



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

UNCORRECTED PROOF

No. 37

TUESDAY, 23 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 ADJOURNMENT: MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.— Ms *Thomas* proposed to move, That the Council does now adjourn for the purpose of discussing a Matter of Public Importance; namely the proposed sale of public land at Wilkinsons Point and the State Government's handling of negotiations with LK Group over the past seven years.

And seven Members rising in their places to indicate their approval,

The Motion was proposed.

A Debate arose thereupon.

Ordered, That Ms *Thomas*, have leave to Table a correspondence between Glenorchy City Council, the State Government and LK Group regarding the proposed sale of Wilkinsons Point land.

The Motion, by leave of the Council, was withdrawn.

5 RIGHT TO INFORMATION TIMEFRAMES.— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Minister for Education and Minister for Children and Youth — Minister, in correspondence to my office dated 15 April 2026, you confirmed that the Department for Education, Children and Young People is currently managing approximately 537 personal information applications, with indicative processing timeframes of 12 to 15 months, due to what is described as a significant backlog.

- (1) What specific measures are currently being implemented to reduce this backlog, and what timeframe does the Government expect for bringing processing times back to an acceptable standard?
- (2) Does the Minister consider that delays of 12 to 15 months in processing Right to Information applications are consistent with the requirements and intent of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*?
- (3) Has the Government received any advice as to whether these delays constitute a breach of statutory obligations under those Acts?
- (4) If not, will the Minister seek such advice?
- (5) Does the Minister agree that it is unacceptable for individuals, particularly those seeking records relating to childhood care and potential redress, to face delays of this magnitude?

The Minister answered:

- (1) The Department for Education, Children and Young People (the Department) is allocating additional positions specifically to ensure Right to Information requests can be responded to efficiently.

These positions have been prioritised given the importance of releasing information, especially to victim survivors, in a timelier manner.

Each Right to Information application is unique and assessed individually. Due to the individual complexities of each Right to Information application, an accurate timeframe to bring processing times back to the desired level is challenging to predict.

With the allocation of additional resources, it is my expectation the Department will increase the number of resolved backlog matters by the end of 2026 and continue to monitor progress accordingly. I will be seeking regular updates from the department on this matter.

- (2) It is my expectation that the Department addresses the Right to Information responses within the legislated timeframe of 20 days wherever possible.

I understand the current delays reflect unprecedented demand, with a significant proportion of applications involving complex and highly sensitive historical records of a high volume, often including requests for information over several years.

- (3) I am advised that the Ombudsman Tasmania raised the Right to Information application completion delays with the Department directly. I understand the Department is liaising with the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to the steps being taken to address the backlog.

It is my expectation the department continues to engage with the Office of the Ombudsman and implements agreed solutions to improve processes.

- (4) It is my expectation the department continues to actively work with the Office of the Ombudsman on this matter.

- (5) I acknowledge that extended timeframes can be distressing for individuals experiencing Right to Information application response delays, particularly for individuals seeking access to personal records in the context of childhood care experiences, redress, or legal matters.

The Department has prioritised the allocation of additional resources to address the outstanding Right to Information applications and improve response times. It is my expectation the Department continues to actively monitor the Right to Information response timeframes to support continuous improvement.

As I noted in my response to Question 1, I will be seeking regular updates from the Department on this matter.

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 seven Questions asked.

8 SALE OF KNIVES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — On 2 December 2025, I asked the Government a series of questions in this place regarding its response to youth offending and community safety. Among those questions were matters relating to minimum packaging standards for knives and other sharp objects, and the potential banning of the importation or sale of such items to minors.

In response, the Government advised that it was progressing legislation to prohibit the sale of knives to children and young people, and that the proposed legislation would be subject to the usual public consultation process.

- (1) What are the timeframes for developing this proposed legislation?
- (2) When will the draft amendment bill be released for public consultation?

- (3) Will changes to the minimum standards for the packaging of knives and other sharp objects be considered in the legislation?
- (4) Will the proposed legislation include offences or penalties for adults who knowingly purchase knives on behalf of minors?
- (5) What evidence or data will the Government reply upon to conclude that legislative reform relating to the sale of knives and sharp objects is necessary or likely to improve community safety outcomes?
- (6) Has the Government undertaken consultation with Tasmania Police, retailers, shopping centres, school communities or youth service providers in relation to the proposed reforms, and if so, what feedback has been received?
- (7) Has the Government undertaken an analysis of similar legislative provisions in other Australian States and Territories?
 - (a) If so, how many other jurisdictions already have such laws in place?
 - (b) If not, will it undertake this analysis?

The Leader answered:

- (1) A draft Bill has been developed and will be released for consultation in the coming months, with the intention to introduce legislation before the end of 2026.
- (2) The draft amendment Bill will be released for a five-week public consultation in the coming months.
- (3) Yes. The consultation draft considers the need to regulate the manner in which a knife is stored by a business that is selling knives in Tasmania. The consultation draft also considers signage requirements indicating that knives will not be sold to persons under 18 years of age.
- (4) No. The consultation draft does not, at this stage, consider introducing penalties for adults who are not operating a business who may supply a knife to a youth though we welcome feedback.
- (5) Concerns regarding the regulation of knives, particularly machetes, have been raised at a national level, driven by a series of high-profile violent incidents in other jurisdictions. On 2 October 2025 the Police Ministers Council discussed and agreed:
 - To reduce the supply of knives and machetes as a national priority to maintain public safety and confidence; and
 - That all states and territories consider whether further steps are required to reduce dangerous weapons in the community beyond existing settings.

In 2025, the Government delivered Reid's Law, enabling police to use Electronic Metal Detection Devices and enhancing search provisions. The proposals in this Bill seek to build on Reid's Law and further enhance public safety.

Most Australian jurisdictions already have restrictions on the sale of knives to minors.

- (6) Targeted consultation has occurred with Tasmania Police, retailers and victims of knife crime. Broader consultation is scheduled to occur in the coming months for five weeks. Government will then consider submissions from the community and businesses.
- (7) Yes. With the exception of the Northern Territory, all other Australian jurisdictions have laws governing the sale of knives to youths. It is accepted that reducing the unnecessary sale of knives to youths improves public safety; however, Government is also being careful to not restrict the otherwise lawful use of knives where appropriate.

The Government has considered the laws in other jurisdictions and has relied on legislation in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland to inform the drafting of proposed Tasmanian amendments.

9 PAPER.— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the Audit Tasmania: Auditor-General’s Annual Plan 2026-27.

10 REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.— Ms *Thomas* presented a Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts on the Establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office.

Ordered, That the Report be received. (Ms *Thomas*)

Ordered, That the Report be printed. (Ms *Thomas*)

Ordered, That consideration of the Report and its noting be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. (Ms *Thomas*)

11 REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.— Ms *Thomas* presented a Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts on the 18th Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) Conference.

Ordered, That the Report be received. (Ms *Thomas*)

Ordered, That the Report be printed. (Ms *Thomas*)

Ordered, That consideration of the Report and its noting be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. (Ms *Thomas*)

12 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Ms *Ratray* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

13 LEAVE OF ABSENCE.— *Ordered*, That the Honourable Member for Murchison, (Ms *Forrest*) be granted leave of absence from the service of the Council for this week’s sitting. (Ms *Ratray*)

14 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PREMIER REGARDING MATTERS RAISED ON THE ADJOURNMENT.— The President said —

“As President I have a number of duties including representing and advocating on behalf of the Council and its Members.

In that context, following the contributions on the adjournment from the Members for Murchison and the Member for Rumney on 27 May 2026, I made a judgment that the matters raised by the Honourable Members went beyond them as individuals to matters relevant to all Members of the Council and in the case of the Member for Murchison, to the staff of the Council. I am also conscious of our reputation and the need to lift standards of behaviour and respect for Members of this place.

Accordingly, I sent the following letter to the Premier on the morning of 28 May 2026:

Dear Premier,

I write to raise my serious concerns regarding matters raised on the adjournment last night by two Members of the Legislative Council. I attach for your reference the Hansard transcript.

These are matters of grave concern to me and demonstrate a significant lack of respect towards Members and staff of the Council. I expect the Leader to provide a fulsome response on your behalf regarding the issues raised by both Members, ideally prior to the Legislative Council adjourning today.

Yours sincerely

Hon Craig Farrell MLC
President of the Legislative Council

On the 9 June 2026 I received the following response:

Dear Mr President

I have received your letter dated 28 May advising of matters raised on the adjournment by two Legislative Council Members.

I am quite disappointed in the assertion in your letter and firmly reject your claim of a lack of respect towards Members and staff of the Legislative Council.

Further, I do not consider this to be the responsibility of the Leader for Government Business.

I am happy to respond to any concerns a Member may wish to raise directly with me.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

I will allow Members to form their own opinions on the appropriateness, or otherwise, of this response.

The other reason I raise this with Members is that it would appear that the Government has chosen to change how it will respond to matters raised by Members in the Council on the adjournment, and apparently how the government of the day sees the role of Leader for Government Business in this place.

As Members understand the practice and convention of this place allows a Member to make a short contribution to bring a pressing or urgent matter to the attention of the government, or to make a complaint, a request or pose a query.

Members have in the past reasonably expected that by making a speech on the adjournment they have done all that is required to bring a matter to the attention of the government, and receive a response, if not immediately, in due course from the Leader or responsible Minister.

Given the response of the Premier to the matters raised on adjournment was, in effect, that the Members in question should raise matters directly with the Premier if they wanted a response, Members may wish to reconsider how they use the adjournment to raise matters with the government in the future, or at least ensure they follow up with letter to the Premier (or relevant Minister) attaching the Hansard of their adjournment contribution.”

15 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.— The President advised the Chamber of five Members who had indicated their desire to speak:—

- (1) Ms *Palmer* – Winkleigh Hall; and
- (2) Mr *Duigan* – George Town’s Solstice in The Square event;
- (3) Mr *Gaffney* – Volunteer Marine Rescue;
- (4) Mr *Armitage* – Teen Challenge Tasmania; and
- (5) Mr *Hiscutt* – Ulverstone Big Freeze for MND.

At the conclusion of the Special Interest Matter the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.

16 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.— Ms *Ratray* made a statement in regard to the appointment of Ministers for the Crown and Leader as follows:

“Mr President, on behalf of the Premier, I wish to advise the Council of Ministerial appointments:

Hon Jemery Rockliff MP
Premier

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Leader of the House
Treasurer
Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal

Hon Bridget Archer MP
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing
Minister for Ageing
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks and Heritage
Minister for Sport

Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
Minister for Skills and Jobs

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Arts
Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Minister for Racing
Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education
Minister for Children and Youth
Minister for Disability Services
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Hon Gavin Pearce MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Housing and Planning
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

I, the Hon Tania Rattray MLC will continue as Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council.”

17 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Ms *Armitage* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

18 APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 1) 2026 AND APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2026: PERMISSIVE INSTRUCTION.— *Ordered*, With regard the Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2026, That—

The Committee of the Whole Council be empowered to consider Output and other expenditure detail contained in the documents *Agency Information Supporting Appropriation Bill No. 1 (Budget Paper No. 2)* and *Agency Information Supporting Appropriation Bill No. 2 (Budget Paper No.3)*;

And further, That the Committee be empowered to exercise a vote on each proposed Output as part of the process of approving appropriations contained within the Appropriation Bills (Nos. 1 and 2) of 2026 under the two-line Operating Services and Capital Services appropriation;

And further, That the Committee of the Whole Council be empowered to consider the Outputs as recommended in the Reports of Estimates Committees A and B and that the Outputs recommended in those Reports be not subject to debate and only those Outputs recommended and listed as being subject to further consideration be open to debate in Committee;

Provided – That should any Member require further consideration of any Output then the procedural mechanism of recommittal is to be used. (*Ms Armitage*)

19 BILL NO. 18.— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 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.

(In the Committee)

Ms Armitage in the Chair.

20 STATEMENT BY THE CHAIR: APPROPRIATION BILLS: SCOPE OF DEBATE.— The Chair said —

“Members, I would like to make a brief statement in regard to the way that the Committee is to be run.

The stages of the Bill are intended to achieve two primary objects: first, to enable full discussion of both the substance and form of the legislation; second, to ensure that decisions already made at one stage are not reopened for discussion at a subsequent stage and do not, as a result, prolong a Bill's passage unnecessarily. In the context of debate on the Appropriation Bills, Members are reminded that the purpose of the consideration in the Committee of the Whole Council is to report to the House as to whether the Bills should pass and whether clauses and items in the schedule to the Bills should be, first, agreed to; second, subject to a request; or third, amended where the item is not for the ordinary annual services of the Government.

The consideration of the Budget Papers during the Estimates process is intended to assist the efficient consideration of the Appropriation Bills by resolving issues prior to the debate of the Bills in the Committee of the Whole. This facilitates the efficient consideration of the Bills as in accordance with the permissive instruction only those outputs that are recommended for further debate may be addressed in detail during the Committee stage, unless the output is recommitted. I have directed that a list of the outputs recommended for further debate in each of the Estimates Committees reports be provided to Members. You will note that the list specifies the matters that gave rise to the recommendation for further debate. In addressing these outputs Members should confine their questioning to those particular matters.

The permissive instruction to enable the Committee of the Whole to consider and vote on the items under output groups in the Budget Papers is to facilitate debate on the proposed appropriation of public money contained in the Appropriation Bills. The instruction does not broaden the scope for debate which may take place in the Committee of the Whole. It is not an invitation to make statements unrelated to the proposed appropriation or to introduce issues unrelated to the proposed appropriation. I remind Members that debate in Committee of the Whole is not a grievance-type debate. I therefore ask Members to be succinct and to keep these comments in mind when speaking to the items in the Budget Papers.”

Clauses 1 to 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 and 5 postponed.

Clause 6 agreed to.

Schedule 1

Division 1 – Brand Tasmania

Premier

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

Division 2 – Department for Education, Children and Young People

Minister for Education

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Output 3.1 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Minister for Children and Youth

Output Group 4

Outputs 4.1 and 4.2 agreed to.

Output Group 5

Output 5.1 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Division 3 – Environment Protection Authority

Minister for Environment

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered.

21 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.

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

(In the Committee)

Ms *Armitage* in the Chair.

Division 3 – Environment Protection Authority

Minister for Environment

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 further considered and agreed to.

Output 1.2 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request.

Division 4 – Finance-General

Treasurer

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Output 2.1 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 agreed to.

Output Group 4

Outputs 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9 and 4.12 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Division 5 – Department of Health

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered and agreed to.

Output 1.2 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 considered and agreed to.

Output 2.4 considered.

A Motion was made (Ms *Thomas*), and the Question was proposed, that the Committee report progress and seek leave to sit again.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It passed in the Negative.

Output 2.4 further considered and agreed to.

Output 2.5 agreed to.

Outputs 2.6 and 2.7 considered and agreed to.

Ordered, That Ms *Rattray* have leave to Table a list of key programs from the Intermediary Care portfolio, in relation to Output Group 2.1.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Division 6 – Department of Justice

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Output 1.1 considered and agreed to

Outputs 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 1.11 and 1.15 agreed to.

Output Group 2

Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 agreed to.

Output Group 5

Outputs 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Minister for Housing and Planning

Operating Services

Output Group 4

Output 4.2 agreed to.

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Operating Services

Output Group 4

Output 4.1 considered and agreed to.

Output 4.3 agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

Division 7 – Ministerial and Parliamentary Support

Premier

Operating Services

Output Group 1

Outputs 1.1 and 1.2 considered and agreed to.

Ordered, That Ms *Rattray* have leave to Table information regarding a disability compliance in relation to Output Group 1.2.

Division agreed to without Request.

Division 8 – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Operating Services

Output Group 2

Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 agreed to.

Output Group 3

Output 3.1 agreed to.

Output Group 7

Output Group 7.3 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Minister for Arts and Heritage

Operating Services

Output Group 6

Output 6.1 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Operating Services

Output Group 6

Output 6.2 agreed to.

Minister for Environment

Operating Services

Output Group 7

Outputs 7.1 ,7.2 and 7.4 agreed to.

Minister for Parks

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.

Capital Services

Capital Investment Program agreed to.

Minister for Racing

Operating Services

Output Group 5

Output 5.1 agreed to.

Grants and Subsidies agreed to.

Division agreed to without Request and without Amendment.

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, tomorrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

23 ADJOURNMENT.— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, 24 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 8.07 o'clock p.m.

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

Briefings:

- *Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026*
- *Macquarie Point Master Plan*
- *First Home Owner Grant Amendment Bill 2026*