



1924.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

# PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:

## REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Treasurer, November 11, 1924, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.

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### REPORT.

The Standing Committee on Public Accounts has the honour to submit the following Report to the favourable consideration of your Honourable House:—

The question of the relationship of the Treasury and Local Bodies as regards interest charges has been under review by your Committee consequent upon the recent decision of the High Court of Australia in the Launceston and Burnie Marine Boards cases. A Conference was held between your Committee and Members of the Executive of the Municipal Association of Tasmania on the matter, as an outcome of which Members of the Executive have undertaken to confer with their respective Councils within the Association, and to recommend to the Councils the acceptance of a flat rate of interest of 5 per centum per annum (exclusive of sinking fund and administration charges) over the period covered by the Judgment of the Court, viz.:—1st July, 1916, to 30th June, 1921, in connection with certain loans by the State to Local Bodies.

Your Committee recommends the adoption of the foregoing recommendation, and further, that the rate of interest on loans to Local Bodies advanced subsequent to 11th November, 1904, be fixed annually by the Governor-in-Council upon the recommendation of your Committee through your Honourable House. It also recommends that due notice be given by the Chairman of your Committee to all Local Bodies affected before any alterations are made to the rates of interest.

#### BURNIE MARINE BOARD.

A request was received from the Marine Board of Burnie that the sinking fund contribution on its loan of £200,000 for the breakwater construction be reduced to  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent., which request your Committee recommends be not acceded to.

#### DEVONPORT MUNICIPALITY.

An application was received from the Devonport Municipality for a Loan of £2000 for the purpose of defraying costs of and incidental to acquiring and purchasing two acres, five perches, and two-tenths of a perch of land in Fenton-street, Devonport, and of fencing and draining the same, and constructing thereon one six-rink bowling green, three asphalt tennis courts, one croquet lawn, and a pavilion and dressing rooms. Your Committee recommends that this application be not agreed to.

#### LEVEN MUNICIPALITY.

An application was received from the Leven Municipality for a loan of £1500 for the purpose of purchasing a steam road-roller, and your Committee recommends that the application be not agreed to.

No. 1 Committee Room,  
House of Assembly,  
11th November, 1924.

J. A. LYONS, Chairman.