

SECOND READING SPEECH

HON FELIX ELLIS MP

Legislation and Regulatory Review (Building Tasmania) Bill 2025

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

The Bill forms part of the Government's ongoing commitment to maintaining modern, efficient and effective statutes. It contains amendments that update, clarify and improve five different acts. It also repeals, rescinds and revokes various obsolete acts, proclamations and orders that no longer serve an operative purpose across various portfolios.

While these changes are largely administrative in nature, they are important in ensuring Tasmania's legislation remains clear, accessible and fit for purpose. By removing redundant provisions and updating the law where necessary, the Bill will improve the usability of the State's legislative framework.

I will now outline reasons for each of the proposed amendments in turn.

Part 2

The *Cultural and Creative Industries Act 2017* sets out a framework for how the State's cultural and creative industries are financially supported. The amendment to Part 9 removes the requirement for expert panels to have an uneven number of members, which better reflects that applications are measured by an individual scoring process, rather than voting.

The amendment will also provide greater administrative flexibility if a panel member is unable to take part in the assessment.

Part 3

The amendment to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* replaces an outdated reference to the repealed *Land Surveyors Act 1909* with its modern replacement – the *Surveyors Act 2002*. It also fixes a minor grammatical error by replacing a full stop with a semi-colon.

Part 4

The amendments to the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* remove the requirements for councils to notify the Transport Commission regarding activities and changes to the local road network, reflecting a gradual shift in responsibilities of both the Transport Commission and local councils over time.

Circumstances where notice to the Transport Commission, from council, will no longer be required are:

- The opening, widening or extension of a highway,
- The dedication of land as a highway,
- The detour or closure of a highway for the public benefit, for public safety or due to lack of use, and
- The closure of part of a local highway on a Saturday, Sunday or statutory public holiday for no more than 12 hours for the purposes of providing a place for the sale of goods and entertainment.

The current notification requirements reflect a past time when the Transport Commission played a more active role in overseeing the management of the local road network, due to technical expertise being concentrated within state government.

However, today, the Commission reserves oversight of higher risk infrastructure changes, such as speed limits and traffic signal installation, but councils otherwise manage their own roads in accordance with statutory and other technical requirements.

It is expected that councils will continue to consult the Commission, through Building Tasmania, as a matter of course on any changes or proposals that would affect networks and assets managed by Building Tasmania.

Part 5

Under Tasmania's regulatory framework, anyone carrying paid passengers in a taxi, hire vehicle or ride-share vehicle must be both accredited *and* operating under the appropriate licence or accredited ride-sourcing platform. These requirements work together to protect passenger safety. Accreditation alone is not enough.

The Bill includes an amendment to the *Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Act 2008* to remove a redundant provision and makes it clear that accreditation, by itself, does not authorise a person to provide passenger transport services. This will improve the clarity of the Act.

Part 6

The amendments to the *Training and Workforce Development Act 2013* provide some minor improvements to processes including better aligning dates to report to the Minister. National data collection timeframes mean that the current date of April does not allow for the most recent year of data to be included in the report. The amendment aligns the reporting to allow the inclusion of the recent data to provide the Minister with a more up-to-date picture of Tasmanian's system of training and workforce development.

The Tasmanian Traineeship and Apprenticeship Committee currently has limited flexibility within the membership numbers which places the Committee at risk if there

is an unexpected resignation. The amendment to allow between 5 and 7 members provides a more modern arrangement. The amendment to Schedule 1 ensures that there is an appropriate quorum at meetings depending on the membership numbers at any time.

Currently, the Tasmanian Traineeship and Apprenticeship Committee must approve a cancellation where the employer and apprentice have already mutually agreed to cancel the training contract. This amendment removes the red tape oversight of the parties' decision.

Honourable Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.