



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

UNCORRECTED PROOF

No. 23

TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 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 PAPERS.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—
- (1) *Juries Act 2003*: Statutory Rules 2025, No. 53, Juries Regulations 2025.
  - (2) *Poisons Act 1971*: Statutory Rules 2025, No. 59, Poisons (Adoption of Uniform Standard) Amendment Order 2025.
  - (3) *Passenger Transport Services Act 2011*: Statutory Rules 2025, No. 65, Passenger Transport Services Amendment (Common Ticketing) Regulations 2025.
- 5 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.**— The President advised the Chamber of six Members who had indicated their desire to speak:—
- (1) Ms *Rattray* – The Church Tasmania, Campbell Town;
  - (2) Ms *Thomas* – Tasmanian Transport Museum, located in Glenorchy;
  - (3) Ms *Palmer* – West Tamar Citizen Awards;
  - (4) Ms *Forrest* – Kirsty Slemint – cinematographer;
  - (5) Ms *O'Connor* – Greyhound Injuries and Deaths in Tasmania since 1 January 2026; and
  - (6) Mr *Edmunds* – Devils at North Hobart.
- At the conclusion of Special Interest Matters the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.
- 6 PARKINSON'S DISEASE IN TASMANIA.**— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed:—
- (1) That the Legislative Council notes:
    - (a) Parkinson's is the fastest growing neurological condition globally, and Tasmania has among the highest prevalence in Australia, creating a critical public health challenge;
    - (b) Parkinson's is a complex and progressive neurological condition characterised by diverse physical and cognitive symptoms requiring multidisciplinary care;
    - (c) The total economic impact of Parkinson's in Australia, estimated at \$10 billion annually, underscores the urgent need for investment in prevention, care, and support;

- (d) The inequities in government support exist across Australia, with Tasmania's funding and service access lagging behind, placing added burdens on Tasmanians with Parkinson's;
  - (e) Evidence shows exposure to certain pesticides and industrial solvents increases the likelihood of Parkinson's, placing Tasmanians in agricultural regions at greater risk;
  - (f) Critical gaps in service provision exist across Tasmania, including Parkinson's clinics, neurological and gerontology services, in-home care, and early diagnosis support;
  - (g) The need to enhance education and training programs for General Practitioners and allied health professionals to support early Parkinson's diagnosis and ongoing, evidence-based care;
  - (h) Despite challenges, Tasmania has a world-class cohort of Parkinson's experts and research institutions, including the University of Tasmania, Menzies Institute, and Wicking Dementia Centre, pioneering innovative care strategies, education, and multidisciplinary approaches that significantly improve outcomes; and
  - (i) Volunteer organisation Parkinson's Tasmania plays a critical role within the cohort as a "leading voice" for Tasmanians living with Parkinson's, providing essential support, education, advocacy, coordination and cost savings to the State.
- (2) That the Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian Government to:
- (a) Support the delivery of newly diagnosed Parkinson's clinics and centres of expertise across the State, offering integrated and holistic care throughout all stages of the condition;
  - (b) Work with the Australian Government to develop and implement multidisciplinary, patient-centred care models involving neurologists, allied health professionals, psychologists, and other specialists to provide healthcare to patients with Parkinson's;
  - (c) Support research bodies to examine the links between pesticides and industrial solvents and Parkinson's prevalence, and take the necessary action to protect Tasmanians;
  - (d) Work with the Australian Government to introduce process improvements to integrate State and Federal care systems, repairing fragmented links between inpatient, outpatient, and community care;
  - (e) Support the development of a local workforce trained in in-home care, enabling Tasmanians to remain in their homes longer and alleviating an escalating financial burden on Tasmania's health system and Budget; and
  - (f) Provide targeted Government support to Parkinson's Tasmania as the central advocacy body for Tasmanians living with Parkinson's, ensuring all those affected can access the high-quality services, education, and support they deserve.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**7 FLORFENICOL USE IN TASMANIA.**— A Motion was made (*Ms O'Connor*) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council:—

- (1) Notes evidence presented to Parliament during the Budget Estimates process confirming more than 800 kilograms of the antibiotic, Florfenicol, was used by salmon companies in South East waters in just three weeks following its recent federal approval for use in Tasmania.
- (2) Notes that data about the quantity of antibiotics used by salmon corporations is not made public as a matter of course, and the fact that 815 kilograms of Florfenicol was used in Tasmanian fish farms in such a short period of time is only known to the public due to Parliamentary scrutiny.
- (3) Further notes the ongoing use of Florfenicol in SE waters has led to Public Health advice to swimmers and recreational fishers, and the temporary closure of the rock lobster fishery.
- (4) Notes an application has been made by Tassal to use Florfenicol at Okehampton Bay, in the rich recreational and fishing waters of the Mercury Passage.

- (5) Agrees the use of Florfenicol and other increasingly strong antibiotics is a matter of significant public interest and concern.
- (6) Understands there is little available science to support such intensive, widespread use of Florfenicol and limited to no understanding of its residual properties and impact on marine ecology.
- (7) Accepts the evidence that antibiotic resistance is a significant global public health threat and that the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in humans, animals and plants is the major driver of antimicrobial resistance.
- (8) Agrees the long-term use of antibiotics by industrial salmon farms is not supported by science or sustainable for marine ecologies.
- (9) Calls on the Government to establish a publicly accessible portal detailing in real-time where, when, and in what quantities antibiotics are being used in Tasmanian fish farms so the public, recreational and other commercial fishers can make safe, informed decisions.

A Debate arose thereupon.

**8 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.

**9 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – DELEGATION FROM SAMOA.**—

The President said —

“Members before we commence with Question Time, I would like to welcome to the Chamber, and to our Parliament, delegates from our twin Parliament, the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. With us today, we have the Hon Mr. Speaker, a number of Members of Parliament who are Chairs and Vice Chairs of various parliamentary committees and two senior parliamentary officials (the Deputy Clerk and the Manager of Institutional Strengthening Services).

The delegation is joining us as part of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Australia Pacific twinning program. The concept of parliamentary twinning is similar to the ‘sister city’ relationships that exist between cities of different countries. Each State and Territory is twinned with a Pacific Parliament. The twinning relationships and programs supports the CPA goals and objectives such as:

- Strengthening Parliaments to uphold and strengthen parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, sustainable development and human rights.
- Mutual learning dialogue, cooperation and networking across the Commonwealth to build strong, powerful and effective parliamentary institutions able to respond and adapt the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The program has many engaging and diverse sessions planned for our guests for the remainder of the week, including plenty of opportunities for Members to meet and socialise with our delegates.

I know that all Members will join me now in making our delegation from Samoa welcome to our Parliament.”

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

*Ordered,* That Ms *Palmer*, have leave to Table a document outlining the average weekly number of young people at Ashley Youth Detention Centre between September 2025 and February 2026 based on geographic location, and have it incorporated into the Hansard record.

*Ordered,* That Ms *Ratray*, have leave to Table a document outlining the monthly offender numbers between October 2025 and March 2026 for Risdon Prison based on geographical location and have it incorporated into the Hansard record.

**11 FLORFENICOL USE IN TASMANIA.**— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Legislative Council:—

- (1) Notes evidence presented to Parliament during the Budget Estimates process confirming more than 800 kilograms of the antibiotic, Florfenicol, was used by salmon companies in South East waters in just three weeks following its recent federal approval for use in Tasmania.
- (2) Notes that data about the quantity of antibiotics used by salmon corporations is not made public as a matter of course, and the fact that 815 kilograms of Florfenicol was used in Tasmanian fish farms in such a short period of time is only known to the public due to Parliamentary scrutiny.
- (3) Further notes the ongoing use of Florfenicol in SE waters has led to Public Health advice to swimmers and recreational fishers, and the temporary closure of the rock lobster fishery.
- (4) Notes an application has been made by Tassal to use Florefenicol at Okehampton Bay, in the rich recreational and fishing waters of the Mercury Passage.
- (5) Agrees the use of Florfenicol and other increasingly strong antibiotics is a matter of significant public interest and concern.
- (6) Understands there is little available science to support such intensive, widespread use of Florfenicol and limited to no understanding of its residual properties and impact on marine ecology.
- (7) Accepts the evidence that antibiotic resistance is a significant global public health threat and that the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in humans, animals and plants is the major driver of antimicrobial resistance.
- (8) Agrees the long-term use of antibiotics by industrial salmon farms is not supported by science or sustainable for marine ecologies.
- (9) Calls on the Government to establish a publicly accessible portal detailing in real-time where, when, and in what quantities antibiotics are being used in Tasmanian fish farms so the public, recreational and other commercial fishers can make safe, informed decisions.

**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 FLORFENICOL USE IN TASMANIA.**— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Legislative Council:—

- (1) Notes evidence presented to Parliament during the Budget Estimates process confirming more than 800 kilograms of the antibiotic, Florfenicol, was used by salmon companies in South East waters in just three weeks following its recent federal approval for use in Tasmania.
- (2) Notes that data about the quantity of antibiotics used by salmon corporations is not made public as a matter of course, and the fact that 815 kilograms of Florfenicol was used in Tasmanian fish farms in such a short period of time is only known to the public due to Parliamentary scrutiny.
- (3) Further notes the ongoing use of Florfenicol in SE waters has led to Public Health advice to swimmers and recreational fishers, and the temporary closure of the rock lobster fishery.
- (4) Notes an application has been made by Tassal to use Florefenicol at Okehampton Bay, in the rich recreational and fishing waters of the Mercury Passage.
- (5) Agrees the use of Florfenicol and other increasingly strong antibiotics is a matter of significant public interest and concern.
- (6) Understands there is little available science to support such intensive, widespread use of Florfenicol and limited to no understanding of its residual properties and impact on marine ecology.
- (7) Accepts the evidence that antibiotic resistance is a significant global public health threat and that the misuse and overuse of antibiotics in humans, animals and plants is the major driver of antimicrobial resistance.
- (8) Agrees the long-term use of antibiotics by industrial salmon farms is not supported by science or sustainable for marine ecologies.
- (9) Calls on the Government to establish a publicly accessible portal detailing in real-time where, when, and in what quantities antibiotics are being used in Tasmanian fish farms so the public, recreational and other commercial fishers can make safe, informed decisions.

And the Question being put,

The Council divided.

AYES 4

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

NOES 9

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

So it passed in the Negative.

**14 DELOITTE ACCESS ECONOMICS REPORT: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE (EGM) REFORM USE IN TASMANIA.**— A Motion was made (*Ms Webb*) and the Question was proposed, That:—

- (1) The Legislative Council notes:
  - (a) That the Deloitte Access Economics “Social and Economic Impact of Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) Reform use in Tasmania” Report (published on Department of State Growth website 23 January 2026), found the previously planned mandatory poker machine player card with loss limits would:
    - (i) generate greater economic activity and increase jobs in Tasmania, with its central scenario indicating a net increase of Gross State Product of around \$230 million and a net increase of over 200 jobs;
    - (ii) positively impact all industries, with the exception of the EGM sector, and all regions would have a positive or neutral economic impact;
    - (iii) significantly reduce the poker machine gambling expenditure and harm, especially for people at moderate to high risk of gambling harm; and
    - (iv) reduce the costs to government delivered and associated services, including in healthcare, mental health support, homelessness programs, policing, courts and corrections.
  - (b) The Tasmanian Government’s ‘harm minimisation’ measures for poker machine regulation announced on 23 January 2026, including:
    - (i) Gaming room closure period extended from 4 hours to 7 hours per day;
    - (ii) Introduction of a Ticket In-Ticket Out (TITO) system;
    - (iii) Setting of a new cap on statewide poker machine numbers;
    - (iv) Introduction of immediate self-exclusion available in venues, and facial recognition technology as part of the exclusion scheme;
    - (v) Allowing ATMs to be placed in gaming venues; and
    - (vi) Three Gaming Officers employed statewide by Hospitality Tasmania;
  - (c) Tasmanians’ annual poker machine losses for 2024-25 totalled \$193,908,165, a decade-high level of losses; and
- (2) The Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian Government to confirm in relation to the announced measures of 23 January 2026, whether:
  - (a) modelling has been done on the social and economic impact of the Government announced measures; and

- (b) whether, prior to the decision to adopt the measures, the Government obtained advice from the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission on the effectiveness of the announced measures to prevent or reduce harm from poker machines.

A Debate arose thereupon.

*Ordered*, That Ms *Webb*, have leave to Table answers to questions taken on notice during her briefing by the Treasurer's Office on new Electronic Gaming Machine harm minimisation measures to be implemented in Tasmania.

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

**15 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 6.57 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 8.15 o'clock p.m.

**16 DELOITTE ACCESS ECONOMICS REPORT: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE (EGM) REFORM USE IN TASMANIA.**— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That:—

- (1) The Legislative Council notes:
- (a) That the Deloitte Access Economics "Social and Economic Impact of Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) Reform use in Tasmania" Report (published on Department of State Growth website 23 January 2026), found the previously planned mandatory poker machine player card with loss limits would:
- (i) generate greater economic activity and increase jobs in Tasmania, with its central scenario indicating a net increase of Gross State Product of around \$230 million and a net increase of over 200 jobs;
  - (ii) positively impact all industries, with the exception of the EGM sector, and all regions would have a positive or neutral economic impact;
  - (iii) significantly reduce the poker machine gambling expenditure and harm, especially for people at moderate to high risk of gambling harm; and
  - (iv) reduce the costs to government delivered and associated services, including in healthcare, mental health support, homelessness programs, policing, courts and corrections.
- (b) The Tasmanian Government's 'harm minimisation' measures for poker machine regulation announced on 23 January 2026, including:
- (i) Gaming room closure period extended from 4 hours to 7 hours per day;
  - (ii) Introduction of a Ticket In-Ticket Out (TITO) system;
  - (iii) Setting of a new cap on statewide poker machine numbers;
  - (iv) Introduction of immediate self-exclusion available in venues, and facial recognition technology as part of the exclusion scheme;
  - (v) Allowing ATMs to be placed in gaming venues; and
  - (vi) Three Gaming Officers employed statewide by Hospitality Tasmania;
- (c) Tasmanians' annual poker machine losses for 2024-25 totalled \$193,908,165, a decade-high level of losses; and
- (2) The Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian Government to confirm in relation to the announced measures of 23 January 2026, whether:
- (a) modelling has been done on the social and economic impact of the Government announced measures; and
  - (b) whether, prior to the decision to adopt the measures, the Government obtained advice from the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission on the effectiveness of the announced measures to prevent or reduce harm from poker machines.

And the Question being put,  
It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**17 BILL NO. 2.**— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to regulate residential parks and agreements between park owners and residents in those parks and for related purposes’,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

*House of Assembly, 24 March 2026*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

*Ordered*, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next.  
(*Ms Rattray*)

**18 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o’clock a.m. on Wednesday, 25 March 2026. (*Ms Rattray*)

A Motion was made (*Ms Rattray*) 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 10.28 o’clock p.m.

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