



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

UNCORRECTED PROOF

No. 38

WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 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 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – BICENTENARY OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.**— The President said —

“In June 2026, Tasmania marks a significant milestone – the bicentenary of the Legislative Council.

The Council’s history mirrors Tasmania’s wider democratic development – from its beginnings as an appointed advisory body, through the expansion of representative government, to its present role as a fully elected and representative House of review.

The Council’s strengths lie both in its traditions and continuity, and its capacity to adapt. While the challenges facing our society have changed, the fundamental purpose of the Legislative Council remains constant: to represent Tasmania’s diverse communities, to robustly review and scrutinise legislation, and to safeguard the principles of responsible government.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to acknowledge the individuals who have served within it over the past two hundred years—Members, Officers and staff—whose commitment has sustained its work over generations. Their contribution forms a legacy of dedication, integrity and civic responsibility that continues to guide the Council today.

As we look to the future, in an increasingly complex and fast-moving world, the need for thoughtful deliberation, careful scrutiny, and independent review is as important as ever. The Council will continue to uphold these principles in the service of all Tasmanians.”

**5 BILL NO. 18.**— The Order of the Day was read for the further consideration in Committee of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026.

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

(In the Committee)

Ms *Thomas* in the Chair.

**Division 9 – Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management**

*Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That Ms *Armitage* have leave to Table additional information provided by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management in relation to Output Group 1.1, to be included as part of the Report of Estimates Committee B.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 considered and agreed to.

Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Output 3.1 agreed to.

Output Group 4

Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

**Division 10 – Department of Premier and Cabinet**

*Premier*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 considered and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That Ms *Armitage* have leave to Table additional information provided by the Premier in relation to Output Group 2.1, to be included as part of the Report of Estimates Committee B.

Outputs 2.2 and 2.3 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Output 3.2 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

*Minister for Aboriginal Affairs*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.6 agreed to.

*Minister for Disability Services*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.7, 1.8 and 1.10 agreed to.

*Minister for Veterans' Affairs*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.5 agreed to.

*Minister for Local Government*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.9 agreed to.

*Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs*

Operating Services

Output Group 3

Output 3.3 agreed to.

*Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.4 agreed to.

*Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy*

Operating Services

Output Group 3

Output 3.1 agreed to.

*Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal*

Grants and Subsidies considered and agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

**Division 11 – Department of State Growth**

*Minister for Energy and Renewables*

Operating Services

Output Group 7

Output 7.1 considered and agreed to.

*Minister for Arts and Heritage*

Operating Services

Output Group 5

Outputs 5.1, 5.2 agreed to.

Output 5.3 considered and agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Infrastructure Program agreed to.

*Minister for Environment*

Operating Services

Output Group 7

Output 7.2 considered and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That Ms Rattray have leave to Table a breakdown of expenditure on climate mitigation and adaption projects.

*Minister for Skills and Jobs*

Operating Services

Outgroup Group 3

Output 3.1 agreed to.

*Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events*

Operating Services

Output Group 5

Outputs 5.4 and 5.5 agreed to.

*Minister for Housing and Planning*

Operating Services

Output Group 8

Outputs 8.1 and 8.2 considered and agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

*Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.3 agreed to.

*Minister for Sport*

Operating Services

Output Group 5

Output 5.6 considered and agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Infrastructure Program agreed to.

*Minister for Business, Industry and Resources*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 agreed to.

Output Group 4

Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

*Minister for Infrastructure and Transport*

Operating Services

Output Group 2

Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 agreed to.

Output Group 6

Output 6.1 agreed to.

Output 6.2 considered.

**6 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.

**7 QUESTION TIME.**— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were eight Questions asked.

**8 BILL NO. 18.**— The Council again resolved itself into a Committee on the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

**Division 11 – Department of State Growth**

*Minister for Infrastructure and Transport*

Operating Services

Output Group 6

Output 6.2 further considered and agreed to.

Output 6.3 considered and agreed to.

*Ordered*, That Mr *Vincent* have leave to Table information regarding school bus services capacity.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

**Division 12 – Tourism Tasmania**

*Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered and agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 13 – Department of Treasury and Finance**

*Treasurer*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 considered and agreed to.

Output 1.3 considered.

**9 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.

**10 BILL NO. 18.**— The Council again resolved itself into a Committee on the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

**Division 13 – Department of Treasury and Finance**

*Treasurer*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output further 1.3 considered and agreed to.

Outputs 1.4 and 1.5 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Outputs 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 and 3.5 agreed to.

Output Group 4

Output 4.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

Schedule agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Postponed Clauses 4 and 5 further considered and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Request and without Amendment.

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

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

**11 BILL NO. 19.**— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2026.

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

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.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 and 5 postponed.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Schedule 1

**Division 1 – House of Assembly**

*Speaker of the House of Assembly*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 2 – Integrity Commission**

*Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered and agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 3 – Legislative Council**

*President of the Legislative Council*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 4 – Legislature-General**

*President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly acting jointly*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Outputs 3.1 and 3.2 agreed to.

Output Group 4

Outputs 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

**Division 5 – Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

*Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 6 – Office of the Governor**

*Premier*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

**Division 7 – Office of the Ombudsman**

*Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

**Division 8 – Tasmanian Audit Office**

*Treasurer*

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

Schedule agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Postponed Clauses 4 and 5 further considered and agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Request and without Amendment.

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

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

**12 BILL NO. 20.**— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the First Home Owner Grant Amendment Bill 2026.

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

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

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.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

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The Council being resumed, Ms *Armitage* 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 *Rattray*)

**12 BILL NO. 10.**— The Order of the Day was read for resuming the Debate on the Question, That the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026 be now read the Second time.

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

And the Question being put,

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.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

To report progress and seek leave to sit again.

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The Council being resumed Ms *Armitage* reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that she was directed to move that the Committee may have leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That the Council will, at a later hour, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

**13 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 5.17 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 5.47 o'clock p.m.

**14 BILL NO. 10.**— The Council, according to Order, again resolved itself into a Committee to consider the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026.

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

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Question put, That Clause 5 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 8

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

NOES 4

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

Pair: Ms *Forrest*

Pair: Ms *Glade-Wright*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Question put, That Clause 6 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 8

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

NOES 4

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

Pair: Ms *Forrest*

Pair: Ms *Glade-Wright*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Question put, That Clause 7 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 8

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

NOES 4

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

Pair: Ms *Forrest*

Pair: Ms *Glade-Wright*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

To report progress and seek leave to sit again.

---

The Council being resumed Ms *Armitage* reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that she was directed to move that the Committee may have leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That the Council will, at a later hour, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

**15 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 7.00 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 7.57 o'clock p.m.

**16 BILL NO. 10.**— The Council, according to Order, again resolved itself into a Committee to consider the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Thomas* in the Chair.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9, Amendments proposed. (Ms *O'Connor*)

**First amendment**

Page 15, paragraph (b).

*Leave out* the paragraph.

**Second amendment**

Same page, paragraph (c).

*Leave out* the paragraph.

Question put, That the Amendments be agreed to.

It passed in the Negative.

Clause 9 as read agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 12 agreed to.

Clause 13, Amendments proposed. (Ms *Webb*)

**First amendment**

Page 21, proposed new Division 3AAA, section 28JAC.

*Leave out* that section.

**Second amendment**

Page 23, same proposed new Division, section 28JAD, subsection (2).

*Leave out* that subsection.

*Insert instead* the following subsection.

- (2) A recommendation under subsection (1) may be made as a result of a review under section 28JAB.

And the Question being put,

The Committee divided.

AYES 6

Ms *Armitage*  
Mr *Gaffney*  
Mr *Harriss*  
Ms *O'Connor*  
Ms *Ratray*  
Ms *Webb* (Teller)

Pair: Ms *Glade-Wright*

NOES 6

Mr *Duigan*  
Mr *Edmunds* (Teller)  
Mr *Hiscutt*  
Ms *Palmer*  
Ms *Thomas*  
Mr *Vincent*

Pair: Ms *Lovell*

The Votes being equal, it passed in the Negative.

Question put, That Clause 13 be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 7

Mr *Duigan*  
Mr *Edmunds*

NOES 5

Ms *Armitage*  
Mr *Gaffney*

Mr *Hiscutt* (Teller)  
Ms *Lovell*  
Ms *Palmer*  
Ms *Thomas*  
Mr *Vincent*

Ms *O'Connor* (Teller)  
Ms *Ratray*  
Ms *Webb*

Pair: Ms *Forrest*

Pair: Ms *Glade-Wright*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Clauses 14 to 17 agreed to.

Clause 18, Amendment made. (Mr *Hiscutt*)

Page 39, proposed new Division 3B, Subdivision 3, section 28ZX, subsection (1), paragraph (d), after “period not exceeding”.

*Leave out* “7 years”.

*Insert instead* “4 years”.

Clause 18, further Amendment proposed. (Ms *Webb*)

Page 39, same proposed new Division, same Subdivision, same section, same subsection, paragraph (e).

*Leave out* that paragraph.

Question put, That the further Amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided.

AYES 3

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

NOES 9

Mr *Duigan*  
Mr *Edmunds*  
Ms *Glade-Wright*  
Mr *Hiscutt*  
Ms *Lovell* (Teller)  
Ms *Palmer*  
Ms *Ratray*  
Ms *Thomas*  
Mr *Vincent*

Pair: Ms *Armitage*

Pair: Ms *Forrest*

So it passed in the Negative.

Clause 18 as amended agreed to.

Clauses 19 to 31 agreed to.

Clause 32, Amendment made. (Ms *Webb*)

Page 54, proposed new Part 12C, section 214S, after subsection (2).

*Insert* the following subsection.

- (3) Within 5 sitting-days after receiving a final report under subsection (1), the Minister is to lay before each House of Parliament –
  - (a) a copy of the final report; or
  - (b) a statement that the final report has been received by the Minister, if the Minister is satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the tabling of the report may –
    - (i) disadvantage or cause damage to a council, whether directly or indirectly; or
    - (ii) constitute a breach of confidentiality; or
    - (iii) disclose information relating to the personal affairs of any person; or
    - (iv) prejudice an investigation into the council or a person specified in the report.

Clause 32 as amended agreed to.

Clause 33, Amendment made. (Mr *Vincent*)

Page 54, proposed new section 291, subsection (1).

*Leave out* that subsection.

*Insert instead* the following subsections:

- (x) The Electoral Commissioner may approve any procedures that are reasonable and appropriate to assist an elector who is unable to vote without assistance.
- (y) If an elector is to be assisted in voting in an election, an electoral officer for that election is to advise any scrutineers for that election of the approved procedure by which the elector will be voting.

Clause 33 as amended agreed to.

Clause 34 disagreed.

Clauses 35 to 42 agreed to.

Clause 43,

Clause 44,

Clause 45, Amendment XXX. (Ms *O'Connor*)

Page 76, proposed new Schedule 8B, clause 4.

*Leave out* that clause.

Clauses 46 to 55 agreed to.

**New Clause A [Section 296 substituted]** brought up (Mr *Vincent*) and read the First time as follows:—

**A. Section 296 substituted**

Section 296 of the Principal Act is repealed and the following Division is substituted:

***Division 7 – Alternative voting***

**296. Application of alternative voting provisions**

- (1) Subject to this Act, Divisions 9A and 10 of Part 5 of the *Electoral Act 2004* apply in relation to an election under this Act as if –
  - (a) a reference in those Divisions to an election were a reference to an election under Part 15 of this Act; and
  - (b) a reference in those Divisions to an elector were a reference to an elector under Part 15 of this Act; and
  - (c) a reference in those Divisions to the *Electoral Act 2004* were a reference to this Act; and
  - (d) such other changes are made as the context requires.
- (2) The regulations may prescribe further modifications of, or exclude the operation of, any of the provisions of Divisions 9A or 10 of Part 5 of the *Electoral Act 2004* for the purposes of the application of those Divisions under this section.

Read the Second time and made part of the Bill (to follow Clause 33).

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with Amendments.

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The Council being resumed, Ms *Thomas* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council with Amendments.

*Ordered*, That the consideration of the Bill as amended in Committee be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow. (Mr *Vincent*)

**17 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, 25 June 2026. (Ms *Ratray*)

A Motion was made (Ms *Ratray*) and the Question was proposed, That the Council do now adjourn.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Council adjourned at 10.20 o'clock p.m.

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

*Briefings:*

- *Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026*
- *Occupational Licensing Amendment Bill 2026*
- *Residential Parks Bill 2026*
- *Police Offences Amendment (Increased Penalties for Damage to Tasmanian War Memorials) Bill 2026*