

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

DEPUTY PREMIER

Legislation and Regulatory Review (Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania) Bill 2026

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

The Legislation and Regulatory Review (Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania) Bill 2026 forms part of the Government's commitment to red tape reduction.

Repealing and revoking legislation that is no longer relevant is a regular component of maintaining Tasmania's legislation and reflects good practice in public administration.

The Bill also includes targeted amendments across a range of portfolio legislation administered by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

These changes proposed will update legislation to ensure it is contemporary and fit-for-purpose and removes obsolete provisions to better meet the needs of Tasmanians today.

Importantly, the Bill does not introduce significant new policy, rather it is about improving the operation of existing legislation by updating notification requirements, removing redundant administrative obligations and repealing obsolete, spent or redundant legislation.

Part 2 of the Bill amends the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995* to modernise public notification requirements by updating the definition of "local public notice". As amended, "local public notice" means a notice in the Gazette and by one or more of a daily newspaper published in Tasmania and circulating generally in the region in which the place is located, a website for a reasonable period having regard to the matter to which it pertains, or other appropriate electronic means that the Heritage Council considers appropriate in the circumstances. These amendments improve accessibility, timeliness and public awareness while maintaining transparency. Further it will reduce administrative burden by allowing quicker publication of information in less administrative steps. It will also improve access to information for key stakeholders as information can be published and retained in known and centralised websites.

The Bill removes the requirement for Statements of Expectation and Statements of Intent and Heritage Council-issued Guidelines to be made physically available. Instead, these documents will be required to be made publicly available on a website

maintained by, or on behalf of, the Heritage Council. The documents are already published using this method; hence these provisions are obsolete.

Part 3 amends the *Land Acquisition Act 1993* by removing requirements for acquisition notices and related amendments or revocations to be tabled in Parliament after gazettal. The amendment reduces unnecessary red tape and eliminates duplication for acquiring authorities, as gazettal already provides formal public notification and transparency of these decisions. It is important to note that the notices are not disallowable instruments, meaning tabling does not provide a parliamentary disallowance function or an additional oversight mechanism.

Part 4 amends the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995* to update the definition of "public notice" to reflect contemporary communication. As amended, "publication notice" means a notice in the Gazette and by one or more of the following methods: in a daily newspaper circulating in Tasmania, on a departmental website for a reasonable period having regard to the matter to which it pertains, or other appropriate electronic means that the Secretary considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Part 5 amends the *National Parks and Reserves Management Regulations 2019* to substitute regulation 37 to provide for electronic parks passes, to complement the existing vehicle-based pass. Electronic parks passes complement the existing vehicle-based Parks pass and the pay and display machines located in the most visited parks and reserves. The amendment also clarifies that existing arrangements and powers, to collect park entry fees and check fees have been paid, extend to electronic parks passes. The change does not impose any new fees or penalties.

Part 6 amends the *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*, recognising the technological changes that have occurred in surveying and spatial information management including provisions that are no longer relevant or in use in the current digital age. Specifically, the Bill

- expands the definition of "plan" to include digital information,
- updates reference to surveyor registration legislation by replacing references to the *Land Surveyors Act 1909* with references to registered land surveyors under the *Surveyors Act 2002*.
- repeals provisions requiring public authorities to provide existing plans to the Surveyor-General within 6 months of the commencement of the Act., and the requirement to notify the Surveyor-General of the intention to commence a survey.
- repeals the requirement for public authorities to provide a list of every plan and every survey to the Surveyor-General.
- repeals provisions no longer required because the central plan register is searchable online.
- repeals an obsolete provision relating to duplicate surveys, and

- replaces Gazette notifications of survey marks with publication on a website maintained by, or on behalf of, the Department, as survey marks are published via the LIST with direct linkage to the survey control database.

These amendments will support a modern approach to survey and spatial data and represent the removal of unnecessary red tape for public authorities.

Part 7 amends the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* to modernise public notification arrangements by broadening publication methods while retaining Gazette publication. The Bill also replaces the requirement for prescribed forms, supported by Part 8 amendments to the *Threatened Species Protection Regulations 2026*, with forms to be approved administratively by the Secretary providing greater flexibility and removing the need for regulatory amendment whenever the forms require updating. Enabling easier updating of the forms reduces administrative burden and supports community engagement with the threatened species nomination process.

Finally, Part 9 removes legislation that is spent, obsolete or no longer required. The Bill repeals the *Aboriginal Land Council Elections Act 2004* which deferred elections in 2005. Further it rescinds and revokes a range of subordinate legislation, including fisheries amending rules, proclamations and orders that no longer serve an ongoing legislative purpose. Maintaining an up-to-date statute book is an important aspect of good governance, helping to reduce complexity and improve the accessibility of the law.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.