



# HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2024

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 5

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2024

- 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 PAPERS. – The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Answers to Questions taken on Notice at the Commission of Inquiry Scrutiny Committee in relation to criminal proceedings arising from the Commission of Inquiry.
- 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 Minister for Children and Youth laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Burial and Cremation Act 2019: Burial and Cremation Amendment Regulations 2024 (Statutory Rules 2024, No.1)
- 8 PAPERS. – The Clerk of the House laid upon the Table of the House the following Papers:-
  - (1) Integrity Commission Tasmania: Report of the Integrity Commission No. 1 of 2024 (An investigation into the management of a Right to Information Request in the Department of Health)
  - (2) Integrity Commission Tasmania: Improper Exercise of Powers and Performance of Functions Research Paper – Misconduct Risks in Tasmania's Right to Information Regime, 22 May 2024.
- 9 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -

MADAM SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has made the following appointments to Committees: -

Mr *Harris* and Ms *Rattray* to serve on the Public Works Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the *Public Works Act 1914*; and

Mr *Edmunds*, Ms *Forrest* and Ms *Thomas* to serve on the Public Accounts Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*.

*Legislative Council, 21 May 2024.*

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

**10 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -**

MADAM SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has made the following appointments to Committees:-

Mr *Harris*, Mrs *Hiscutt* and Ms *Ratray* to serve on the Subordinate Legislation Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969*;

Ms *Armitage*, Ms *O'Connor* and Ms *Webb* to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity in accordance with Section 23 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*;

Mr *Farrell*, Ms *Forrest*, and Mrs *Hiscutt* to serve on the Joint House Committee of this Parliament; and

Ms *Armitage*, Mr *Farrell*, Ms *Forrest*, Mrs *Hiscutt*, Ms *Ratray* and Mr *Vincent* to serve on the Joint Committee of both Houses to manage the Parliamentary Library.

*Legislative Council, 21 May 2024.*

C. M. FARRELL, *President.*

**11 JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON WORKPLACE CULTURE OVERSIGHT. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -**

MADAM 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,*

- (1) That a Joint Sessional Workplace Culture Oversight Committee be appointed with the power to send for persons and papers and with leave to report from time to time, to oversee the implementation of any recommendations, by the relevant employer, contained in the report Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services (August 2022).
- (2) That the number of Members to be appointed to serve on the said Committee on the part of the Legislative Council be 4.

*Legislative Council, 21 May 2024.*

C. M. FARRELL, *President.*

*Ordered,* That the said Message be taken into consideration tomorrow. (The Minister for Transport)

**12 JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND EQUALITY. - A Message from the Legislative Council. -**

MADAM 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 a Joint Sessional Gender and Equality Committee be appointed with the power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of either House and with leave to adjourn from place to place to inquire into and report upon –

- (1) (a) Any Bill referred to it by either House in order to examine gender 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 and equality referred to it by either House; and  
 (c) Any matter related to gender and equality, initiated by its own motion; and
- (2) That Notice of any Motion Inquiry shall be reported to both Houses within two (2) sitting days of the Committee's Resolution; and
- (3) That the number of Members to serve on the said Committee on the part of the Legislative Council be four.

*Legislative Council, 21 May 2024.*

*C. M. FARRELL, President.*

*Ordered,* That the said Message be taken into consideration tomorrow. (The Minister for Transport)

**13** BILL NO. 12. – The Minister for Transport presented -

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Surveyors Act 2002”.

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

**14** MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: PROTECTING lutruwita/TASMANIA'S FORESTS. – Dr *Woodruff* in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

Protecting lutruwita/Tasmania's Forests.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**15** METRO BUS SERVICES. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Notes that:—
  - (a) Metro cancelled approximately 900 weekly bus services in August 2023 under the guise of ‘temporary service reductions’; and
  - (b) cancelled Metro bus services have still not been reinstated nine months later.
- (2) Recognises that thousands of Tasmanians rely almost exclusively on public transport as their sole means of transportation.
- (3) Acknowledges that widespread Metro bus service cuts continue to negatively impact the lives and livelihoods of Tasmanians, including those with disabilities and those unable to afford private transport.
- (4) Concedes that a policy of half-price Metro bus fares, although welcomed, does not help Tasmanians who have lost access to reliable bus services.
- (5) Calls on the Minister for Transport, Hon. *Eric Abetz* MP, to intervene and restore full Metro services as a matter of urgency. (Mr *O'Byrne*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**16** KEY INDUSTRIES. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House expresses its unequivocal support for key industries, including:—

- (a) Tasmania's aquaculture industry, including operations in Macquarie Harbour;
- (b) Tasmania's timber industry;
- (c) Renewable energy developments, including the Robbins Island windfarm; and

(d) Tasmania's mining industry. (Mr *Winter*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management was addressing the Chair.

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

**18** KEY INDUSTRIES. - And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the Debate.

Amendment proposed (Mrs *Beswick*)

- (1) Leave out paragraph (a);
- (2) In paragraph (c), leave out “, including the Robbins Island windfarm”

A Debate arose thereupon.

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

It passed in the Negative.

And the Main Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 20

Mr *Abetz*  
Mr *Barnett*  
Ms *Brown*  
Ms *Butler*  
Ms *Dow*  
Mr *Ellis*  
Mr *Ferguson*  
Ms *Haddad*  
Ms *Howlett*  
Mr *Jaensch*  
Mr *O'Byrne*  
Ms *Ogilvie*  
Mrs *Petrusma*  
Mr *Rockliff*  
Mr *Shelton*  
Ms *White*  
Mr *Willie*  
Mr *Winter*  
Mr *Wood*  
Mr *Behrakis* (Teller)

NOES 9

Ms *Badger*  
Mr *Bayley*  
Mrs *Beswick*  
Ms *Burnet*  
Mr *Garland*  
Ms *Johnston*  
Mrs *Pentland*  
Dr *Woodruff*  
Ms *Rosol* (Teller)

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**19** MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Agrees the proposed Macquarie Point stadium is a matter of significant public interest and concern across lutruwita/Tasmania.
- (2) Recognises a primary public concern is the massive expenditure of public funds on a new stadium – especially given the critical need to build more homes, invest in better hospitals, and deliver cost of living relief.
- (3) Notes significant uncertainty about the exact scale of public expenditure on the stadium given:—
  - (a) the Rockliff Government’s apparent failure to negotiate a Commonwealth Grants Commission exemption for the \$240 million Federal contribution;
  - (b) Tasmania’s sole liability for all development and construction cost overruns;
  - (c) serious challenges associated with construction at the Macquarie Point site;
  - (d) uncertainty over the public /private partnership model; and
  - (e) the rapidly rising costs in the construction industry.
- (4) Orders the Government to table the Independent Review into the State’s Finances - including the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Precinct component of that review – on the first sitting day of the House following the review’s completion.
- (5) Orders the Government to table, prior to 19 June 2024, all correspondence on the Macquarie Point stadium and precinct between the State and Federal Treasurers. (Mr Bayley)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (The Deputy Premier)

In paragraphs (4) and (5), leave out ‘Orders’ and insert instead ‘Calls on’.

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

The House divided.

#### AYES 16

Mr Abetz  
 Mr Barnett  
 Mr Behrakis  
 Mrs Beswick  
 Mr Ellis  
 Mr Ferguson  
 Mr Garland  
 Ms Howlett  
 Mr Jaensch  
 Mr O’Byrne  
 Ms Ogilvie  
 Mrs Petrusma  
 Mr Rockliff  
 Mr Shelton  
 Mr Wood  
 Mrs Pentland (Teller)

#### NOES 13

Mr Bayley  
 Ms Brown  
 Ms Burnet  
 Ms Butler  
 Ms Dow  
 Ms Haddad  
 Ms Johnston  
 Ms Rosol  
 Ms White  
 Mr Willie  
 Mr Winter  
 Dr Woodruff  
 Ms Badger (Teller)

Pairs

Mr Fairs  
 Mr Street

Ms Finlay  
 Dr Broad

So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Main Question, as Amended, being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

*Resolved*, That the House:—

- (1) Agrees the proposed Macquarie Point stadium is a matter of significant public interest and concern across lutruwita/Tasmania.
- (2) Recognises a primary public concern is the massive expenditure of public funds on a new stadium – especially given the critical need to build more homes, invest in better hospitals, and deliver cost of living relief.
- (3) Notes significant uncertainty about the exact scale of public expenditure on the stadium given:—
  - (a) the Rockliff Government’s apparent failure to negotiate a Commonwealth Grants Commission exemption for the \$240 million Federal contribution;
  - (b) Tasmania’s sole liability for all development and construction cost overruns;
  - (c) serious challenges associated with construction at the Macquarie Point site;
  - (d) uncertainty over the public /private partnership model; and
  - (e) the rapidly rising costs in the construction industry.
- (4) Calls on the Government to table the Independent Review into the State’s Finances - including the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Precinct component of that review – on the first sitting day of the House following the review’s completion.
- (5) Calls on the Government to table, prior to 19 June 2024, all correspondence on the Macquarie Point stadium and precinct between the State and Federal Treasurers.

**20.** COST OF LIVING– A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Notes the impact of economic drivers over the past four years which have caused:—
  - (a) significant inflation across day to day family expenses; and
  - (b) the reduction in real wages due to the inability of employers to meet increased costs through wage increases.
- (2) Further notes how families are sacrificing their healthy choices and caring for themselves in order not to increase their debt.
- (3) Recognises how financial stress creates tension within the family unit which can be a catalyst for mental health issues, domestic violence and family dysfunction. (Mrs *Beswick*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**21** PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS. – In accordance with Standing Order 42, Mrs *Beswick* indicated that the remainder of the Jacquie Lambie Network’s Private Members’ Business for this day’s sitting would be waived.

**22** PRIMARY HEALTH SECTOR– A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Notes the failures of the Federal Labor Government to adequately invest in Tasmania’s primary health sector, resulting in General Practices being forced to close.
- (2) In light of these failures, calls on the Federal Labor Government to provide adequate funding to incentivise bulk-billing by General Practitioners and reduce the likelihood of further closures.
- (3) Calls on the State Labor Opposition to lobby their Federal colleagues for more urgent care clinics for Tasmania in areas of most need. (Mr *Behrakis*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Ms *Brown*)

In paragraph (3) following the word ‘Opposition’

Insert the words 'and Liberal Government'.

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

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Main Question, as Amended, being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

*Resolved*, That the House:—

- (1) Notes the failures of the Federal Labor Government to adequately invest in Tasmania's primary health sector, resulting in General Practices being forced to close.
- (2) In light of these failures, calls on the Federal Labor Government to provide adequate funding to incentivise bulk-billing by General Practitioners and reduce the likelihood of further closures.
- (3) Calls on the State Labor Opposition and Liberal Government to lobby their Federal colleagues for more urgent care clinics for Tasmania in areas of most need.

**23** PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS. – In accordance with Standing Order 42, Mr *Behrakis* indicated that the remainder of the Government Private Members' Business for this day's sitting would be waived.

**24** ADJOURNMENT.— A Motion being made - That the House do now adjourn (The Minister for Transport)

The Speaker proposed - That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

And the Question being put – That the House do now adjourn;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The House adjourned at thirty-one minutes past Seven o'clock.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House*.

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MEMBERS. - All present during the day except Mr *Jenner* and Mr *Street*.

The Minister for Education, and Minister for Disability Services attended Question Time.