

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT AMENDMENT BILL 2010

SECOND READING SPEECH

[Mr Speaker/Madam President]

The 2006 *State of the State* address announced a range of budget and financial management reforms designed to ensure that the Government is fully accountable to the Parliament of Tasmania and the Tasmanian community.

As part of these reforms, the Government established separate Budget appropriations for the independent Parliamentary agencies, the Auditor-General, the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Ombudsman.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] the Bill before the [House/Council] today extends these reforms by providing a separate Budget appropriation for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* provides for the management of public finances in Tasmania, including the process for authorising and applying appropriations from the Consolidated Fund to agencies.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President], the Act currently provides for separate appropriations to be made to the Parliamentary agencies, the Auditor-General, the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Ombudsman.

Currently the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions' appropriation is included in the appropriation for the Department of Justice.

To separate the Director of Public Prosecutions' appropriation from the Department of Justice, a minor amendment to the Act is required.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] under the Act, for an appropriation to be made to an agency, that agency must have a responsible Minister and responsible Head of Agency.

Under the amendment before the [House/Council], the Attorney-General will be deemed to be the as the responsible Minister, for the purposes of the Act. Additionally, the Director of Public Prosecutions will be deemed, for the purpose of the Act, to be the responsible Head of Agency.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] this is the same arrangement that is currently in place for the Parliamentary agencies, the Auditor-General and the Offices of the Governor and the Ombudsman. These independent agencies have a unique role in Tasmania's Parliamentary and democratic system.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] consistent with the provision of a separate Budget appropriation, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will have a separate chapter in Budget Paper No 2 *Government Services*, commencing from the 2010-11 Budget.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] The amendment before the [House/Council] today recognises the unique role and independence of the Parliamentary agencies, the Auditor-General, the Offices of the Governor and the Ombudsman, and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

[Mr Speaker/Madam President] I commend the Bill to the [House/Council].