

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON MICHAEL FERGUSON MP

Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2022 23) Bill 2022

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Mr Speaker

The Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2022-23) Bill 2022 provides funding for the expenditure of the new dedicated housing authority, Homes Tasmania for the period to 30 June 2023.

Homes Tasmania will be responsible for delivering improved housing services for Tasmanians and for increasing the supply of social and affordable housing in our State.

The 2022-23 Supplementary Appropriation Bill will facilitate the transfer of funding from the Public Account to Homes Tasmania, through a grant payment from Finance-General.

The Bill is an important step in the machinery of government changes to give effect to the restructure of the Department of Communities Tasmania and to implement this Government's reforms to improve housing outcomes in Tasmania.

Seeking Parliamentary endorsement of the funding to be provided to Homes Tasmania supports the Government's commitment to transparency.

This Bill will ensure that Homes Tasmania can achieve its objectives from its start date of 1 December 2022.

The balance of 2022-23 appropriation funding from the Housing portfolio in the Department of Communities Tasmania will be made available to the new authority.

Mr Speaker

In total, funding of \$163.4 million will be provided through the 2022-23 Supplementary Appropriation Bill to Finance-General for Operating Services.

The amount of appropriation comprises \$36.5 million being the balance of the original 2022-23 operating services appropriation for the Housing Services output within the Department of Communities Tasmania as provided for in the 2022-23 Budget and \$126.9 million being the balance of the original 2022-23 capital services appropriation provided to the Department of Communities Tasmania in the 2022-23 Budget.

The purpose of the operating services appropriation to Finance-General is to provide a grant to Homes Tasmania to fund the continuation of the Government's Community Housing Growth Program; the Extended Social Housing Build; the Housing - New Projects initiative; and Tasmania's Affordable Housing Action Plan Stage 2.

It also provides for salary and non-salary costs to support the provision of housing assistance to Tasmanians across a range of housing programs including Housing Connect, homelessness accommodation, social housing and supported accommodation, private rental programs and assistance into affordable home ownership.

Homes Tasmania will work in partnership with housing providers and housing support providers to deliver housing and homelessness services in Tasmania, with funding used to provide grants to meet the operating costs of these services.

These funds are planned to be invested by Homes Tasmania in the period to 30 June 2023.

It is important to note that the Department of Communities Tasmania will declare an appropriation saving equivalent to the new funding this Bill includes. That means that there will be no net impact on the Public Account.

Mr Speaker

Homes Tasmania is established to promote the development of affordable housing, and to enable the provision of housing assistance to, and improve the housing conditions of, eligible persons. Homes Tasmania will support the provision of affordable housing, housing support services and community support services to persons who require housing or services and will assist in developing policy for housing.

Homes Tasmania will also be responsible for delivering the Tasmanian Government's record capital investment of \$1.5 billion to build 10 000 homes by 2032.

I commend the Bill to the House.