



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 26

TUESDAY, 14 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 **FUTURE OF DEFENCE LAND AT DOWSING POINT.**— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — Further to the Government’s 3 March 2026 announcement that redevelopment of Wilkinsons Point is the key to unlocking the potential of the adjoining land at Dowsing Point, and its statement that it is calling on the Commonwealth to transition surplus defence land at Dowsing Point into productive community use, can the Tasmanian Government provide further detail about its proposal to the Commonwealth and its plans for the site, including:
 - (1) What correspondence has the Tasmanian Government had with the Commonwealth about the future of the Defence land at Dowsing Point and can the Tasmanian Government provide details of the correspondence?
 - (2) Has the Tasmanian Government formally requested the purchase, transfer, lease or other acquisition of the Defence land at Dowsing Point from the Commonwealth?
 - (3) What specific uses or development outcomes are envisaged under the Government’s stated plan for “thoughtful and sustainable” development of the land?
 - (4) What consultation or discussions has the Tasmanian Government had with the Glenorchy City Council about its plan for the land? If not, when will this consultation occur?
 - (5) Has the Tasmanian Government consulted with existing landowners, leaseholders or businesses adjoining the site regarding its proposal. If so, which parties have been consulted, and if not, when will this consultation occur?
 - (6) What community consultation does the Tasmanian Government intend to undertake regarding the future of this land, and what is the expected timeframe for this consultation?

The Leader answered:

The Tasmanian Government’s engagement on the future of Defence land at Dowsing Point is being led in close coordination with the Minister for Planning and Housing, noting that land use planning, housing supply and urban development sit primarily within that portfolio. The Minister for Business, Industry and Resources has a supporting role given the broader economic and regional development implications.

- (1) The Tasmanian Government has had ongoing correspondence and engagement with the Australian Government regarding the future of Defence land at Dowsing Point over a number of years.

In 2023, the Premier and various Ministers wrote to their Australian Government counterparts advocating for the land to be made available for housing supply, including possible transfer to the Tasmanian Government. This included:

- (a) correspondence in January 2023 from the then Minister for Planning to the Commonwealth Treasurer seeking consideration of the transfer or partial release of land at Dowsing Point for residential development.
- (b) correspondence in January 2023 from the then Minister for Planning to the then Commonwealth Minister for Housing seeking consideration of the transfer or partial release of land at Dowsing Point for residential development.
- (c) correspondence in March 2023 from the Premier to the Prime Minister advocating for the site to be made available for housing supply.
- (d) correspondence in March 2023 from the Premier to the then Commonwealth Minister for Housing advocating for the site to be made available for housing supply; and
- (e) correspondence in May 2023 and August 2023 from the Minister for Planning to the Commonwealth Minister and Assistant Minister for Defence further advocating for the future of the site.

Responses from that time indicated that any decision on the future of the land would be pending the outcome of the Defence Estate Audit. In February 2026, following the announcement of the Commonwealth Government's response to the Defence Estate Audit, the Tasmanian Government re-engaged with the Commonwealth, including:

- (a) joint correspondence in February 2026 from the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs to the Deputy Prime Minister seeking further detail on the Defence Estate Audit and proposed divestment process, including opportunities for Tasmania; and
 - (b) correspondence in February 2026 from the Premier to the Prime Minister outlining the Tasmanian Government's interest in the Derwent Barracks site in the context of potential for residential housing.
- (2) The Tasmanian Government has consistently expressed its interest in the transfer or appropriate release of Defence land at Dowsing Point to support housing outcomes.

While formal mechanisms for acquisition, transfer or other arrangements are ultimately determined by the Commonwealth, the state has clearly indicated its willingness to work with the Australian Government on options to facilitate the site's future use.

- (3) The Government has identified Dowsing Point as a site with significant potential to contribute to housing supply, including social and affordable housing, consistent with the objectives of the National Housing Accord.

Preliminary work indicates the site could support a substantial number of dwellings, subject to detailed planning, servicing, infrastructure and environmental considerations. Any future development would be guided by principles of thoughtful, sustainable and well-serviced urban development.

At this stage, detailed master planning and specific development outcomes remain subject to further work and engagement with the Commonwealth, although the Tasmanian Government remains committed to ensuring use and development at Dowsing point is underpinned by best-practice planning that prioritises good outcomes for Tasmania.

- (4) The Tasmanian Government recognises the importance of working closely with the Glenorchy City Council.

Consultation will be undertaken as the Commonwealth's intentions for the site become clearer and more detailed planning work progresses.

- (5) Given the early and exploratory stage of engagement with the Commonwealth, consultation with adjoining landowners, leaseholders and businesses has been limited to date.

Targeted stakeholder engagement will occur as proposals are further developed and once there is greater certainty regarding the site's future.

- (6) Community consultation will be a critical component of any future planning process for the site.
- The timing and scope of consultation will be informed by the progression of discussions with the Commonwealth and the development of more detailed proposals. The Government is committed to ensuring that local communities are appropriately engaged as planning work advances.

5 INCIDENTS AT ASHLEY YOUTH DETENTION CENTRE.— Ms *Armitage* asked the Honourable the Minister for Children and Youth — With regard to Ashley Youth Detention Centre, in the period between January and December 2025, can the Honourable Minister advise:

- (1) How many reported incidents have occurred requiring internal review by the Incident Review Committee?
- (2) How many instances of physical assaults on staff were reported in those incidents?
- (3) How many instances of verbal abuse, including racial abuse, toward staff occurred in those reported instances?
- (4) How many staff required medical treatment, physical and mental, arising from those incidents?
- (5) How many staff have been stood down for alleged code of conduct breaches in that time?
- (6) Of those, how many have returned to work?
- (7) Since 2021, how many staff have been stood down by the Department for alleged Code of Conduct breaches?
- (8) Since 2021, of those stood down, how many remain on stand down?
- (9) Since 2021, of those stood down, how many have returned to work?
- (10) Since 2021, how many Code of Conduct investigations have commenced, how many have been completed and how many remain outstanding?
- (11) Since 2021, how many Code of Conduct breaches have been upheld?
- (12) In the past year, how many staff have been recruited to youth worker roles and how many have separated in that time?
- (13) How are annual separations benchmarked?

The Minister answered:

- (1) As Minister for Children and Youth, the safety and wellbeing of everyone at the Ashley Youth Detention Centre (AYDC) is my priority.

The AYDC Incident Review Committee (IRC) reviews all recorded incidents involving or alleging the use of force, use of isolation, serious assault, or other serious matters such as fires, escapes, or harmful sexualised behaviour.

Between January and December 2025, the Incident Review Committee reviewed a total of 296 incidents.

- (2) The current processes to report specific incident detail relating to physical assaults on staff and the number of incidents at AYDC reviewed by the IRC, are not directly comparable.

This is because the IRC case records are stored securely on a separate information system to the Department for Education Children and Young People's (the Department) Safety Reporting System (SRS).

Data from the SRS indicates at the AYDC site (including the AYDC School) from January to December 2025 shows there were 70 reported incidents of violence towards AYDC staff under the categories of:

- 'Assault with an object or weapon';
- 'Deliberate kicks / punches / bites / spitting / pushes / grabs'; and
- 'Other'.

- (3) The IRC records are securely stored on a separate system to the Department's Safety Reporting System (SRS).

Therefore, the current processes to report specific incident details relating to verbal abuse, including racial abuse towards staff and the number of incidents reviewed by the IRC, cannot be reliably provided due to the information being recorded in different systems, resulting in reporting limitations.

Data from the SRS indicates that at the AYDC site (including the AYDC School) from January to December 2025, there were:

- five reported incidents in the category of “verbal abuse including threats to staff”; and
- four reported incidents in the category of “threats with an object or weapon”.

- (4) As Minister for Children and Youth, the safety and wellbeing of staff at AYDC is a matter I take very seriously.

Information about staff medical treatment is recorded through distinct information reporting systems, which are not directly comparable with IRC records.

Due to the system incompatibilities and associated reporting challenges, it is not possible to provide a single consolidated figure covering all incidents reviewed by the IRC where staff required physical or wellbeing-related medical treatment.

The Department’s reported safety related data indicates that across 79 serious incidents recorded during January to December 2025, 47 incidents involved staff who required medical or wellbeing-related support.

Of the total 47 incidents, 41 of these involved staff who required first aid treatment including:

- EpiPen or other medication;
- Hospital emergency department care;
- Medical treatment (by a medical professional such as a doctor or ambulance officer); and
- Mental health first aid, counsellor or health and wellbeing officer assistance.

All reported staff injuries and wellbeing concerns are taken seriously. AYDC staff are supported through appropriate medical treatment, counselling, and ongoing workplace health and safety processes whether the staff member is in the workplace or temporarily away from it.

- (5) For the purposes of the answer, I am using the definition of ‘stood down’ as a suspension with pay under Employment Direction No. 4.

Applying this definition, I can advise that during the period January to December 2025, six AYDC employees were suspended with pay in relation to alleged code of conduct breaches.

- (6) No staff stood down for an alleged Code of Conduct under Employment Direction No.4 have returned to the workplace. This has consistently been the case since 2021.

Where an AYDC staff member has been stood down for a Code of Conduct allegation, the staff member cannot return to the workplace until the formal process outcome concludes it is appropriate and safe to do so.

- (7) For the purposes of the answer, I am using the definition of ‘stood down’ as a suspension with pay under Employment Direction No. 4.

Applying this definition, I can advise that since 2021, a total of 26 AYDC employees have been suspended with pay following the commencement of investigations relating to alleged Code of Conduct breaches.

- (8) Of the 26 employees referred to in my previous answer to question 7, a total of 16 employees previously working at the AYDC currently remain suspended with pay.

- (9) No staff stood down since 2021 have returned to the AYDC workplace.

Where an AYDC staff member has been stood down for a Code of Conduct allegation, the staff member cannot return to the workplace until the formal process outcome concludes it is appropriate and safe to do so.

In some instances, the staff member may be cleared of any wrongdoing but may return to a different role away from AYDC.

There are other instances where an employee may not be medically cleared to return to work as part of a claim for Workers' Compensation.

- (10) Since 2021, and up to 19 March 2026, a total of 33 Code of Conduct investigations have commenced.

Of those investigations:

- 12 have been completed; and
- 21 remain ongoing.

- (11) For the purposes of the answer, I am using the definition of 'stood down' as a suspension with pay under Employment Direction No. 4.

Since 2021 and up to 19 March 2026, there have been five matters where a breach of the Code of Conduct has been upheld.

- (12) From January to December 2025, 14 staff have been recruited to Youth Worker roles at AYDC.

During the same period, nine youth workers have separated from employment with the Tasmanian State Service.

- (13) The Department does not formally benchmark annual staff separations against external data or figures.

Where there is an unusually high level of separations within a particular workplace, or they have occurred over a short period of time, the Department may review the circumstances to identify any emerging trends, workforce pressures, or issues requiring management attention and follow up.

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

- (1) TT-Line Company Pty Ltd: Members Statement of Expectations. Dated March 2026.
- (2) *Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Act 2016*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 2, Domestic Violence Orders (National Recognition) Regulations 2026.
- (3) *Poisons Act 1971*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 4, Poisons Amendment (Interstate Prescriptions) Regulations 2026.
- (4) *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 9, Major Infrastructure Development Approvals (North West Transmission Upgrades Project) Order 2026.
- (5) *Public Health Act 1997*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 10, Public Health (Smoking Product Licence) Amendment Regulations 2026.
- (6) *Poisons Act 1971*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 11, Poisons Amendment (Vaping Substances) Regulations 2026.
- (7) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising areas of land containing 660m² and 660m² situate at Lot 3 and Lot 4, 44-54 Mary Street, Cygnet in Tasmania. Municipal area of Huon Valley.

7 REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE INQUIRING INTO MATTERS RELATED TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE TASMANIAN GOVERNMENTS'S RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS.— Ms *Webb* presented the Second Interim Report (Part 1) of the Joint Sessional Committee Inquiring into Matters Related to the Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Governments's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

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

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

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

8 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILL.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Governor as follows:

MESSAGE

Barbara Baker, Governor

A Bill for An Act to amend the *Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) Act 2010*, the *Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) (Code of Practice for Fuel Price Reporting) Regulations 2020*, the *Australian Consumer Law (Tasmania) Infringement Regulations 2021*, the *Energy Co-ordination and Planning Act 1995* and the *Petroleum Products Emergency Act 1994*

Petroleum Reporting (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026
(Bill No. 11 of 2026; Act No. 1 of 2026)

having been presented to the Governor for the Royal Assent, she has in the name of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bill.

Government House, Hobart, 2 April 2026

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

- (1) Ms *Palmer* – 90th Anniversary of Country Women’s Association in Tasmania;
- (2) Mr *Gaffney* – Men’s Resources Tasmania – Men’s Health Week Forum;
- (3) Mr *Edmunds* – Coeliacs Disease;
- (4) Ms *Armitage* – Dr Brian Herman; and
- (5) Ms *Forrest* – Creative Paper.

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

10 OMBUDSMAN TASMANIA ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25.— A Motion was made (Ms *Webb*) and the Question was proposed, That —

- (1) That the Legislative Council notes the Ombudsman Tasmania Annual Report 2024-25, particularly statements made regarding;
 - (a) Previous recommendations made by the Ombudsman that the Tasmanian National Preventative Mechanism (NPM) be established as a specialised institution separate from the Ombudsman, and that the person appointed as Tasmanian NPM concurrently serve as Custodial Inspector, which is also to be separated from the Ombudsman, have not been acted upon;
 - (b) The need for the proposed new joint Tasmanian NPM-Custodial Inspector entity to come under the administrative umbrella of a department other than the Department of Justice, given that so many of the facilities which are inspected are also under Justice’s purview.
- (2) That the Legislative Council further notes that:
 - (a) The *OPCAT Implementation Act 2021*, which was passed by the Tasmanian Parliament and received Royal Assent on 29 November 2021, establishes an NPM for Tasmania as a new, permanent monitoring body to undertake regular, unannounced inspections of places of detention in order to strengthen protections against torture and ill treatment;
 - (b) On 1 December 2023, the Tasmanian NPM released its first implementation project report *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania*, which includes the results of extensive community and expert consultation to establish the Tasmanian NPM, with a focus on custody, detention, and secure mental health settings;
 - (c) On 26 November 2024, the Tasmanian NPM released its second, supplementary implementation project report focusing on the Tasmanian NPM’s mandate in community-based aged residential care and disability support services.

- (d) The combined Tasmanian NPM 2023 and 2024 Implementation Reports provide 12 overarching recommendations to successfully establish an independent and accountable office that is most suitable for Tasmania and best placed to prevent torture and ill-treatment, designed to complement and work with existing oversight bodies, engage actively with civil society, and ensure appropriate Parliamentary scrutiny of its activities;
 - (e) On the 19 November 2024 the Legislative Council passed a motion which called for the 12 implementation recommendations to be accepted in full.
- (3) That the Legislative Council also notes the following statement by the outgoing Ombudsman Mr Richard Connock in the 2024-25 Annual Report:
- “Unfortunately, the report, and the 2024 Supplementary Implementation Report, have not been formally responded to though both have been tabled in parliament. In addition, whilst government provided generous funding for the implementation phase of the NPM, it has not provided sufficient ongoing funding for the NPM to perform its functions. This is disappointing, and means that Tasmania will not meet its international obligations.”*
- (4) And that the Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian government to:
- (a) Provide a formal response in the Parliament to both the *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania 2023 Report* and the 2024 Supplementary implementation report;
 - (b) Commit to the full funding and implementation of all 12 overarching TNPM recommendations and provide an implementation timetable; and
 - (c) Report back to the Legislative Council prior the delivery of the 2026-27 State Budget.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

11 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.

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

Ordered, That Ms Rattray have leave to Table the following documents:

- Chairperson, Tasmanian Heritage Council Information Package; and
- Tasmanian Heritage Council, Expression of Interest – Fact Sheet.

13 PROPOSED MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM PROJECT COSTS AND IMPACTS.— A Motion was made (Ms O'Connor) and the Question was proposed:—

- (1) That the Legislative Council notes the correspondence from the Premier and Treasurer to the Honourable Member for Elwick, dated 4 December 2025 and tabled in the Council by the Leader for Government Business on 4 December 2025 in relation to the Macquarie Point Stadium Project which set out a number of claims in relation to:
 - (a) the final project costs and cost cap, budget impact, economic and social benefits, governance, design and construction of the Macquarie Point Stadium; and
 - (b) a P90 assessment which the Government relies on to support a high degree of confidence in the current \$1.13 billion budget estimate for the stadium;
- (2) That the Legislative Council expresses its concerns:
 - (a) that these claims and the P90 assessment are not supported by available evidence, are incomplete or may not be technically possible;
 - (b) that an industry standard P90 requires a finalised scope, known quantities, identified risks and quantified contingencies; and

- (c) the project conditions may not be met resulting in penalty payments and overall cost increases; and
- (3) That the Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian Government to make publicly available and lay upon the Table of the Council the document it refers to as the P90 and any materials supporting the P90 as described in the letter by 5 May 2026.

A Debate arose thereupon.

14 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.

15 PROPOSED MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM PROJECT COSTS AND IMPACTS.— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question:—

- (1) That the Legislative Council notes the correspondence from the Premier and Treasurer to the Honourable Member for Elwick, dated 4 December 2025 and tabled in the Council by the Leader for Government Business on 4 December 2025 in relation to the Macquarie Point Stadium Project which set out a number of claims in relation to:
 - (a) the final project costs and cost cap, budget impact, economic and social benefits, governance, design and construction of the Macquarie Point Stadium; and
 - (b) a P90 assessment which the Government relies on to support a high degree of confidence in the current \$1.13 billion budget estimate for the stadium;
- (2) That the Legislative Council expresses its concerns:
 - (a) that these claims and the P90 assessment are not supported by available evidence, are incomplete or may not be technically possible;
 - (b) that an industry standard P90 requires a finalised scope, known quantities, identified risks and quantified contingencies; and
 - (c) the project conditions may not be met resulting in penalty payments and overall cost increases; and
- (3) That the Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian Government to make publicly available and lay upon the Table of the Council the document it refers to as the P90 and any materials supporting the P90 as described in the letter by 5 May 2026.

And the Question being put,

The Council divided.

AYES 3

Mr Gaffney (Teller)
Ms O'Connor
Ms Webb

NOES 11

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

So it passed in the Negative.

16 JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON GREYHOUND RACING TRANSITION REPORT: GREYHOUND RACING LEGISLATION AMENDMENTS (PHASING OUT REFORM) BILL 2025 INQUIRY.— A Motion was made (Ms O'Connor) and the Question was proposed, That the Joint Standing Committee On Greyhound Racing Transition's Report on its Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 Inquiry be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

Ordered, That Mr Vincent have leave to Table the Government's response to the Joint Standing Committee On Greyhound Racing Transition's Report on its Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025 Inquiry.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

17 BILL NO. 1.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — 'A Bill for an Act to amend the *Building Act 2016* and consequentially amend regulations made under that Act',

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

House of Assembly, 14 April 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 BILL NO. 7.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — 'A Bill for an Act to amend the *Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Act 2011*',

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

House of Assembly, 14 April 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)

19 ADJOURNMENT.— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, 15 April 2026. (Ms Rattray)

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

The Council adjourned at 7.11 o'clock p.m.

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

Briefing:

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