



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

UNCORRECTED PROOF

No. 30

TUESDAY, 19 MAY 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 WRITS FOR THE RETURN OF NEW MEMBERS.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table of the Council writs for the return of new Members for the Electoral Divisions of Rosevears and Huon, certifying *Joanne Lesley Palmer* and *Clare Glade-Wright*, having been declared elected on the 11 May 2026 and 12 May 2026 respectively, to serve in the Legislative Council.

**5 MEMBER FOR ROSEVEARS PREVIOUSLY SWORN.**— The Clerk of the Council said:

“Mr President, I advise the Council that *Joanne Lesley Palmer* returned upon a new writ for Rosevears has previously made and taken the oath of allegiance as required by law, and has subscribed to the Code of Conduct for Members.”

**6 AUTHORISATION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION.**— The Clerk of the Council said:—

“With the authority of a Proclamation issued by the Governor and in accordance with Section 30 of the *Constitution Act 1934* I am duly authorised to administer the Oath of Allegiance or Affirmation as prescribed by the *Promissory Oaths Act 2015*”.

**7 NEW MEMBER FOR HUON SWORN.**— *Clare Glade-Wright* returned upon a new Writ for Huon made the appropriate Affirmation required by law, and subscribed to the Code of Conduct for Members of the Parliament of Tasmania.

**8 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – WELCOME TO NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS.**— The President said:—

“Honourable Members before moving to formal business I take this opportunity to welcome to this House and the Parliament the newly elected Member for Huon and wish her well in her role.

I know that I speak on behalf of all Members, Chamber Officers and staff when I say we are ready to offer any support, advice or assistance that you may require, particularly in the early stages of your elected term. Please do not hesitate to ask. You will find, I am sure, that your role at times will be challenging. You can be assured that you will find it satisfying and rewarding as you now get not only the opportunity to assist

and represent the people of your electorate here in the Legislative Council but to also contribute to the improved welfare of the people of Tasmania.

I extend a warm welcome to you.

I wish to also welcome back to our Chamber the Member for Rosevears and congratulate her on her re-election. Those of us who sat on the sidelines watching the campaigns - which is always the best position to be in rather than being an active part of one - acknowledge the strong result the Member got. It was a very true indication of the high regard in which the Member is held in her electorate. I also acknowledge those people who assisted the Member in her quest for re-election.

I also wish to acknowledge the service and deeply caring manner of Dean Harriss over the four years he served in this place.”

**9 AFL HEAD INJURIES.**— Mr *Gaffney* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — From 1 May 2026, the AFL Players Association Super fund will not pay Total and Permanent Disability (TPD) benefits for claims relating to injuries such as a traumatic head injury, concussion, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), post-concussion syndrome or any neurological impairment linked to brain injury.

There will also be a significant reduction in maximum payouts for all other TPD injury claims, with the changes apparently due to a revised proposal for insurance from Zurich Insurance, as it was the only group to put forward an insurance offering in the recent tender process.

- (1) Given that Tasmanian Football Club Ltd (Tasmania Devils) and its licence is owned by the AFL, with the Tasmanian Government as the key funding and development partner:
  - (a) Does the Government have, or intend to take, legal advice on its risk of exposure to action for compensation for any future claim by a Devils player;
  - (b) What assurances does the Government have that the Board of the Tasmania Devils, as a matter of sound governance, have, or intend to take, legal advice on the risk of exposure to action for compensation for any future claim by a Devils player; and
  - (c) If such an action were to arise on such an uninsurable risk, what would be the consequences for a possible claimant, the Devils as a team with the AFL as its owner, and the Government as the key funding partner?
- (2) Given that Section 7 of the *Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (Tas) exempts AFL players from cover, and the fact that AFL concussion rates are among the highest for any team sport anywhere in the world.:
  - (a) Will the Government follow the 2023 Senate ‘*Concussions and repeated head trauma in contact sports*’ Inquiry recommendation to encourage state and territory governments to engage with professional sporting organisations to explore how the general exclusion of professional sports people from various state and territory workers’ compensation schemes could be removed; and
  - (b) If not, what confidence can an AFL player have, that signs up to play for the Devils, that there will be adequate workplace cover for a TPD arising from their workplace as a contracted employee?

The Leader answered:

- (1)
  - (a) The Tasmanian Government expects the AFL and indeed all sporting organisations to work to reduce head injury and concussion risk as far as possible, and notes recent rule changes and protocols implemented by the AFL to that end. While the Tasmanian Government has a key funding role in the establishment and operations of the Tasmania Football Club Ltd (Tasmania Devils), it is not involved in any decisions which impact upon a player’s terms of employment or playing conditions. We are not aware of any action in relation to compensation claims by AFL players against state governments in relation to these matters.
  - (b) The Board of the Tasmania Devils is a skills-based board. It is not a matter for Government to seek assurances in this regard, it is a matter for the Board to consider as part of its risk management considerations.

- (c) We are not aware of any action in relation to compensation claims by AFL players against state governments in relation to these matters.
- (2) (a) While the Government appreciates the valid questions raised by the Honourable Member for Mersey, it is the broadly consistent position of Australian jurisdictions that workers compensation schemes are not the appropriate mechanism for addressing these concerns, for the following reasons:
- Sport inherently encourages risk-taking behaviour. This is incompatible with the spirit of work health and safety legislation.
  - Employer obligations under the Act may be very onerous, and possibly impracticable, for some sports clubs.
  - Insurance premiums may be very onerous for small clubs and seen as disproportionate to the benefits provided.
  - Tasmania's workers compensation scheme may lack flexibility for sportspeople wishing to choose their own treatment providers, and whose recovery aims differ from those of the Act.
  - Including some sportspeople but not others may give rise to inconsistencies or unintended consequences.
- The exclusion of AFL sportspersons from Tasmania's workers compensation scheme is broadly consistent with arrangements in other Australian jurisdictions.
- (b) As this aspect of the question relates to employment conditions and workplace coverage for a Total and Permanent Disability arising from employment, an AFL player would need to pursue the matter directly with their employer, the Tasmania Devils.

**10 VICTIMS OF CRIME.**— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government— Through recent discussions with individuals who have lived experience as victims of crime, it has become clear there are gaps in support for those affected by a wide range of crimes.

- (1) In relation to current legislative and service frameworks that support Victims of Crime in Tasmania, will the Government:
- (a) Support the Tasmania Law Reform Institute to undertake a full review of existing legislation and services currently available to Victims of Crime, given the Act has not been substantively reviewed since its inception in 1976?
  - (b) Support the establishment of a Victims of Crime Support Group, to be run for and by Victims of Crime, to provide peer support, advocacy and connection to services?
  - (c) Support amendments to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* to broaden the definition of 'offence' to include aggravated burglary as defined in Section 245 of the *Criminal Code*?
- (2) If the Government supports broadening the definition of 'offence' to include aggravated burglary, will it expedite legislative amendment to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* to bring it into effect as soon as possible?

The Leader answered:

- (1) (a) The Attorney-General has written to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute proposing draft terms of reference to review the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* having regard to the age of the Act and the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings. The terms of reference seeks that the review examine and report on:
- Any potential reforms to the Act and Regulations that would improve the operation of the legislation and functions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commissioners.
  - Any desirable changes to jurisdiction, powers, practices and/or procedures under the Act and the Department's Victim Assistance Unit that would better serve the needs of victims of crime.

- Any potential reforms to the Act and Regulations that would improve the management of applications under the Act and to consider any reforms that would make the operations more trauma informed.
- Any other relating matters including consideration of the needs of Tasmanians and prioritising available resources and support to victims of crime in the most effective manner in a budget constrained environment.

The TLRI has been engaging with the Department of Justice and has produced a project plan and quote for this work. The Attorney-General has approved that this review be undertaken, following a procurement process being completed.

- (b) The establishment of such a Support Group requires careful consideration, taking into account governance arrangements and the available resources of the Government.

There are existing victim-survivor advisory groups established such as the Family and Sexual Violence Victim-Survivor Advisory Council and the Child Sexual Abuse Victim-Survivor Advisory Group. Both groups are administratively supported and funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

In addition to the victim-survivor advisory group and advisory council administered through DPAC there is also the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance (TFSVA) which has been established as the peak body for the family and sexual violence sectors. The Alliance's priorities include "gaining deeper lived experience perspectives on service demand and innovative service approaches".

These are meaningful and purpose-driven steps to improve access to justice for victim-survivors of family and sexual violence.

Notwithstanding this, it is accepted that current options available to victims of crime are limited to specific areas.

There is an opportunity to consider expansion of supports to facilitate targeted engagement with, and support to, victims of crime who are not represented by the existing victim-survivor groups. The Government is engaging with advocates in this space to explore how best to support victims of crime, including through a potential community-led peer support group.

- (c) The definition of 'offence' under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* covers a wide range of offence types involving physical violence or threats of violence. This includes, but is not limited to murder, manslaughter, assault, aggravated burglary, grievous bodily harm, wounding and assault. Aggravated burglary is compensable under the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976*, when it involves physical violence or threat of violence by one person against another.

Therefore, the Government is not considering amendments to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* to include aggravated burglary within the definition of 'offence' because the Act already enables access to compensation for aggravated burglary provided there was physical violence or threats of violence.

- (2) The Government is not considering amendments to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1976* to include aggravated burglary within the definition of 'offence' because the Act already enables access to compensation for aggravated burglary provided there was physical violence or threats of violence.

The Government will look to the findings of the upcoming TLRI Report in assessing opportunities to amend the Victims of Crime Assistance Act to holistically improve how it addresses the needs of victims of crime.

**11 MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT.**— Mr *Gaffney* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — In light of the accident on the Tasman Bridge on Wednesday, 15 April 2026, when the traffic was at a standstill and cars backed up for kilometres in all directions, and with the probability of 23,000 fans converging at the Macquarie Point Stadium:

- (1) What strategies will be considered in the event of an accident occurring on a crucial transport route into Macquarie Point;

- (2) In the case of traffic accidents how will emergency services, ie ambulance; police; fire brigade, enter or exit the city, CBD and hospital; and
- (3) Who is responsible for the management of, and the strategy for, emergency services and transport routes and access?

The Leader answered:

Hobart already hosts multiple large events in the city, including the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, the Wooden Boat Festival and the Taste of Summer, which each attract around 50,000 people. Emergency services have extensive experience operating during these large-scale events, and stadium events will be managed in a similar way.

In preparation for major events, emergency services undertake detailed planning to ensure they can continue to deliver essential services. This planning includes the development of contingency measures to respond effectively in the event of traffic incidents or other disruptions.

**12 STATE SERVICE SES POSITIONS.**— Ms Thomas asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — The State Service Workforce Report No. 2 of 2016 recorded 183 Senior Executive Service (SES) positions in the Tasmanian public sector. Figures provided by the Premier’s office in response to a question on notice I asked on 18 March 2026 indicate that number has now increased to 266.

- (1) Can the Government explain why SES positions have grown by approximately 45 per cent over the past decade, when over the same period the overall State Service workforce has grown at around half that rate?
- (2) How does the Government justify this level of growth in senior executive positions?
- (3) Does the Government believe it is acceptable that the total cost of SES positions for a given pay period cannot be provided because it is said to be “complex, not held centrally and not capable of extraction”?
- (4) What steps is the Government taking to ensure transparency and proper oversight of SES remuneration, particularly as agencies are restructured and responsibilities shifted?
- (5) In a recent memorandum, Head of the State Service Kathrine Morgan-Wicks referred to the State Service being “re-designed” and “right-sized”.
  - (i) How is that “right size” being determined?
  - (ii) Will the re-design and right-sizing include a reduction in SES positions, in line with any broader workforce reductions?

The Leader answered:

- (1) The Senior Executive Service represents a very small proportion of the Tasmanian State Service. As at 31 December 2025, SES officers comprise 0.7% of Tasmanian State Service positions by headcount, and individual salaries for key management personnel are transparently reported in each agency annual reports which are publicly available on agency websites.

**Table 1: Number of SES Officers at June 2016 and December 2025**

Type	June 2016	December 2025
Head of Agency	15	18
Prescribed Officer Holder	3	4
Senior Executive Service	147	220
Equivalent Specialist	18	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>266</b>

Across the period from June 2016 to December 2025, the number of Head of Agency, SES and equivalent specialist offices increased from 183 to 266, reflecting changes in the size, structure and complexity of the State Service over that time. This includes modest increases in Heads of Agency which are required to exist for each agency under the *State Service Act 2000* (from 15 to 18),

Prescribed Office Holders (from 3 to 4), Senior Executive Service officers (from 147 to 220), and Equivalent Specialist officers (from 18 to 24).

The SES remains a small and tightly controlled component of the State Service. Agencies are required to justify any request to the Premier for creation of SES positions based on a clear framework for assessment. SES and equivalent specialist appointments are subject to prescribed recruitment processes under an Employment Direction, where merit must be taken into account.

- (2) Growth in SES roles reflects a range of structural, policy and operational changes across agencies. Key drivers include the transfer of functions between agencies, the creation of new senior positions to support whole-of-government priorities, and the expansion of capability in areas such as child safety, emergency management, major infrastructure delivery, and emerging industries. Additional increases have resulted from the government's response to the Commission of Inquiry and the need to strengthen governance, oversight and service delivery in high-risk areas. These roles are critical to leading major service systems, managing significant public resources, and delivery of government priorities.

- (3) The Government does not hold a consolidated, system-wide dataset that would allow the total cost of SES positions for a single pay period to be produced accurately and reliably. This is because remuneration for senior officers is made up of multiple components that vary by agency, role, and individual circumstance, and these elements are not currently captured in a single central system.

To produce an accurate figure, each agency would be required to manually extract and calculate remuneration across a range of categories — including base salary, allowances including any amount paid to temporarily undertake a higher level office, and superannuation. These components can fluctuate from pay period to pay period, and the work required to compile and validate this information across all agencies would be substantial. At present, undertaking this exercise would divert significant resources away from core service delivery and priority workforce activities.

- (4) The Government has several mechanisms in place to ensure transparency and proper oversight of SES remuneration, particularly during period of agency restructuring and changes in responsibility.

Senior Executive (SES) and Equivalent Specialist (ES) Offices are the mechanism to appoint highly experienced and qualified people to provide strategic leadership and high level skills, within and across agencies, in order to meet Government's objectives and deliver services to Tasmania.

The Mercer CED job evaluation system is the prescribed tool used to assess and classify the majority of SES and ES duties, ensuring a consistent and transparent basis for determining classification of offices. Salaries reflect this classification with any variation in the standard salaries approved by me as Premier requiring a comprehensive case to the Head of the State Service justifying the salary.

SES and ES offices may only be created by the Premier and only in my consideration of a Head of Agency's request that an office is needed to perform duties of a senior executive or equivalent specialist nature in that agency.

Offices may then be abolished where the duties are no longer required, including where this relates to right sizing the State Service to maintain or reduce agency FTE. Heads of Agencies are expected to progress requests for abolition to me as Premier in a timely manner.

In addition, offices are routinely reviewed when they become vacant to confirm ongoing need and abolished where they are no longer required.

Salary increases to the SES are not automatically applied. Any increase is considered and approved by me as Premier to ensure the appropriate management and alignment with the senior leadership and accountability requirements of this cohort.

- (5) The Government has committed to reducing the size and cost of Tasmanian State Service (TSS) Agencies to meet its revised fiscal strategy targets, to return employment numbers to sustainable levels, and to align size and structure of the Tasmanian public service to population levels.

Heads of Agencies are actively managing their SES and ES establishments in the context of the broader recruitment freeze on non-essential roles and need for FTE reductions. SES and ES office vacancies are assessed prior to any advertising, consistent with the approach applied to other senior roles.

As with sound organisational design principles, and aligned with the Government's broader FTE reduction strategy, the number of SES and ES offices will be reviewed to ensure we continue to have fit for purpose organisational structures to support the essential service delivery requirements to the Tasmanian community.

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

- (1) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising area of land stated in the Electricity Infrastructure Easement with the benefit of a restriction as to user of land as described in Schedule 1. Situate in 129 Rockliffs Road, Sheffield in Tasmania. Municipal Area of Kentish.
- (2) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising area of land stated in the Electricity Infrastructure Easement with the benefit of a restriction as to user of land as described in Schedule 1. Situate in 340 Minna Road, Stowport in Tasmania. Municipal Area of Burnie.
- (3) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising area of land stated in the Electricity Infrastructure Easement with the benefit of a restriction as to user of land as described in Schedule 1. Situate in 287 Pine Road, Penguin in Tasmania. Municipal Area of Central Coast.
- (4) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising area of land stated in the Electricity Infrastructure Easement with the benefit of a restriction as to user of land as described in Schedule 1. Situate in 467 West Nook Road, Nook in Tasmania. Municipal Area of Kentish.
- (5) *Land Acquisition Act 1993*: Notice of Acquisition of land under Section 18, comprising area of land stated in the Electricity Infrastructure Easement with the benefit of a restriction as to user of land as described in Schedule 1. Situate in 275 Top Gawler Road, Gawler in Tasmania. Municipal Area of Central Coast.

**14 REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.**— Ms *Forrest* presented a Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts on its Review of the Tasmanian Fiscal Sustainability Report 2026.

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

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

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

**15 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 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS.**— Ms *Webb* presented a the Second Interim Report (Part Two) 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 Government'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*)

**16 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 11.33 o'clock a.m. and resumed at 12.27 o'clock p.m.

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

**18 ESTIMATES COMMITTEE: ESTABLISHMENT.**— *Ordered*, That the Legislative Council establish two Estimates Committees each consisting of five members.

And that –

Ms *Forrest*;  
 Ms *Glade-Wright*;  
 Ms *Lovell*;  
 Ms *O'Connor*; and  
 Ms *Thomas*  
 be of Committee A,

and

Ms *Armitage*;  
 Mr *Edmunds*;  
 Mr *Gaffney*;  
 Mr *Hiscutt*; and  
 Ms *Webb*  
 be of Committee B.

That the Estimates Committees report upon the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2026 and Budget Papers by no later than Friday, 19 June 2026.

And that the Schedule emailed to Members on Monday, 18 May 2026 be adopted as the Estimates Committees timetable. (Ms *Rattray*)

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – ESTIMATES COMMITTEES SCHEDULE 2026**

<b>Monday 1 June 2026</b>			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Eric Abetz MP  Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	Treasurer Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Guy Barnett MP  Hon Gavin Pearce MP	Attorney-General Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitat Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister for Primary Industries and Water Minister for Veterans' Affairs
<b>Tuesday 2 June 2026</b>			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Nick Duigan MLC  Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	Minister for Energy and Renewables Minister for Sport Minister for Parks Minster for Arts and Heritage Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Minister for Environment
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP Hon Jane Howlett MP	Premier Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence Minister for Racing

<b>Wednesday 3 June 2026</b>			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Bridget Archer MP	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister for Ageing Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Felix Ellis MP	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management Minister for Skills and Jobs Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
<b>Thursday 4 June 2026</b>			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister for Housing and Planning Minister for Local Government
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Jo Palmer MLC	Minister for Education Minister for Children and Youth Minister for Disability Services

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

**20 TASMANIAN BUDGET 2026-27: ESTIMATES COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL: REQUEST FOR MINISTERS IN THE ASSEMBLY TO ATTEND.**—

*Ordered*, That the Legislative Council having appointed two Estimates Committees reflecting the distribution of Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities, requests that the House of Assembly give leave to all Ministers to appear before and give evidence to the relevant Council Estimates Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and related documents. (Ms Rattray)

*Ordered*, That a Message be transmitted to the House of Assembly acquainting that House accordingly. (Ms Rattray)

**21 TASMANIAN BUDGET 2026-27: ESTIMATES COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL: REQUEST FOR MINISTERS IN THE ASSEMBLY TO ATTEND.**—

A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having passed the following Resolution now transmits the same to the House of Assembly, and requests its concurrence therein:—

*Resolved*, That the Legislative Council having appointed two Estimates Committees reflecting the distribution of Government Ministers' portfolio responsibilities, requests that the House of Assembly give leave to all Ministers to appear before and give evidence to the relevant Council Estimates Committee in relation to the Budget Estimates and related documents.

*Legislative Council, 19 May 2026*

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

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

- (1) Ms O'Connor – Rwandan Genocide commemoration;
- (2) Mr Hiscutt – Tones and I Ulverstone and Jyron Flannery;
- (3) Mr Gaffney – Palliative Care Tasmania;
- (4) Ms Rattray – McIntyre constituent acknowledgements; and

(5) Ms *Armitage* – Tristan Gourlay – Yachtsman.

**23 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.

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

**25 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.**— The Council resumed Special Interest Matters:

(6) Ms *Thomas* – Politics, Process and the Price of Broken Trust.

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

**26 CLIMATE COUNCIL AND EMERGENCY LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION REPORT: WHEN CITIES BURN.**— A Motion was made (Ms *O'Connor*) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council:

- (1) Notes the release of the report '*When Cities Burn: could the Los Angeles fires happen here?*' in January 2026 by the Climate Council and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action;
- (2) Notes the report finds that climate pollution – caused by the increased burning of coal, oil and gas – has made dangerous fire conditions more likely, including extreme dryness, heat and winds, alongside greater frequency of 'climate whiplash', the experience of a rapid switch between very wet and very dry weather;
- (3) Recognises that Australia – and Tasmania – share many of the same characteristics that led to the destructive fires that swept through Los Angeles in 2025, including long-term drying trends, episodic drought, more extreme winds, large areas of bushland adjacent to homes, steep slopes that accelerate fires and increasingly common pyroCb (fire-generated thunderstorms);
- (4) Accepts that Hobart is one of Australia's most fire-exposed capitals, hosting steep terrain, strong winds and heavy fuels, hemmed in by wet and dry forests on kunanyi/Mount Wellington;
- (5) Notes with concern that there is a growing number of people living closer to flammable bush and grassland, with a 33% increase of people living in Hobart's urban fringe danger zones over the past 2.5 decades, and 90% of homes in bushfire prone areas having been constructed before modern, bushfire-resilient standards were introduced;
- (6) Calls upon the Tasmanian Government to cut climate pollution, take action now to invest in disaster preparation and community resilience, including hazard reduction, education and retrofitting existing homes to bushfire standards; and
- (7) Calls upon the Tasmanian Government to prioritise an evacuation plan for Greater Hobart, and to work with emergency services to ensure that they are properly resourced.

A Debate arose thereupon.

**27 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.

**28 CLIMATE COUNCIL AND EMERGENCY LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION REPORT: WHEN CITIES BURN.**— The Council according to order resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Legislative Council:

- (1) Notes the release of the report '*When Cities Burn: could the Los Angeles fires happen here?*' in January 2026 by the Climate Council and Emergency Leaders for Climate Action;
- (2) Notes the report finds that climate pollution – caused by the increased burning of coal, oil and gas – has made dangerous fire conditions more likely, including extreme dryness, heat and winds,

alongside greater frequency of ‘climate whiplash’, the experience of a rapid switch between very wet and very dry weather;

- (3) Recognises that Australia – and Tasmania – share many of the same characteristics that led to the destructive fires that swept through Los Angeles in 2025, including long-term drying trends, episodic drought, more extreme winds, large areas of bushland adjacent to homes, steep slopes that accelerate fires and increasingly common pyroCb (fire-generated thunderstorms);
- (4) Accepts that Hobart is one of Australia’s most fire-exposed capitals, hosting steep terrain, strong winds and heavy fuels, hemmed in by wet and dry forests on kunanyi/Mount Wellington;
- (5) Notes with concern that there is a growing number of people living closer to flammable bush and grassland, with a 33% increase of people living in Hobart’s urban fringe danger zones over the past 2.5 decades, and 90% of homes in bushfire prone areas having been constructed before modern, bushfire-resilient standards were introduced;
- (6) Calls upon the Tasmanian Government to cut climate pollution, take action now to invest in disaster preparation and community resilience, including hazard reduction, education and retrofitting existing homes to bushfire standards; and
- (7) Calls upon the Tasmanian Government to prioritise an evacuation plan for Greater Hobart, and to work with emergency services to ensure that they are properly resourced.

An Amendment was proposed to the Motion (Ms Lovell):—

Paragraph (7), after ‘Tasmanian Government to prioritise’ and before ‘, and to work with emergency services’.

*Leave out,*

‘an evacuation plan for Greater Hobart’

*Insert instead,*

‘evacuation plans for Greater Hobart and other high-risk communities across Tasmania’

A Debate arose thereupon.

Motion made and Question put, That the Amendment be agreed to.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Debate resumed on the Question that the Motion as amended be agreed to.

And the Question being put.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**29 TASMANIA ARTS FUNDING.**— A Motion was made (Ms Forrest) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council notes that:—

- (1) Tasmania has the lowest per capita arts expenditure of any Australian state or territory, at \$48.93 per capita against a national average of \$78.71;
- (2) The number of arts organisations receiving annual funding from Arts Tasmania has fallen from 28 in 2021-22 to 18 in 2025-26 – a 35% reduction;
- (3) The 2025-26 Budget removed \$900,000 in funding that the Government had itself introduced in the previous year specifically to prevent sector damage, including four \$150,000 initiatives for music, theatre, regional arts, and writing, none of which were renewed;
- (4) Forward budget estimates show Arts Industry Development grants funding continuing to decline in 2026-27 and 2027-28, while the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Ten Days on the Island, and Theatre Royal are funded outside the competitive grants program and receive automatic annual increases;
- (5) The arts organisations competitive grants pool has never been CPI-indexed, meaning its real value erodes each year, and had indexation applied since 2021-22, approximately \$1.3 million additional funding would currently be available;

- (6) Defunding routinely causes permanent closure, noting the Tasmanian Theatre Company, Blue Cow Theatre, and others have closed following loss of funding, representing irreversible loss of employment, institutional knowledge, and community benefit;
- (7) The limited availability of multi-year funding arrangements has resulted in administrative inefficiency for both government and arts organisations, reduced sustainability, constrained forward planning, and persistent job insecurity for arts workers; and
- (8) While the Government has committed a maximum of \$875 million in state capital funding to a new stadium and provides substantial investment in sport programs including professional sport and other infrastructure, it has simultaneously cut arts grants funding and allowed emergency arts funding it had itself introduced to lapse - despite advancing identical arguments for both sectors in relation to health and wellbeing, community cohesion, tourism, and economic activity.

And calls on the Government to:

- (1) Restore arts grants funding to at least 2021-22 levels in real terms;
- (2) Apply annual CPI indexation to the arts organisations funding pool;
- (3) Establish adequate, stable and predictable recurrent funding for arts organisations in place of ad hoc one-off grants;
- (4) Reinstate the Tasmanian Strategic Touring Fund at \$220,000 per annum;
- (5) Commit to forward funding that responds to the Tasmanian Live Performance Exchange recommendations, including in the 2026-27 Budget;
- (6) Establish expanded multi-year funding programs for established arts organisations that have demonstrated consistent delivery, strong governance, and measurable community benefit;
- (7) Apply to arts grants funding principles that will bring the scale of arts investment into reasonable proportion with the Government's stated policy objectives for the sector.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**30 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 7.08 o'clock p.m. and resumed at 8.01 o'clock p.m.

**31 RODDA MUSEUM OF PATHOLOGY APOLOGY.**— A Motion was made (Ms Webb) and the Question was proposed:—

- (1) The Legislative Council:
  - (a) Notes the unacceptable and unlawful practices which occurred between 1966 and 1991 which saw 177 specimens of human remains stolen from coronial autopsies and sent to the R.A. Rodda Museum of Pathology, without consent of the individuals or families involved, and in contravention of the *Coroners Act 1957*, as reported upon by Coroner Simon Cooper in the *Coronial Project – Museum Cases Finding Report*, 8 September 2025;
  - (b) Acknowledges the hurt and trauma endured by current family members upon the discovery their loved ones were subjected to these unacceptable and unlawful practices, and also acknowledges the additional hurt caused for many by the manner in which they discovered remains of their loved one had been taken, and in some instances, displayed, without their knowledge or consent; and
- (2) The Legislative Council notes the formal apology to those individuals and family members affected by these practices, to be delivered by the Minister for Health on Tuesday 19 May on behalf of the State.

A Debate arose thereupon.

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

**32 ATTENDANCE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR BUDGET PROCEEDINGS:—** The Order of the Day was reading for taking into consideration the following Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly having passed the following Resolution, begs now to transmit the same to the Legislative Council and to request its concurrence therein:—

That the House of Assembly requests that:—

- (1) All Members of the Legislative Council attend in the House of Assembly Chamber following the First reading of the Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2026 for the purpose of listening to the speech by the Treasurer in relation to the Tasmanian Budget 2026-27.
- (2) The Legislative Council give leave to the Honourable the Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Minister for Sport, the Honourable the Minister for Education, Minister for Children and Youth and Minister for Disability Services, and the Honourable the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing and Planning, to appear before and give evidence to, the relevant Estimates Committee of the House of Assembly in relation to the Budget Estimates and related documents.

*House of Assembly, 7 May 2026*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*

*Ordered,* That the Honourable Member for Rosevears, as Minister for Education; Minister for Children and Youth; and Minister for Disability Services, and the Honourable Member for Windermere, as Minister for Energy and Renewables; Minister for Parks; and Minister for Sport, and the Honourable Member for Prosser, as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Local Government; and Minister for Housing and Planning, be given leave to appear before and give evidence to the relevant Estimates Committee of the House of Assembly in relation to the Budget Estimates and related documents. (Ms Rattray)

*Ordered,* That a Message be transmitted to the House of Assembly acquainting that House accordingly. (Ms Rattray)

**33 ATTENDANCE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR BUDGET PROCEEDINGS.—** A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council desires to inform the House of Assembly that it agrees to the request of the Assembly in its Message dated 7 May 2026 and has given leave for the Honourable Member for Rosevears, as Minister for Education; Minister for Children and Youth; and Minister for Disability Services, and the Honourable Member for Windermere, as Minister for Energy and Renewables; Minister for Parks; and Minister for Sport, and the Honourable Member for Prosser, as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Local Government; and Minister for Housing and Planning, be given leave to appear before and give evidence to the relevant Estimates Committee of the House of Assembly in relation to the Budget Estimates and related documents.

*Legislative Council, 19 May 2026*

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

**34 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 GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS.—** A Motion was made (Ms Webb) and the Question was proposed, That the Second Interim Report (Part One) 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 Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**35 BILL NO. 39 OF 2025.**— 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 *Criminal Code Act 1924, Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Act 2021, Electoral Act 2004, Evidence Act 2001, Family Violence Act 2004, Forensic Procedures Act 2000, Gas Safety Act 2019, Health Complaints Act 1995, Integrity Commission Act 2009, Justices Act 1959, Justices of the Peace Act 2018* and the *Occupational Licensing Act 2005*’,

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

*House of Assembly, 19 May 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)

**36 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, 20 May 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 9.57 o'clock p.m.

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

*Briefings:*

- *Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026*
- *Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2026*