYES 8

Ms Armitage
Mr Duigan (Teller)
Mr Edmunds
Ms Forrest
Ms Lovell
Ms Palmer
Ms Rattray
Mr Vincent

NOES 6

Mr Gaffney
Mr Harriss
Mr Hiscutt
Ms O'Connor (Teller)
Ms Thomas
Ms Webb

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

(In the Committee)

Ms Forrest in the Chair.

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clause 3, Amendment proposed. (Ms Webb)

Page 4, definition of *dispose*, paragraph (i), after “not less than”.

Leave out “99 years”.

Insert instead “30 years”.

9 SITTING SUSPENDED.— It being 1.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

10 QUESTION TIME.— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were eleven Questions asked.

11 BILL NO. 58 OF 2025.— The Council again resolved itself into a Committee on the University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2025.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Proposed Amendment to Clause 3 further considered.

Question put, That the Amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 7

Ms *Forrest*
Mr *Gaffney*
Mr *Harriss* (Teller)
Mr *Hiscutt*
Ms *O'Connor*
Ms *Thomas*
Ms *Webb*

NOES 7

Ms *Armitage*
Mr *Duigan*
Mr *Edmunds*
Ms *Lovell* (Teller)
Ms *Palmer*
Ms *Rattray*
Mr *Vincent*

The Votes being equal it passed in the Negative.

Clause 3 as read, agreed to.

Clause 4, Amendments proposed. (Ms *Webb*)

First amendment

Page 5, subclause (2), paragraph (a), after subparagraph (i).

Insert the following subparagraph.

- (X) must provide to the Minister, with the request under subparagraph (i), a report in accordance with subsection (xx); and

Second amendment

Same page, same subclause, paragraph (b), after “is to table the”.

Leave out “motion”.

Insert instead “motion, and the report under paragraph (a)(X) provided to the Minister with the motion,”.

Third amendment

Page 6, after subclause (2).

Insert the following subsection.

- (xx) A report to be provided by the University under subsection (2)(a)(X), in respect of the proposed disposal of vested land under this section, is to include –
- (a) the reasons why the University intends to dispose of the land; and
 - (b) if known, the purpose for which the land is intended to be used after the University has disposed of the land; and

- (c) if the intended use of the land after its disposal is not known at the time the report is prepared, a statement to that effect; and
- (d) the characteristics and qualities of the land including, but not limited to –
 - (i) the geological, biodiversity and topographical characteristics of the land; and
 - (ii) a list of all existing structures on the land; and
 - (iii) details of any consultation undertaken by the University in respect of the proposed disposal of the land including, but not limited to, consultation with statutory authorities and planning authorities.

12 SITTING SUSPENDED.— It being 4.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

13 BILL NO. 28 OF 2025.— The Council again resolved itself into a Committee on the University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2025.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Proposed Amendments to Clause 4 further considered.

Question put, That the Amendments be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 7

Ms *Forrest*
 Mr *Gaffney*
 Mr *Harriss*
 Mr *Hiscutt*
 Ms *O'Connor*
 Ms *Thomas* (Teller)
 Ms *Webb*

NOES 7

Ms *Armitage*
 Mr *Duigan*
 Mr *Edmunds*
 Ms *Lovell* (Teller)
 Ms *Palmer*
 Ms *Rattray*
 Mr *Vincent*

The Votes being equal it passed in the Negative.

Question put, That Clause 4 as read be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 11

Ms *Armitage*
 Mr *Duigan*
 Mr *Edmunds*
 Ms *Forrest*
 Mr *Harriss*
 Mr *Hiscutt*
 Ms *Lovell* (Teller)
 Ms *Palmer*
 Ms *Rattray*
 Ms *Thomas*
 Mr *Vincent*

NOES 3

Mr *Gaffney* (Teller)
 Ms *O'Connor*
 Ms *Webb*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.

Question put, That Clause 7 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 8

Ms *Armitage*
Mr *Duigan* (Teller)
Mr *Edmunds*
Ms *Forrest*
Ms *Lovell*
Ms *Palmer*
Ms *Rattray*
Mr *Vincent*

NOES 6

Mr *Gaffney*
Mr *Harriss* (Teller)
Mr *Hiscutt*
Ms *O'Connor*
Ms *Thomas*
Ms *Webb*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Clauses 8 to 10 agreed to.

New Clause A brought up (Ms *Webb*) and read the First time as follows:—

A. Minister must protect certain land with caveat

(1) In this section –

Land Council means the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania established under section 5 of the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*;

Recorder has the same meaning as in the *Land Titles Act 1980*;

relevant land means such part of Volume 176312, Folio 1, in the Register kept under section 33 of the *Land Titles Act 1980* that does not fall within the definition of **proposed areas** in section 7.

- (2) As soon as practicable after this Act receives the Royal Assent, the Minister is to cause a notification to be lodged with the Recorder, in a form approved by the Recorder, stating that the disposal of the relevant land may not occur while the notification is in force.
- (3) A notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2) –
- (a) operates as a caveat lodged under the *Land Titles Act 1980* forbidding the University from disposing of the relevant land while the notification is in force; and
- (b) remains in force until the Minister lodges a notification with the Recorder, in a form approved by the Recorder, stating that the notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2) is withdrawn.
- (4) The Minister may only lodge a notification with the Recorder under subsection (3)(b) if the Minister is satisfied that –
- (a) the University and the Land Council have entered into a written agreement that the relevant land is to be –
- (i) acquired by the Land Council; and
- (ii) the subject of an application to the Minister under section 35A(1) of the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*; or
- (b) the University, or the Land Council, have provided evidence to the satisfaction of the Minister of one or more of the following:
- (i) that all reasonable efforts to reach a written agreement, referred to in paragraph (a), in respect of the relevant land has failed;
- (ii) that the Land Council does not wish to acquire the relevant land;
- (iii) that the Land Council does not wish for the relevant land to become Aboriginal land within the meaning of the *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*.
- (5) Sections 133(3)(b) and 136 of the *Land Titles Act 1980* do not apply to a notification lodged with the Recorder under subsection (2).

- (6) No fee is payable under the *Land Titles Act 1980* in respect of a notification of the Minister lodged with the Recorder under this section.

Question put, That New Clause A be read the Second time.

The Committee divided.

AYES 2

Ms O'Connor
Ms Webb (Teller)

NOES 12

Ms Armitage
Mr Duigan
Mr Edmunds
Ms Forrest
Mr Gaffney
Mr Harriss
Mr Hiscutt (Teller)
Ms Lovell
Ms Palmer
Ms Rattray
Ms Thomas
Mr Vincent

So it passed in the Negative.

Schedule 1, Amendment proposed. (*Ms Webb*)

Page 14, paragraph (a), after "*Act 1980*,".

Leave out "that falls between Churchill Avenue and Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay".

Insert instead "other than an area of land that is a proposed area within the meaning of section 7".

Question put, That the Amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 6

Mr Gaffney (Teller)
Mr Harriss
Mr Hiscutt
Ms O'Connor
Ms Thomas
Ms Webb

NOES 8

Ms Armitage (Teller)
Mr Duigan
Mr Edmunds
Ms Forrest
Ms Lovell
Ms Palmer
Ms Rattray
Mr Vincent

So it passed in the Negative.

Schedule 1 as read agreed to.

Question put, That Schedule 2 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 10

Ms Armitage
Mr Duigan
Mr Edmunds
Ms Forrest
Mr Harriss
Mr Hiscutt
Ms Lovell
Ms Palmer
Ms Rattray
Mr Vincent (Teller)

NOES 4

Mr Gaffney
Ms O'Connor
Ms Thomas (Teller)
Ms Webb

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Schedule 3 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council without Amendment.

Ordered, That the Third reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow. (Ms *Palmer*)

14 SITTING SUSPENDED.— *Resolved*, That the Sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the Division bells. (Ms *Ratray*)

The Sitting was suspended at 7.24 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 8.25 o'clock p.m.

15 BILL NO. 66 OF 2025.— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025.

A Motion was made (Mr *Vincent*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

Ordered, That Ms *Ratray* have leave to Table a letter dated 17 July 2025 from Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP to Mr Ben England of the North West Greyhound Racing Club Inc.

Ordered, That the Debate be adjourned. (Ms *Edmunds*)

16 ADJOURNMENT.— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 10.00 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, 16 April 2026. (Ms *Ratray*)

Resolved, That the Council do now adjourn. (Ms *Ratray*)

The Council adjourned at 10.56 o'clock p.m.

C.L. VICKERS, *Clerk of the Council.*

Briefing:

- *Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025*