

## FACT SHEET

### *Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Amendment Bill 2015*

The Bill provides for amendments to the *Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012* and the *Industrial Relations Act 1984*.

The Bill provides that for the financial year commencing on 1 July 2015 the basic salary for a Member of Parliament (MP) will be set at \$120,835 pa which is 2 per cent above the current salary of \$118,466 pa.

A 2 per cent increase has also been applied to the Motor Vehicle Allowance and the Electorate Allowances, as would have applied under the provisions of the current Act. The increase in the basic salary also automatically increases Committee Sitting Fees and the Entertainment Allowances by 2 per cent as they are linked to the basic salary.

The Bill establishes that a full bench of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission (the Commission) must periodically inquire into, report on and make determinations about the salaries and allowances to which MPs are entitled.

Any future increases in the basic salary of MPs after 30 June 2016 will be determined by the Commission.

The Bill also provides for the Commission to:

- (i) review and determine the amounts of any additional salary payable to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers of the Crown, Secretary to Cabinet and Certain Officers of the Parliament provided for in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Act and any other offices that the Commission may decide to include for this purpose;
- (ii) review and determine the amounts of allowances and benefits provided for in Schedule 2 of the Act; and
- (iii) consider whether the entitlements of, and benefits provided to, MPs (other than the basic salary, additional salary, or superannuation) provided for in Schedule 2 of the Act remain appropriate to the needs of such Members (this allows new allowances to be considered or existing allowances to be stopped).

In making a determination the Commission has to specify a due date for the next determination to be made. The period of a determination may extend beyond one year (but not be for a lesser period).

If the Commission is inquiring into matters to make a determination the Premier may require that some related matters be considered by the Commission as part of its inquiry. The Commission must inquire into these related matters. The request from the Premier must be tabled in Parliament.

A determination of the Commission will be implemented automatically unless within 10 sitting days of the determination being tabled (or within a longer period if a House so resolves), both Houses pass a resolution requesting that the determination be disallowed (and so not be implemented).

If a determination is not disallowed, the Commission will gazette a notice setting out the determination and specify the amounts of the basic salary, additional salary payable to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers of the Crown, Secretary to Cabinet and Certain Officers of the Parliament, and the allowances and benefits to which MPs are entitled.

If a determination does not come into effect when it is due to, because it has not been made, or the disallowance period has not expired, or it has been disallowed, the basic salary, additional salary, and the allowances and benefits to which MPs are entitled immediately before the determination was due to take effect continue until a new determination is made.

If a determination is disallowed the Commission has 12 months from the date of disallowance to make a new determination.

The first determination of the Commission is due to be tabled by 1 March 2016. It will revisit the recommendations made by the tribunal set up in 2013 to consider the basic salary and allowances, which were not implemented when that tribunal reported. The report of this tribunal was tabled on 3 June 2014. Unless it is disallowed, this determination will take effect from 1 July 2016 and specify when the next determination will be made.