

**CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY
APPROPRIATION FOR 2009-10) BILL 2009**

SECOND READING SPEECH

Mr Speaker,

I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

The *Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2009-10) Bill 2009* Bill forms part of the legislative package to support the Government's decision to purchase Pacific National's Tasmanian rail business.

Subject to approval from State Parliament, from 1 December 2009 all rail infrastructure and railway operations in Tasmania will be maintained, managed and owned by a new State-owned rail company.

This Bill provides for a Recurrent Services appropriation of \$34 million to the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources from the Consolidated Fund for the purpose of providing an equity contribution to the new rail business and to meet associated transaction costs.

The practice of using a Supplementary Appropriation Bill to provide an equity contribution is the most open and transparent process available to the Government.

While the Government will utilise funds from cash reserves, the Government will remain Net Debt free and continue to meet its Interim Fiscal Strategy targets.

Mr Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.