



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Annual Report 2025-26

Members of the Committee

(as of 30 June 2026)

Legislative Council

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
(Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Bec Thomas MLC
(Deputy Chair)

House of Assembly

Mr Roger Jaensch MP
(until 17 June 2026)

Mr Marcus Vermey MP

Mr Dean Winter MP

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAG	Assistant Auditor-General
ACAG	Australasian Council of Auditors-General
ACPAC	Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees
Act	<i>Public Accounts Committee Act 1970</i>
A-G	Auditor-General
ALP	Australian Labor Party
CAPAC	Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Committee	Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
DAG	Deputy Auditor-General
DPAC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DSG	Department of State Growth
FAS	Financial Audit Services
FSR	Fiscal Sustainability Report
Hon	Honourable
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
Ind	Independent
Lib	Liberal Party
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MP	Member of Parliament
PAC	Public Account Committees
PANPAC	Pacific Network of Public Account Committees
PAS	Performance Audit Services
PASAI	Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions
PBO	Parliamentary Budget Office
PM	Project Manager
SM	Senior Manager
SoU	Statement of Understanding

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Public Accounts Committee

Background

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts Committee (the Committee) is a Joint Standing Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament constituted under the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* (the Act). Prior to the Act, the Committee has been in various forms since a House of Assembly Select Committee was appointed to enquire into the system of keeping and auditing public accounts on 28 August 1862. It first became a Standing Committee of the House of Assembly pursuant to a new Standing Order No. 408A being recommended by the House of Assembly Standing Orders Committee on 7 December 1960. On 11 November 1965, a similar amendment to the Legislative Council's Standing Orders saw for the first time the establishment of a Select Committee of Public Accounts and Finance in that Chamber under authority of Standing Order No. 248A.

The Committee comprises six Members of Parliament: three Members drawn from the Legislative Council and three Members from the House of Assembly.

Functions of the Committee

Under section 6 of the Act the Committee functions are as follows, the Committee:

- **must** inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances; or the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest, and
- **may** inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate; and any matter referred to the Committee by the Auditor-General.

Role and Statutory Responsibilities of the Committee

Under the *Audit Act 2008*, the Committee has the following statutory responsibilities:

- in relation to the appointment of the Auditor-General, the Treasurer must consult with the Public Accounts Committee and the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly (section 9(2))
- consider and may comment on the draft Auditor-General's annual plan of work (section 11), and
- receive the findings of the periodic review of the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of Tasmanian Audit Office's (the Office) operations (section 44) – the last review undertaken was conducted by Moore Australia Audit in March 2024 and covers the period 2019-2023 (the past three reports are available on the Committee's website).¹

¹ See [Section 44 Tasmanian Audit Office Reports](#)

The Committee and the Auditor-General have a Statement of Understanding (SoU), the latest iteration being available on the Public Accounts Committee website.² This SoU informs the relationship between the Committee and the Office of the Auditor-General including matters related to the statutory obligations of the Committee and Auditor General.

The latest version of the SoU seeks to provide better details with respect to the following:

- the involvement of the Committee in the periodic review of the Office (as per section 44 of the *Audit Act 2008*)
- the involvement of the Committee in setting the budget and forward estimates of the Office
- managing conflicts of interest and threats to independence of the Office, and
- the annual declaration of interests of the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General.

The SoU also reinforces the Committee's support of the true independence of the Auditor-General and work of the Committee and Auditor General to ensure that this independence is not compromised, and the Auditor-General is unfettered in reporting to Parliament objectively, thus enabling Parliament to make informed judgements.

In support of the Auditor General's independence, the Committee will support the Office during the budget and forward estimates setting process, as described in the SoU. This support is provided as follows:

- the Auditor-General will consult with the Committee during the preparation of any of the Office's budget submissions
- the Auditor-General will provide the Office's submission to the Treasurer and Committee at the same time
- the Treasurer or the Treasurer's delegate may brief the Committee on the Office's budget submission at the Committee's discretion, and
- the Auditor-General and Chair of the Committee may brief Cabinet Budget Committee on the Office's submission at the Cabinet Budget Committee's discretion.

Under the SoU the Auditor-General refers all tabled reports prepared by that Office to the Committee for consideration.

As described under the SoU, the Committee and the Auditor-General share a common mission to enhance Tasmanian public sector accountability and performance. Through cooperation, the Committee and the Auditor-General will promote probity, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of, and reporting on, public resources.

The Auditor-General may refer matters to the Committee that the Auditor-General determines warrant consideration by the Committee in addition to, or in place of, an investigation by the Auditor-General. Conversely, under section 25 of the *Audit Act 2008*, the Committee may refer matters to the Auditor-General that it determines warrant consideration

² See [Statement of Understanding between the Public Accounts Committee and the Auditor-General \(21 August 2024\)](#). A new Statement of Understanding between the Committee and the Auditor-General, Mr Mark Thompson was tabled in Parliament on 10 September 2024. This latest iteration of the SoU follows from the original version entered on 29 March 2007 with follow-up versions in October 2015 and September 2021.

by the Auditor-General in addition to or in place of investigation by the Committee. The Auditor-General will give serious consideration to investigating the matter referred and inform the Committee on the Auditor-General's response to the referral.

The Committee and the Auditor General consider and comment on the Annual Plan of Work for the Audit Office as required under the *Audit Act 2008* and the SoU.

An ongoing and important area of focus for the Committee relates to the follow up reviews undertaken of the Tasmanian Auditor-General's reports to Parliament with this work continuing through 2024-25.

The Committee under its 'own motion' powers has initiated inquiries into major capital works projects considered and approved by the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Public Works. These reviews have included following up of completed works or the reviewing of progress of selected major public works. Through these reviews, the Committee can bring to the public record any issues identified relating to budget variations, scheduled completion, management of delays to completion, delivery of stated outcomes and benefits etc., and make recommendations for affected Departments to consider as appropriate.

Finally, the Committee may also inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate. Areas of interest may come from within the Committee or brought to the Committee by external third parties from time to time.

Committee Activities

The Committee activities for 2025-26 include a combination of self-initiated inquiries and referred inquiries. The Committee receives submissions and briefings and conducts public hearings on such matters as required.

Results of inquiries are presented in reports that are tabled in both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. Those reports are available to the public on the Committee website.³

The website provides background information on the Committee's roles and functions, provides details of Members, administration, current inquiries, recent reports and past inquiries.

The Committee also has an email address: pac@parliament.tas.gov.au which is used for external correspondence.

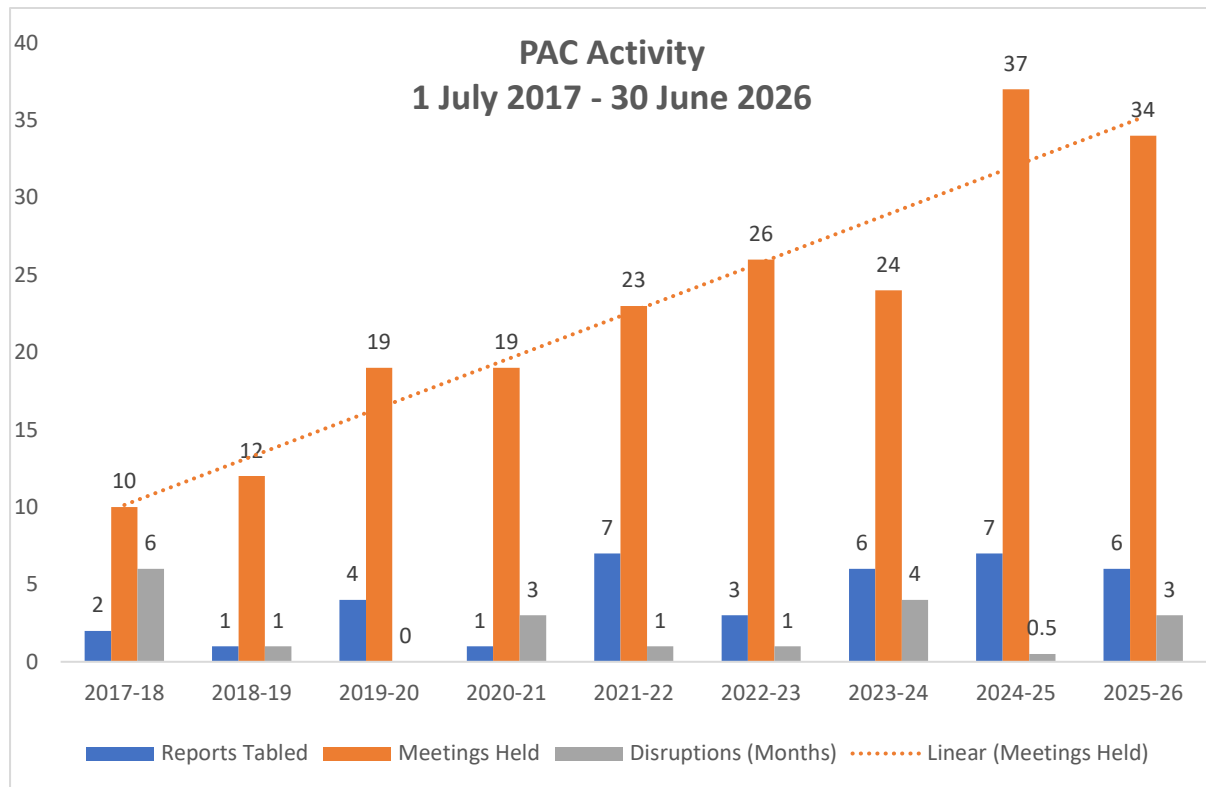
The Committee receives administrative and other support from its Secretariat (Committee Secretary and Assistant Committee Secretary) and from the Parliamentary Research Service.

³ See Public Accounts Committee website, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/joint-committees/standing-committees/public-accounts-committee>

Year in Review 2025-26

During the reporting period, the Committee's planned work was deferred due to Parliament being prorogued on the 11 June 2025 to the establishment of the Committee on 24 September 2025.⁴ Accordingly, this was another reporting period whereby by parliamentary convention, no Committee work could be undertaken and work in progress was delayed due to the prorogation. Over the past 9 reporting periods, it is estimated that the Committee has lost 19.5 months productivity.

Notwithstanding, the period ending 30 June 2026 was substantially busy for the Committee and the following chart illustrates the trend of the Committee's work since 2017-18:



Completed Inquiries

The Committee tabled the following six (6) reports over the period:

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
Annual Report 2023-24⁵ 25 September 2025 (No.8 of 2025)	Annual report of the Committee's activities for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

⁴ On 11 June 2025, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC (Governor of Tasmania), agreed to Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP (Premier) request to prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the House of Assembly and a State election was called for 19 July 2025. After the commencement of the 52nd session of Parliament, the Committee was reestablished on Wednesday, 24 September 2025.

⁵ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/97301/FINAL-PAC-Annual-Report-2024-25-24-September-2025.pdf

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
<u>TT-Line Spirit of Tasmania Vessel Replacement Project Interim Report</u>⁶ 11 November 2025 (No.28 of 2025)	• This Interim Report covered matters related to the delivery of the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels and associated infrastructure and the decision by TT Line to vary the terms of the contract for the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels, including its adherence to caretaker conventions, as per the Committee's resolution of 21 June 2024 to conduct a targeted inquiry. • The Committee made 70 findings and 5 recommendations.
<u>Follow-up of the Report of the Auditor-General ICT Strategy, Critical Systems and Investment (No.4 of 2020 - 2021)</u>⁷ 26 March 2026 (No.9 of 2026)	• In 2020-21, the Auditor-General examined whether the Tasmanian Government's approach to ICT strategy, critical systems and investment was managed in an effective, coordinated and strategic manner. The audit identified significant gaps in whole-of-Government ICT governance, asset management and investment prioritisation, and made seven recommendations directed at the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC), the Digital Services Board and agencies. • The Committee undertook this follow-up review to assess the extent to which those recommendations have been implemented. • The Committee found that meaningful progress has been made since 2020-21. However, the Committee also found that consolidation of asset information at a whole-of-Government level remains incomplete. • In addition to the 16 findings, the Committee made four recommendations directed at completing the whole-of-Government asset assessment, establishing consistent asset register standards based on the Department of Health model, progressing the whole-of-Government critical systems register, and requiring DPAC to report publicly on ICT strategy outcomes through its annual report.
<u>Review of the Tasmanian Fiscal Sustainability Report 2026</u>⁸ 19 May 2026 (No.18 of 2026)	• This is the third report by the Public Accounts Committee examining a Tasmanian Government Fiscal Sustainability Report, following reviews in 2020 and 2022, undertaken by the Committee. • Notwithstanding the FSR's analytical framework, the Committee identified two significant gaps. The repair scenarios were not translated into practical terms through further modelling. The workforce implications, specific revenue measures, and capital deferrals required were not modelled, due to Treasury resourcing constraints and heavy workload over recent years. • The Committee considered this modelling essential for informed parliamentary and community debate and recommends further modelling be requested by the Government. The Committee also noted that the 2026 FSR's methodology may not fully satisfy the <i>Charter of Budget Responsibility Act 2007</i> requirement to have specific regard to 'the policies of the Government'. • The Committee made 7 findings and two recommendations: that the Government commission supplementary modelling translating the FSR's budget repair scenarios into practical real-world terms, and that any such modelling be tabled in Parliament.

⁶ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0035/98648/FINAL-TT-Line-Spirit-of-Tasmania-Vessel-Replacement-Project-Interim-Report-as-at-5-November-2025.pdf

⁷ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/103759/FINAL-PAC-Report-Follow-Up-AGR-No.4-of-2020-21-ICT-Strategy-and-Critical-Investment-as-at-25-March-2026.pdf

⁸ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/105883/Final-Report-Tasmanian-Government-Fiscal-Sustainability-Report-2026-13-May-2026.pdf

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
<u>Inquiry into Establishment of Parliamentary Budget Office</u>⁹ 16 June 2026 (No.19 of 2026)	• The Committee found that a Tasmanian PBO would substantially enhance Parliament’s ability to scrutinise government finances, improve the quality of policy development, and provide Tasmanians with credible, independent information on the cost of election commitments. • The Committee recommended that Tasmania adopt a permanent, full-time PBO, operating across the entire parliamentary cycle. • Under the Committee’s 13 recommendations, the PBO would: ○ provide confidential policy costings and fiscal advice to Members of Parliament ○ cost and monitor election commitments ○ deliver post-election budget impact reports, and ○ contribute to more informed public and parliamentary debate on fiscal policy. • The Committee described the creation of a Tasmanian PBO as a ‘significant and lasting investment’ in the State’s democratic framework, ensuring that future policy decisions are better informed and more transparent.
<u>18th Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) Conference</u>¹⁰ 16 June 2026 (No. 27 of 2026)	• Held from 20–21 April 2026, the Conference attracted 71 delegates, making it one of the most highly attended ACPAC gatherings in recent years. Participants included PAC members, Audit Offices and regional organisations, demonstrating the continued importance of collaboration in oversight of public finances. • The Conference focused on the evolving role of PACs in holding Executive Government to account, particularly in relation to fiscal pressures, social outcomes and climate-related risks. • Key outcomes included important amendments to the ACPAC Constitution to improve accessibility and inclusivity, including enabling virtual mid-term meetings and broadening membership across the Australasian and Pacific region. • The Conference strengthened collaboration between ACPAC, PaNPAC (Pacific Network of Public Accounts Committees), the Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG) and the Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI).

Inquiries in Progress

The Committee had eight (8) inquiries that were still in progress at the end of the reporting period:

Inquiry	Terms of Reference
TT-Line’s Spirits Project	In June 2024, the Committee resolved to inquire into matters related to the delivery of the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels and associated infrastructure and the decision by TT-Line to vary the terms of the contract for the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels, including its adherence to caretaker conventions. Pursuant to a resolution passed by the House of Assembly on 20 November 2024, in accordance with section 6(1) of the Act, the

⁹ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/107198/FINAL-Parliamentary-Budget-Office-Report-13-May-2026.pdf

¹⁰ See https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/107200/FINAL-PAC-ACPAC-Hobart-Report-11-June-2026.pdf

Inquiry	Terms of Reference
	Committee has amended the Inquiry's Terms of Reference to include the following: - the adherence of TT-Line, TasPorts and the Tasmanian Government to the most recently announced delivery schedule and budget - options to minimise delays and reduce additional expenses for taxpayers - opportunities to support the Tasmanian tourism industry and Tasmanian Producers until the new ships are in service, and to maximise the benefits once they are - the appropriateness of the project's oversight and governance arrangements, and - any other matters incidental thereto.
Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.3 of 2020-21 – Expressions of interest for tourism opportunities	In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a review of the Minister for Trade and Investment and the Minister for Parks responses to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within <u>Report No.3 of 2020-21 - Expressions of interest for tourism opportunities.</u>
Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.1 of 2022-23 – Improving outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students	In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a review of the Minister for Education responses to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within <u>Report No.1 of 2022-23 - Improving outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students.</u>
Sale of Wilkinsons Point	The Committee resolved to have a targeted inquiry into Premier Rockliff's media release of 23 February 2025 announcing the Government has agreed to sell the Crown Land at Wilkinson's Point to the LK Group at a value determined by the Valuer-General and will be partnering with private enterprise to develop the area.
Macquarie Point Stadium Costings and Governance	In line with section 6(1) of the Act, on 24 September 2025, the House of Assembly resolved as follows: <i>Refers the following reference to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts to inquire into and report upon:</i> <i>the adherence of the Tasmanian Government, Macquarie Point Development Corporation and other entities to all announced delivery schedules and budgets regarding the Macquarie Point Stadium project, should the project be approved by the Parliament</i> <i>options to minimise delays and reduce additional expenses for taxpayers</i> <i>the appropriateness of the project's oversight and governance arrangements, and</i> <i>any other matters incidental thereto.</i>
TasWater Price and Services for 2026-2030	The Committee resolved to hold a targeted inquiry with respect to the proposed and finalised TasWater Price and Services for 2026-2030. The Committee held public hearings with TasWater, the TasWater Owners' Representative Group and the Office of the Economic Regulator on 11 June 2026.
Tasmanian Government's Response to the Impacts of the Current Iran Conflict and the Consequences for Fuel Supply and the Tasmanian Economy	The Committee resolved to inquire into and report upon the Government's response to the impact of the current Iran conflict and the consequences for fuel supply and the Tasmanian economy, including: the economic, financial and fiscal impacts of rising fuel and commodity prices on the Tasmanian Government and State Budget, Government Owned Businesses, Tasmanian businesses,

Inquiry	Terms of Reference
	community sector and households, including impacts on regional, rural and vulnerable communities - the security, adequacy and resilience of Tasmania's fuel supply, the impact of fuel supply disruption and price rises on essential services, critical infrastructure, and the continuity of freight supply chains to Tasmanian communities, and - any other matters incidental thereto.
State Senior Executive and Senior Specialist Contracts and Remuneration	The Committee resolved to inquire into and report upon the size and total employment cost of senior executive and senior specialist roles across Tasmanian Government Department and State Authorities with a view of scrutinising whether the current number and structure of senior positions represent an efficient and effective use of public resources, governance arrangements and the alignment with the Government's fiscal strategy.

Briefings with Stakeholders

The Committee received briefings throughout the year from the following persons:

Date	Parties	Commentary
24 Oct 2025	Mr Paul Kirkwood (PM) Mr Chris Carbone (CEO) Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair)	TT-Line Devonport Berth E3 visit
12 Feb 2026	Mr Martin Thompson (A-G) Mr Jonathan Wassell (DAG) Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG PAS) Ms Alex Irwin (SM PAS)	Impact of the proposed amendments to the <i>Audit Act 2008</i>
18 Mar 2026	Mr Martin Thompson (A-G) Mr Jonathan Wassell (DAG) Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG PAS) Mr Stephen Morrison (AAG FAS)	Auditor-General's Draft Annual Plan of Work 2026-27 and another matter
20 Mar 2026	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Mr Chris Carbone (CEO) Mr David Stegehuis (CFO) Mr Shane Gregory (A/Sec DSG)	Private briefing
15 Apr 2026	Mr Martin Thompson (A-G)	Auditor-General's Draft Annual Plan of Work 2026-27
8 May 2026	Mr Paul Kirkwood (PM) Mr Chris Carbone (CEO) Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair)	TT-Line Devonport Berth E3 visit
27 May 2026	Mr Martin Thompson (A-G) Mr Jonathan Wassell (DAG) Ms Alex Irwin (SM PAS)	- Auditor-General's Draft Annual Plan of Work 2026-27 - Budget shortfall - Report of the Auditor-General No. 10 of 2025-26: Planning and early implementation of the Human Resource Information System - Access to Information

Public Hearings Held

The Committee held 29 public hearings over 14 days throughout the year:

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
21 Oct 2024	TT-Line Spirits Project	<u>TASCORP</u> Mr Gary Swain (Chair) Mr Heath Baker (Chief Executive Officer)
22 Oct 2024	Macquarie Point Stadium Costings and Governance	<u>Office of the Coordinator-General</u> Mr John Perry (Coordinator-General)
28 Oct 2024	TT-Line Spirits Project	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary) Mr Ben Moloney (Project Assurance) <u>TT-Line</u> Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Mr Chris Carbone (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Paul Kirkwood (Project Manager)
		<u>Tasmanian Audit Office</u> Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General) Mr Jonathan Wassell (Deputy Auditor-General) Mr Stephen Morrison (Assistant Auditor-General Financial Audit)
12 Dec 2025	TT-Line Spirits Project	Hon Eric Abetz (Treasurer) <u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary)
04 Feb 2026	Macquarie Point Stadium Costings and Governance	<u>Macquarie Point Development Corporation</u> Mr Kim Evans (Chair) Ms Anne Beach (Chief Executive Officer)
05 Feb 2026	TT-Line Spirits Project	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary) Mr Ben Moloney (Project Assurance) <u>TT-Line</u> Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Mr Chris Carbone (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Paul Kirkwood (Project Manager)
05 Feb 2026	Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.3 of 2020-21 – Expressions of Interest for Tourism Investment Opportunities	Hon Felix Ellis MP (Minister for Business Industry and Resources) <u>Office of the Coordinator-General</u> Mr Dennis Hendriks (Acting Coordinator General) Ms Peta Sugden (Acting Chief Operating Officer) Mr Andrew Crane (Tourism EOI Project Director) Hon Nick Duigan MLC (Minister Parks) Mr Andrew Harvey (Manager, Tourism Projects and Programs) <u>Parks and Wildlife Service</u> Ms Sophie Muller (Deputy Secretary) Ms Danielle Poirier (General Manager, Landscape Programs)
	Follow-up of the Report of the Auditor-General No.4 of 2020-21 – ICT Strategy, Critical Systems and Investment	Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy) <u>Department of Premier and Cabinet</u> Dr Justin Thurley (Chief Information Officer) Ms Noelene Kelly (Deputy Secretary, Community and Government Services)

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
	Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.1 of 2022-23 – Improving outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students	Hon Jo Palmer MLC (Minister for Education) <u>Department for Education, Children and Young People</u> Ms Ginna Webster (Secretary) Ms Jenny Burgess (Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Performance) Mr Mark Sivills (Director B-12 Provision)
31 Mar 2026	Tasmanian Fiscal Sustainability Report 2026	<u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary) Mr James Abbott (Assistant Director, Economic Policy)
	Sale of Wilkinsons Point	<u>Office of the Valuer-General</u> Mr Guy Naish (Valuer-General)
		<u>Glenorchy City Council</u> Mr Emilio Reale (Chief Executive Officer)
		<u>Property Council of Australia</u> Ms Heather Mason (President) Mr Peter Scott (Immediate Past President) Mr Michael Kerschbaum (Interim Executive Director)
		<u>Department of Premier and Cabinet</u> Ms Kathrine Morgan-Wicks (Secretary) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Shane Gregory (Acting Secretary)
		<u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary) Mr James Craigie (Deputy Secretary)
01 Apr 2026	Sale of Wilkinsons Point	<u>LK Group</u> Mr Larry Kestelman (Executive Group Chairman)
10 Apr 2026	Sale of Wilkinsons Point	Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP (Premier) <u>Department of Premier and Cabinet</u> Ms Kathrine Morgan-Wicks (Secretary) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Shane Gregory (Acting Secretary)
29 Apr 2026	Tasmanian Fuel Supply	<u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Shane Gregory (Acting Secretary) Mr Sean Terry (Director Energy and Planning) Mr Michael Lowe (Incident Controller)
		<u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary) Mr Dean Burgess (Deputy Secretary Economic and Financial Policy)
12 May 2026	TT-Line Spirits Project	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Shane Gregory (Acting Secretary) Mr Ben Moloney (Project Assurance) <u>TT-Line</u> Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Mr Chris Carbone (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Phil Kirkwood (Project Manager)
	Macquarie Point Stadium Costings and Governance	<u>Department of Premier and Cabinet</u> Ms Kathrine Morgan-Wicks (Secretary) Mr Mathew Healey (Deputy Secretary Strategy and Delivery)
		<u>Hobart City Council</u> Cr Anna Reynolds (Lord Mayor)

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
		Cr Dr Zelinda Sherlock (Deputy Lord Mayor) Ms Karen Abey (Director Strategic and Regulatory Services) <u>Environment Protection Authority</u> Ms Catherine Murdoch (Chief Executive Officer) Ms Kerryne Barwick (Principal Legal Officer) Mr Adam Davies (Senior Environmental Officer) Mr Andrew Harris (Independent Probity Adviser)
25 May 2026	Macquarie Point Stadium Costings and Governance	<u>Macquarie Point Development Corporation</u> Mr Kim Evans (Chair) Ms Anne Beach (Chief Executive Officer)
11 June 2026	TasWater Price and Services for 2026-2030	<u>TasWater</u> Mr Kevin Young (Chair) Mr George Theo (CEO) Ms Kate Crawford (General Manager Governance and Assurance, General Counsel and Company Secretary) Mr Matthew Derbyshire (General Manager Sustainable Infrastructure Services) Ms Kane Ingham (Chief Financial Officer) <u>TasWater Owners' Representative Group</u> Mr Wayne Johnston (Chair) <u>Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator</u> Mr Joe Dimasi (Tasmanian Economic Regulator) Ms Morgan Pauly (Specialist Policy Researcher) Ms Kirstan Long (Director Office of The Tasmanian Economic Regulator)

Meetings Held

Committee meetings and public hearings were scheduled and conducted throughout the reporting year: a total of 34 meetings held in Parliament House. A list of full Committee meetings and attendance over the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 is provided below:

Date	Legislative Council			House of Assembly		
	Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Ind. Member for Murchison) Chair	Hon Bec Thomas MLC (Ind. Member for Elwick) Deputy Chair	Hon Luke Edmunds MLC (ALP Member for Pembroke)	Mr Roger Jaensch MP (Lib Member for Braddon)	Mr Marcus Vermeij MP (Lib Member for Clark)	Mr Dean Winter MP (ALP Member for Franklin)
24 Sep 2025						
15 Oct 2025		Apology	Apology	Teams		
21 Oct 2025			Apology			
22 Oct 2025			Apology			
24 Oct 2025		Apology	Apology			
27 Oct 2025			Apology			
28 Oct 2025			Apology	Apology		
03 Nov 2025						
05 Nov 2025						
12 Nov 2025			Apology			
03 Dec 2025						
12 Dec 2025			Apology		Apology	
04 Feb 2026					Apology	
05 Feb 2026					Apology	
12 Feb 2026				Teams		
10 Mar 2026						
11 Mar 2026						
12 Mar 2026		Teams				
18 Mar 2026					Apology	
20 Mar 2026		Teams		Teams	Apology	Teams
25 Mar 2026						
31 Mar 2026					Apology	
01 Apr 2026						
09 Apr 2026						
10 Apr 2026	Apology					
15 Apr 2026						
29 Apr 2026						
12 May 2026					Apology	
13 May 2026						
20 May 2026						
25 May 2026			Apology			
27 May 2026			Apology			Teams
11 Jun 2026						
30 Jun 2026	Teams	Teams	Teams		Apology	Teams
Attendance	33/34	32/34	24/34	32/33	26/34	34/34
	97%	94%	70%	97%	76%	100%

Notes:

- Attendance at Committee meetings is either in person or remotely through the Parliament's secure web meeting host (Microsoft Teams).

2. After the commencement of the 52nd session of Parliament, the Committee was re-established on Wednesday, 24 September 2025. Hon Ruth Forrest MLC was nominated as Chair and Hon Bec Thomas MLC was nominated as Deputy Chair.
3. Hon Luke Edmunds MLC and Mr Marcus Vermey MP required personal leave during the period.
4. In accordance with section 2(4)(a) of the *Public Accounts Act 1970*, Mr Roger Jaensch MP was required to tender his resignation upon being appointed as a Minister of the Crown on 17 June 2026.

Committee Secretariat

The Committee acknowledges the assistance during the period by the following officers:

Position	Officer
Committee Secretary	Simon Scott
Assistant Committee Secretary	Alison Scott

The Committee also acknowledges the assistance of the Parliamentary Research Office during the period.

Liaison with External Bodies

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees

The Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) was established in 1989 and provides a unique forum for the exchange of information and opinions relating to Public Accounts Committees, providing committees with the opportunity to share experiences, best practice and matters of mutual interest. Its aim is to improve the quality and performance of Public Accounts Committees (PACs), particularly in Australasia.

An ACPAC conference is nominally held every two years, and in the intervening year a mid-term meeting is held to develop an agenda for the next ACPAC conference. The Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts is a full member of ACPAC and is committed to supporting its role and function.

On 15 August 2015, the Chair and Secretary of the Committee hosted the mid-term meeting virtually with 21 attendees from ACPAC and Pacific Network of Public Account Committees members (PANPAC).

Commencing with a welcome function on 19 April 2026, the Committee held the 18th ACPAC Conference in the Reception Room, Parliament House over two days (20-21 April 2026). A total of 71 delegates were attendance 31 members of parliamentary PACs, 9 Auditor-Generals, 1 Australasian Council of Auditors-General (ACAG) Representative, 25 PAC staff, 2 Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions (PASAI) representatives and 3 guest speakers.

The thematic topic of this Conference was centred on the role of PACs in holding the Executive Government to account in the effective management of risk, be it be it fiscal, social, climate change or otherwise. In addition, the Conference celebrated the upcoming bicentenary of the Tasmanian Audit Office.

The General Meeting at this Conference was remarkable by the fact that the existing Constitution was amended, the last time being at the 2015 13th Biennial Conference in Adelaide:

- a resolution to allow the host jurisdiction to hold the mid-term meeting virtually via a secure videoconferencing platform, and
- an amendment to the term ‘Australasia’ to be more contemporary and inclusive and thus making full membership to ACPAC being open to all Australasian Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees.

The General Meeting also confirmed that New South Wales PAC would be hosting the 2027 Mid-Term Meeting and the 19th Conference in 2028.

Further details with respect to this conference may be found in the Committee's ACPAC 2026 Report.¹¹

Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees

The Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) was founded in June 2015 with the aim of ensuring that 'all Commonwealth Parliaments and the citizens they serve benefit from strong and independent Public Accounts or equivalent committees to sustain and promote the highest principles of public finance.'

Tasmania was ratified as a member of CAPAC at the CAPAC Conference held in Malé, Maldives (30 – 31 August 2022).

The Chair was elected a Member of the CAPAC Executive Committee on 28 April 2025. On 18 September 2025, the Chair attended an Executive Meeting virtually. The Executive Committee discussed the updated Constitution, Strategy and the PAC Best Practice Project.

Between 9-10 June 2026, the Chair and Secretary attended the CAPAC Conference virtually held by the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Parliamentary Complex, Port of Spain. The Conference was comprised of six (6) sessions and delegates discussed:

Session	Presentations
Public Accounts Committees at the Forefront of Accountability	• Role of Public Accounts Committees • Issues and Challenges Faced by Small Branch PACs within the Caribbean Region
Rethinking PAC Governance: Innovation, Independence and Effective Oversight	• Broadening Accountability: Lay Member Inclusion in PACs • Leader of the Opposition, Chair of PAC: Turks and Caicos Islands
Partners in Accountability: PACs and the Auditor-General	• PACs and the Auditor-General
Strengthening the Independence and Effectiveness of PACs	• Politicians vs Parliamentarians ... Does it Matter in Ensuring Rigorous Scrutiny ¹² • Safeguarding Independence: Strengthening Public Accounts Committees for Effective Parliamentary Oversight
Leveraging PAC Processes and Practices for Effective Oversight	• Analysing the PAC Process • From Audit Findings to Actionable Outcomes: Enhancing Accountability Through Effective Follow-Up
Maximising the Impact of PACs Through Strengthening the Implementation of Recommendations into Tangible Outcomes by the Executive	• Oversight that Delivers: Turning Findings into Measurable Change • Enforcement of PAC Recommendations: the Eswatini Experience • Tracking Implementation: the Kiribati Experience

At the General Meeting, the Chair was elected as Vice-Chair on the CAPAC Executive Board with a maximum term of four years.

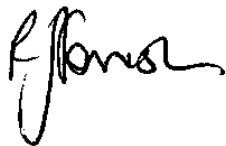
¹¹ See 'ACPAC 2026: 18th Conference Parliament of Tasmania (No.27 of 2026)', https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/107200/FINAL-PAC-ACPAC-Hobart-Report-11-June-2026.pdf

¹² The Chair presented this session virtually on 10 June 2026.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is one of the oldest established organisations in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1911, it is a membership association which brings together Members, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, who are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by the pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. The Association is made up of over 180 legislatures (or Branches) divided up between nine geographic regions of the Commonwealth.

No activities associated with the CPA occurred during the reporting period.



Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Independent Member for Murchison

12 August 2026