



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
SESSION OF 2025 - 2026
(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 44

TUESDAY, 18 AUGUST 2026

- 1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE. - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.
- 3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION. – The Speaker read Prayers.
- 4 SENATE VACANCY. – The Speaker informed the House that the following communication had been received from Her Excellency the Governor:-

Government House,
Hobart, Tasmania

14 August 2026

The Honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP
Speaker of the House of Assembly,
Parliament House,
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Speaker,

I enclose a copy of a letter that I have received from the President of the Senate notifying me that, pursuant to the provisions of Section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, a vacancy has occurred on 14 August 2026 in the representation of the State of Tasmania as a result of the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson.

I have also written to the Premier and the President of the Legislative Council to advise them of the vacancy.

Yours sincerely,

C. WELLS, *Governor*.

- 5 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – In accordance with Standing Order No. 43, Questions without notice were asked.
- 6 CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS. – In accordance with Sessional Order No. 48C, Constituency Questions were asked.
- 7 PAPERS. – The Deputy Premier laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:

Coroners Act 1995: Coroners (Fees, Expenses and Allowances) Regulations 2026 (Statutory Rule No. 41)

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8 PAPERS. – The Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:

- (1) Poisons Act 1971: Poisons Amendment Regulations 2026 (Statutory Rules 2026, No. 40)
- (2) Health Act 1997: Health (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026 (Statutory Rules 2026 No. 42)

9 PAPERS. – The Clerk of the House laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:

Report of the Joint Meeting of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly on 13 August 2026 to choose a Senator in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia (Paper No. 48)

10 SENATE VACANCY: JOINT SITTING AND RULES. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

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

That on Thursday, 20 August 2026 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon the Legislative Council meet the House of Assembly in the House of Assembly Chamber for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold a place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson; and further, the Legislative Council proposes the following Rules for the Joint Sitting:—

1. PARLIAMENTARY USAGE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DEBATE –

That on any Debate arising, the same shall be conducted according to the Standing Rules and Orders of the House of Assembly. On all points of order, and on all questions arising during the proceedings for choosing a person to fill the vacant place in the Senate, the ruling of the Presiding Officer shall be absolute and final.

2. RULES OF PROCEDURE –

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall call for nominations of persons to fill the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson. Each nomination shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, who shall certify on the form of nomination that the person so nominated is willing to hold the seat if chosen and is not disqualified from so doing. The proposer shall also certify that the nominee is a member of the Australian Greens. Nominations shall be handed to the Clerk, who upon being satisfied that they are in order, shall proceed with the preparation of the ballot paper. In the event that one or more nominees are certified to be members of the appropriate Party, those nominees only shall be taken to have been validly proposed to fill the vacancy, and no names other than theirs shall be included on the ballot paper as candidates for the vacant seat.
- (2) If only one person be nominated for the vacant seat, the Presiding Officer shall propose the Question “That (name of proposed person) be chosen to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson and, should such Question be passed in the affirmative, shall so declare.
- (3) If more than one person be nominated for the vacant seat, a ballot shall be taken in the manner hereinafter provided to determine which of such persons shall be chosen to hold the vacant place. Each of such persons so duly nominated is hereinafter referred to as ‘a candidate’.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall announce the names of the candidates who have been nominated, and shall then direct that a ballot be proceeded with, after which no other

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person shall be nominated; and the Clerk shall turn a two-minute sand-glass, to be kept on the table for that purpose, and the division bells of the House of Assembly shall be rung, and the doors shall not be closed till after the lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the said sand-glass. The doors shall be locked as soon after the lapse of two minutes as the Presiding Officer shall think proper to direct, and, unless otherwise ordered, shall remain locked until it shall have been declared in the manner provided in Rule 2 that a candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place: provided that the Clerk and two Scrutineers may retire from the Chamber in order to prepare the ballot papers, and subsequently, to count the votes.

- (5) The Presiding Officer shall appoint a Member of each House to be a Scrutineer to assist the Clerk of the Joint Sitting (herein referred to as the 'Clerk') in ascertaining the number of votes cast for each candidate.
- (6) As soon as practicable after the Presiding Officer has announced that the ballot will be proceeded with each Member present shall be provided with a ballot paper initialled by the Clerk.
- (7) Each Member voting shall forthwith mark on the ballot-paper the order of his or her preference for all candidates, and any ballot paper not so marked shall be rejected as informal.
- (8) The Member shall then fold and place the ballot paper so marked in the ballot box.
- (9) If there are only two candidates, the Clerk shall report to the Presiding Officer the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that the candidate who has the larger number of votes has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (10) If there are more than two candidates, the method of counting the votes prescribed by Schedule 5 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, for cases in which only one Member is to be elected shall, so far as practicable, and not inconsistent with these rules, be observed.
- (11) As soon as it is ascertained that any candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded by the Members voting, the Clerk shall so report to the Presiding Officer, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that such candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (12) If at any stage in the count, two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, and one of them has to be excluded, the Clerk shall forthwith report to the Presiding Officer the results of the count at that stage. The Members shall thereupon proceed to a special ballot to ascertain which of such candidates shall be excluded, but so that if there are more than two of such persons with an equality of votes only one shall be excluded.
- (13) In all cases not provided for in these Rules resort shall be had to the procedure laid down in the *Electoral Act 2004*, so far as the same may in the opinion of the Presiding Officer be applicable and not inconsistent with these Rules.

Legislative Council, 18 August 2026.

C.M. FARRELL, President.

Ordered, That the said Message be taken into consideration at a later hour. (The Treasurer)

11 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: SENATE VACANCY. - *Ordered* - That so much of Standing Order 343 be suspended as would prevent the Joint Sitting to choose a new Senator from taking place within seven days of receipt of the Governor's Message. (The Treasurer)

12 SENATE VACANCY: JOINT SITTING AND RULES. - The House, according to Order proceeded to take into consideration the Message of the Legislative Council regarding the proposed Joint Sitting to choose a Senator to fill the casual vacancy.

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Ordered, That the Resolution be agreed to. (The Treasurer)

13 SENATE VACANCY: JOINT SITTING AND RULES. - A Message to the Legislative Council. -

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has agreed to the following Resolution communicated to it by the Legislative Council on 18 August 2026:-

Resolved, That on Thursday, 20 August 2026 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon the Legislative Council meet the House of Assembly in the House of Assembly Chamber for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold a place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson; and further, the Legislative Council proposes the following Rules for the Joint Sitting:-

1. PARLIAMENTARY USAGE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DEBATE –

That on any Debate arising, the same shall be conducted according to the Standing Rules and Orders of the House of Assembly. On all points of order, and on all questions arising during the proceedings for choosing a person to fill the vacant place in the Senate, the ruling of the Presiding Officer shall be absolute and final.

2. RULES OF PROCEDURE –

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall call for nominations of persons to fill the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson. Each nomination shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, who shall certify on the form of nomination that the person so nominated is willing to hold the seat if chosen and is not disqualified from so doing. The proposer shall also certify that the nominee is a member of the Australian Greens. Nominations shall be handed to the Clerk, who upon being satisfied that they are in order, shall proceed with the preparation of the ballot paper. In the event that one or more nominees are certified to be members of the appropriate Party, those nominees only shall be taken to have been validly proposed to fill the vacancy, and no names other than theirs shall be included on the ballot paper as candidates for the vacant seat.
- (2) If only one person be nominated for the vacant seat, the Presiding Officer shall propose the Question “That (name of proposed person) be chosen to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Peter Whish-Wilson and, should such Question be passed in the affirmative, shall so declare.
- (3) If more than one person be nominated for the vacant seat, a ballot shall be taken in the manner hereinafter provided to determine which of such persons shall be chosen to hold the vacant place. Each of such persons so duly nominated is hereinafter referred to as ‘a candidate’.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall announce the names of the candidates who have been nominated, and shall then direct that a ballot be proceeded with, after which no other person shall be nominated; and the Clerk shall turn a two-minute sand-glass, to be kept on the table for that purpose, and the division bells of the House of Assembly shall be rung, and the doors shall not be closed till after the lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the said sand-glass. The doors shall be locked as soon after the lapse of two minutes as the Presiding Officer shall think proper to direct, and, unless otherwise ordered, shall remain locked until it shall have been declared in the manner provided in Rule 2 that a candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place: provided that the Clerk and two Scrutineers may retire from the Chamber in order to prepare the ballot papers, and subsequently, to count the votes.

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- (5) The Presiding Officer shall appoint a Member of each House to be a Scrutineer to assist the Clerk of the Joint Sitting (herein referred to as the 'Clerk') in ascertaining the number of votes cast for each candidate.
- (6) As soon as practicable after the Presiding Officer has announced that the ballot will be proceeded with each Member present shall be provided with a ballot paper initialled by the Clerk.
- (7) Each Member voting shall forthwith mark on the ballot-paper the order of his or her preference for all candidates, and any ballot paper not so marked shall be rejected as informal.
- (8) The Member shall then fold and place the ballot paper so marked in the ballot box.
- (9) If there are only two candidates, the Clerk shall report to the Presiding Officer the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that the candidate who has the larger number of votes has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (10) If there are more than two candidates, the method of counting the votes prescribed by Schedule 5 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, for cases in which only one Member is to be elected shall, so far as practicable, and not inconsistent with these rules, be observed.
- (11) As soon as it is ascertained that any candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded by the Members voting, the Clerk shall so report to the Presiding Officer, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that such candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (12) If at any stage in the count, two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, and one of them has to be excluded, the Clerk shall forthwith report to the Presiding Officer the results of the count at that stage. The Members shall thereupon proceed to a special ballot to ascertain which of such candidates shall be excluded, but so that if there are more than two of such persons with an equality of votes only one shall be excluded.
- (13) In all cases not provided for in these Rules resort shall be had to the procedure laid down in the *Electoral Act 2004*, so far as the same may in the opinion of the Presiding Officer be applicable and not inconsistent with these Rules.

House of Assembly, 18 August 2026.

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker.*

14 LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - *Ordered*, That the Treasurer have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (The Treasurer)

15 ADJOURNMENT. - *Ordered*, That the House, at its rising on Wednesday, 19 August 2026, adjourn till 10.30 am on Thursday, 20 August next. (The Treasurer)

16 BILL NO. 28. – The Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation presented -

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Sentencing Act 1997”.

And Mr *Barnett* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

17 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS. - *Ordered* - That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the following item of Private Members' Business from being dealt with during Government Business Time:

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Order of the Day Number 17 – Police Offences Amendment (Increased Penalties for Damage to Tasmanian War Memorials) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 5) – Consideration of Amendment of the Legislative Council. (The Treasurer)

18 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: BUDGET CUTS. – Ms *Dow* in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

Budget Cuts.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

19 BILL NO. 5. - The House, according to Order, proceeded to take into consideration the Amendments made by the Legislative Council to the Police Offences Amendment (Increased Penalties for Damage to Tasmanian War Memorials) Bill 2026.

(In the Committee)

Amendment

Clause 5

Page 5, paragraph (b), proposed new subsection (1A), paragraph (b).

Leave out “7 years”.

Insert instead “3 years”.

Amendment agreed to.

The House being resumed, Ms *Burnet* reported that the Committee had considered the Amendment to it referred, and had come to a certain Resolution which was read as follows:-

To agree to the Amendments of the Legislative Council.

Resolved, That the said Resolution be agreed to. (Mr *Ferguson*)

20 BILL NO. 5. - A Message to the Legislative Council:-

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has agreed to the Amendment made by the Legislative Council to the Bill intituled-

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Police Offences Act 1935 and to consequentially amend the Sentencing Act 1997”.

House of Assembly, 18 August 2026.

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*.

21 BILL NO. 15. - The Order of the Day being read for the Second reading of the Housing Land Supply (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026.

And a Motion being made, and the Question being proposed - That the Bill be now read the Second time (Minister for Business, Industry and Resources).

A Debate arose thereupon.

22 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. - At One o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.
At half-past Two o'clock the Speaker resumed the Chair.

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23 BILL NO. 15. - And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 25

NOES 6

Mr *Abetz*
Mrs *Archer*
Mr *Barnett*
Dr *Broad*
Ms *Brown*
Ms *Burnet*
Ms *Butler*
Mr *Di Falco*
Ms *Dow*
Mr *Ellis*
Mr *Fairs*
Mr *Ferguson*
Ms *Finlay*
Mr *Garland*
Mrs *Greene*
Ms *Haddad*
Mr *Jaensch*
Mr *Mitchell*
Mr *O'Byrne*
Ms *Ogilvie*
Mr *Pearce*
Mr *Shelton*
Mr *Vermey*
Mr *Willie*
Ms *Howlett* (Teller)

Ms *Badger*
Mr *Bayley*
Ms *Johnston*
Ms *Rosol*
Dr *Woodruff*
Mr *George* (Teller)

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time, and in accordance with Standing Orders, there being no Member wishing to speak to the clauses in the Committee of the whole House;

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the Third time.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Third time.

24 BILL NO. 15. - A Message to the Legislative Council:-

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has passed a Bill, intituled-

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Housing Land Supply Act 2018 and the Community Housing Providers National Law (Tasmania) Act 2013”,

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

House of Assembly, 18 August 2026.

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker.*

UNCORRECTED PROOF

25 BILL NO. 62 of 2025. - The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Question proposed on Thursday, 28 May 2026 – That the Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 be now read the Second time;

And the Question being again proposed;
The House resumed the said adjourned Debate.

Amendment to the Question proposed (The Treasurer)

To leave out all words after ‘That’ and insert instead:

The Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (No. 62) be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report thereon.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put - That the Amendment be agreed to;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Question being put – That the Motion, as amended, be agreed to;

Resolved, That

The Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (No. 62) be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report thereon.

26 BILL NO. 55 of 2025. - The Order of the Day being read for the Second reading of the Tasmanian Community Fund Amendment Bill 2025.

And a Motion being made, and the Question being proposed - That the Bill be now read the Second time (Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs).

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put:

The House divided.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

AYES 26

NOES 5

Mr Abetz
Mrs Archer
Mr Barnett
Dr Broad
Ms Brown
Ms Burnet
Ms Butler
Mr Di Falco
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis
Mr Fairs
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Mr Garland
Mr George
Mrs Greene
Ms Haddad
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Mr Mitchell
Mr O'Byrne
Mr Pearce
Mr Shelton
Mr Vermey
Mr Willie
Ms Ogilvie (Teller)

Ms Badger
Mr Bayley
Ms Rosol
Dr Woodruff
Ms Johnston (Teller)

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

And the Speaker having left the Chair, the House resolved itself into the said Committee.

(In the Committee)

Mr Mitchell took the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 4 agreed to.

Clause 5 read.

And the Question being put – That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill

The Committee divided.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

AYES 25

NOES 6

Mr *Abetz*

Ms *Badger*

Mrs *Archer*

Mr *Garland*

Mr *Barnett*

Ms *Johnston*

Dr *Broad*

Ms *Rosol*

Ms *Brown*

Dr *Woodruff*

Ms *Burnet*

Mr *Bayley* (Teller)

Ms *Butler*

Mr *Di Falco*

Ms *Dow*

Mr *Ellis*

Mr *Fairs*

Mr *Ferguson*

Ms *Finlay*

Mr *George*

Mrs *Greene*

Ms *Haddad*

Ms *Howlett*

Mr *Jaensch*

Mr *O'Byrne*

Mr *Pearce*

Mrs *Petrusma*

Mr *Shelton*

Mr *Vermey*

Mr *Willie*

Ms *Ogilvie* (Teller)

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

Clauses 6 to 9 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

The House being resumed, Mr *Mitchell* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and had directed him to report the same to the House without Amendment.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the Third time.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Third time.

27 BILL NO. 55. - A Message to the Legislative Council:-

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has passed a Bill, intituled-

“A Bill for an Act amend the Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005”,

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

UNCORRECTED PROOF

House of Assembly, 18 August 2026.

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker.*

28 GENDER, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND EQUALITY, JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON: TERMS OF REFERENCE. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having this day agreed to the following resolution now transmits the same to the House of Assembly, and requests its concurrence therein: -

Resolved, That the terms of reference for the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality, as previously agreed to by resolutions of both Houses, be varied as follows:

- (1) In the introductory paragraph, inserting “, Gender-based Violence” after “Sessional Gender”; and
- (2) By leaving out paragraph (1) and inserting instead:
“(1) (a) Any Bill referred to it by either House in order to examine gender, gender-based violence and equality impacts and any such Bill so referred shall be reported upon within 10 sitting days of its referral;
(b) Any matter related to gender, gender-based violence and equality referred to it by either House; and
(c) Any matter related to gender, gender-based violence and equality, initiated by its own motion; and”

Legislative Council, 18 August 2026.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

Ordered, That the Resolution be agreed to. (The Treasurer)

29 GENDER AND EQUALITY, JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON: TERMS OF REFERENCE. - A Message to the Legislative Council:-

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has agreed to the following Resolution communicated to it by the Legislative Council on 18 August 2026: -

Resolved, That the terms of reference for the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality, as previously agreed to by resolutions of both Houses, be varied as follows:

- (1) In the introductory paragraph, inserting “, Gender-based Violence” after “Sessional Gender”; and
- (2) By leaving out paragraph (1) and inserting instead:
“(1) (a) Any Bill referred to it by either House in order to examine gender, gender-based violence and equality impacts and any such Bill so referred shall be reported upon within 10 sitting days of its referral;
(b) Any matter related to gender, gender-based violence and equality referred to it by either House; and
(c) Any matter related to gender, gender-based violence and equality, initiated by its own motion; and”

House of Assembly, 18 August 2026.

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker.*

30 BILL NO. 16.- The Order of the Day being read for the Second reading of the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2026.

And a Motion being made, and the Question being proposed- That the Bill be now read the Second time. (The Deputy Premier)

A Debate arose thereupon.

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And Dr *Broad* was addressing the Chair.

31 ADJOURNMENT. - The time being Six o'clock, the Speaker proposed - That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

The House adjourned at Seven o'clock.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House*.

MEMBERS. - All present during the day, except Prof *Razay* and Mr *Winter*.

The Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Parks and Heritage, and Minister for Sport; the Minister for Education, Minister for Children and Youth, Minister for Disability Services, and Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence; and the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing and Planning attended Question Time.