



First Session of the Fifty-Second Parliament

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES B

Estimates of the HON JEREMY ROCKLIFF MP

Premier

Members of Committee:

Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC (Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Mike Gaffney MLC

Hon Casey Hiscutt MLC

Hon Meg Webb MLC

Table of Contents

Reports

<i>Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026, Division 10, Department of Premier and Cabinet.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026, Division 7, Ministerial and Parliamentary Support.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2026, Division 6, Office of the Governor.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Appropriation Bill (No. 1) 2026, Division 1, Brand Tasmania</i>	<i>8</i>

Appendices

Appendix A

<i>Order of the Council establishing the Committee.....</i>	<i>9</i>
---	----------

Appendix B

<i>Minutes.....</i>	<i>11</i>
---------------------	-----------

Appendix C

<i>Additional Information.....</i>	<i>44</i>
------------------------------------	-----------

Appendix D

Tabled Documents

<i>myServiceTas information (1 April 25 to 31 March 26).....</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Key highlights (1 April 25 to 31 March 26).....</i>	<i>53</i>
<i>About Brand Tasmania 2025-2026</i>	<i>54</i>

Appendix E

<i>Transcript.....</i>	<i>70</i>
------------------------	-----------



REPORT

PREMIER

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026

DIVISION 10

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Legislative Council Estimates Committee B examined the Estimates of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP on Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

The Committee examined the Estimates contained in the following Output Groups and makes the following recommendations:

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities	
1.1 Strategic Policy and Government Priorities	RECOMMENDED
1.2 Child and Youth Wellbeing	RECOMMENDED
1.3 Security and Emergency Management	RECOMMENDED
Output Group 2 – Government System Support	
2.1 Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliamentary Offices and Office of the Governor	FURTHER DEBATE 1. Please provide a list of all ministerial requests for legal assistance made in compliance with the Policy and Guidelines for the Grant of Indemnities and Legal Assistance to Public Officers of the State of Tasmania in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to date, including the names, dates and amounts requested. (MW) 2. The guidelines set out that in granting legal assistance a limit can be placed on how much taxpayer support can be provided to a public officer – has any limit been placed on expenditure on Ms Ogilvie’s legal costs? (MW)

	3. In the 2024-25 financial year, how many invoices for Madeline Ogilvie's legal costs were approved by Cabinet? (MW)
2.2 Principal and Subordinate Legislation	RECOMMENDED
2.3 State Service Employment Management	RECOMMENDED
Output Group 3 – Community and Government Service Delivery	
3.2 Management and Ongoing Development of Service Tasmania	RECOMMENDED
Capital Investment Program	RECOMMENDED

The Committee further recommends the report, together with the minutes of proceedings, additional information, tabled documents and transcript be tabled.



HON ROSEMARY ARMITAGE MLC
Chair



REPORT

PREMIER

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026

DIVISION 7

MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

Legislative Council Estimates Committee B examined the Estimates of Ministerial and Parliamentary Support, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP on Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

The Committee examined the Estimates contained in the following Output Group and makes the following recommendations:

Output Group 1 – Support for Members of Parliament	
1.1 Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders	FURTHER DEBATE 1. Provide a detailed breakdown to account for the difference in 2025-26 Budget and 2025-26 Estimated Outcome, including a breakdown by position for any employment separations as part of that increase. (MW) 2. What functions do you expect the Independent Complaints Commissioner to perform? Do you know how much was initially requested to fill that position? What is the expected timeline of the outcome to be achieved with these funds? (CH)
1.2 Support for Members of the House of Assembly	FURTHER DEBATE 1. What is the total number of staff allocated to all members of parliament in each area of parliament ie. Minor parties and micro parties, independents, including members of the legislative council and what is the total number of staff they are entitled to? (CH)

	2. Please provide a breakdown of all ministerial electorate offices and other MP electoral and whether they are disability compliant. Please provide details of any instances of fit-out of electorate offices in the past two years, that were change of use and required to be made disability compliant. (MW)
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The Committee further recommends the report, together with the minutes of proceedings, additional information and transcript be tabled.



HON ROSEMARY ARMITAGE MLC
Chair



REPORT

PREMIER

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2026 DIVISION 6 THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Legislative Council Estimates Committee B examined the Estimates of The Office of the Governor, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP on Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

The Committee examined the Estimates contained in the following Output Group and makes the following recommendations:

Output Group 1 – The Office of the Governor	
1.1 Support for the Governor	RECOMMENDED
Capital Investment Program	RECOMMENDED

The Committee further recommends the report, together with the minutes of proceedings and transcript be tabled.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosemary Armitage".

HON ROSEMARY ARMITAGE MLC
Chair



REPORT

PREMIER

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026 DIVISION 1 BRAND TASMANIA

Legislative Council Estimates Committee B examined the Estimates of Brand Tasmania, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP on Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

The Committee examined the Estimates contained in the following Output Group and makes the following recommendation:

Output Group 1 – Brand Tasmania	
1.1 Brand Tasmania	RECOMMENDED

The Committee further recommends the report, together with the minutes of proceedings, a tabled document and transcript be tabled.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosemary Armitage".

HON ROSEMARY ARMITAGE MLC
Chair



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

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19 May 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Clerk-Assistant & Usher of the Black Rod
Legislative Council

The Legislative Council today resolved: —

That the Legislative Council establish two Estimates Committees each consisting of five members.

And that —

Ms Forrest,
Ms Glade-Wright,
Ms Lovell,
Ms O'Connor, and
Ms Thomas
be of Committee A

and

Ms Armitage,
Mr Edmunds,
Mr Gaffney,
Mr Hiscutt, and
Ms Webb
be of Committee B

That the Estimates Committees report upon the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2026 and budget papers by no later than Friday, 19 June 2026.

And that the schedule emailed to Members on Monday, 18 May 2026 be adopted as the Estimates Committees timetable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Vickers'.

C.L. VICKERS
Clerk of the Legislative Council

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – ESTIMATES COMMITTEES SCHEDULE 2026

Monday 1 June 2026			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Eric Abetz MP Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	Treasurer Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Guy Barnett MP Hon Gavin Pearce MP	Attorney-General Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister for Primary Industries and Water Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Tuesday 2 June 2026			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Nick Duigan MLC Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP	Minister for Energy and Renewables Minister for Sport Minister for Parks Minster for Arts and Heritage Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Minister for Environment
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP Hon Jane Howlett MP	Premier Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence Minister for Racing
Wednesday 3 June 2026			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Bridget Archer MP	Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing Minister for Ageing Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Felix Ellis MP	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management Minister for Skills and Jobs Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Thursday 4 June 2026			
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee A (Chamber)	Hon Kerry Vincent MLC	Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Minister for Housing and Planning Minister for Local Government
Commencing at 9.00 am	Committee B (Committee Room No. 2)	Hon Jo Palmer MLC	Minister for Education Minister for Children and Youth Minister for Disability Services

ESTIMATES B

MINUTES

TUESDAY 26 MAY 2026

The Committee met at 9:30 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart.

Present

Ms Armitage (Chair)

Mr Gaffney

Mr Hiscutt

Ms Webb

Apologies

Mr Edmunds

In Attendance

Ms Julie Thompson (Co-Secretary)

Mr James Reynolds (Co-Secretary)

Order of the Council

The Order of the Council establishing the Committee dated 19 May 2026 was noted.

Election of Deputy Chair

The *Chair* called for nominations for Deputy Chair. Ms Webb nominated Mr Gaffney. Mr Gaffney being the only nominee, the *Chair* declared Mr Gaffney to be duly elected Deputy Chair.

Portfolio Order and Meeting Times

The Committee **AGREED** that the order of business and approximate times for each portfolio, be as follows:

Monday 1 June 2026

Hon Guy Barnett MP	
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am – 1:15 pm	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation (cont)
1:15 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Correction Rehabilitation (cont)
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Integrity Commission</i>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<i>Office of the Ombudsman</i>
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</i>
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Break
4:15 pm – 5:15 pm	Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs
5:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Dinner

Monday 1 June 2026 continued.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP	
6:15 pm – 7:45 pm	Minister for Primary Industries and Water
7:45 pm – 8:15 pm	<i>Inland Fisheries</i>
8:15 pm – 8:45 pm	Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP	
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Premier
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am – 1:15 pm	Premier (cont) including Brand Tasmania
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch
Hon Jane Howlett MP	
2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events including Tourism Tasmania
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Minister for Racing

Wednesday 3 June 2026

Hon Felix Ellis MP	
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management (cont)
12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	<i>State Fire Commission</i>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<i>TasTAFE</i>
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Minister for Skills and Job
4:30 pm – 4:45 pm	Break
4:45 pm – 5:45 pm	Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Thursday 4 June 2026

Hon Jo Palmer MLC	
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Minister for Education
11:00 am – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Minister for Education (cont)
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	Minister for Children and Youth
1:15 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch
2:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Minister for Children and Youth (cont)
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Break
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Minister for Children and Youth (cont)
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Minister for Disability Services

Allocation of Outputs

The Committee allocated areas of responsibility to commence questioning on outputs in each portfolio.

Other Business

Report Deliberations

The Committee **AGREED** to meet on 17 June 2026 at 10:00 am for final report deliberations.

Next Meeting

Monday, 1 June 2026 at 8:45 am in Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Hobart.

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9:50 am.

DATE 01/06/2026

CONFIRMED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosmary Armitage".

CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE ESTIMATES 'B'

MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 1 JUNE 2026 TO THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026 MONDAY, 1 JUNE 2026

The Committee met at 8:45 am in Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Hobart.

Members present

Ms Armitage (Chair)
Mr Gaffney (Deputy Chair) (from 8:47 am)
Mr Hiscutt; and
Ms Webb

Apologies

Mr Edmunds

In attendance

Mr James Reynolds (Committee Secretary)
Ms Julie Thompson (Committee Secretary)

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 26 May 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Correspondence

Outgoing

1. Copies of letters from President dated 26 May 2026 requesting Ministers attendance at Estimates at the dates and times agreed to by the Committee.
2. Letters dated 27 May 2026 to: Inland Fisheries, State Fire Commission, TasTAFE, Integrity Commission, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Office of the Ombudsman advising of approximate time for their appearance before the Committee.
3. Letter to President dated 26 May 2026 in relation to the days the Committee intends to sit beyond 7:00 p.m.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the outgoing correspondence.

General Discussion

A discussion regarding time allocations and outputs ensued.

The Committee suspended at 8:50 am.

The Committee resumed at 9:00 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Minister attended the Committee.

Hon Guy Barnett MP

Attorney-General; Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation; and Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Bill 1 Division 6 – Department of Justice

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

\$486 749 000

Witnesses:

Kristy Bourne *Secretary (9:01 am to 5.17 pm)*

Pauline van Adrichem *Deputy Secretary, Justice and Reform (9:01 am to 12:35 pm)*

The Attorney-General provided an overview.

Questions on Notice

1. How many Acts that fall under the Department of Justice purview that have received royal assent but are yet to be proclaimed or fully proclaimed. Please provide a list of these acts. (RA)
2. Please provide a comprehensive, table formatted breakdown of all consultancies for the 2025–2026 period, specifying for each:
 - a. The amount paid to each consultancy
 - b. The purpose of the consultancy
 - c. Whether the consultancy is Tasmanian based or operating from another location. (MW)
3. Is the Department of Justice currently responsible for any digital or ICT upgrade programs which are either in development or implementation across areas such as HR management, data, service delivery, and program management? In addition, please identify any such programs that were completed in 2025 or are ongoing from the 2025–2026 period. (MW)
4. Please provide the implementation plan for the Justice Connect project, including what has been spent in each year to date since commencement of the project, and what is budgeted to be spent in each year going forward, through to completion. Please also provide detail on what has caused delays to the project to date. (MW)

Output Group 1 – Administration of Justice

1.1 Supreme Court Services – considered

Question on Notice

1. Why is the northwest disproportionately effected in relation to population in the total numbers by case load. (CH)

1.2 Magisterial Court Services – considered

1.3 Births, Deaths and Marriages – considered

1.4 Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal – considered

Witness:

Gavin Wailes

Director Finance (10:23 am to 10:26 am)

Question on Notice

1. Can you provide an update on TASCAT's operations since the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Act 2025 came into effect on 1 July 2025. What impact has the reform had on the organisation, and can you provide a comprehensive table, including the number of matters have been considered since the legislation came into effect (MG)

1.5 Tasmania Legal Aid – considered

1.6 Legal Assistance – considered

1.7 Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner – considered

The Committee suspended at 10:59 am.

The Committee resumed at 11:15 am.

1.8 Elections and Referendums – considered

Witness:

Andrew Hawkey

*Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner, Tasmanian Electoral Commission
(11:15 am to 11:38 am)*

1.9 Tasmanian Industrial Commission – considered

1.10 Office of the Independent Regulator – considered

1.11 Office of the Implementation Monitor – considered

1.15 Commission for Children and Young People – considered

Output Group 2 – Legal Services

2.1 Crown Law – considered

Questions on Notice

1. Provide number of FTEs across Office of the Solicitor-General, Office of the Crown Solicitor and the State Litigation Office from 2023 to 2026. It would be appreciated if the dates are consistent across the years for each agency. (MG)
2. Please provide data for 2024-25 and 2025-26 to date on complaints regarding non-compliance with the Model Litigant Guidelines? (MW)

2.2 Legislation Development and Review – considered

Output Group 3 – Corrections, Rehabilitation and Enforcement

3.1 Prison Services- considered

Witnesses:

Colin Shepherd

Deputy Secretary, Corrective Services (12:35pm to 12:59 pm)

Narelle Pamplin

Director of Prisons (12:35 pm to 12:59 pm)

Gavin Wailes

Director Finance (12:37 pm to 12:39 pm)

Question on Notice

1. Please provide an update on the current funding status and the data on enrolments and completions for all Family Violence Intervention Programs offered. (MW)

3.2 Community Corrective Services - considered

Witness:

Christopher Carney *Director, Community Corrections (1:00 pm to 1:10 pm)*

3.3 Enforcement of Monetary Penalties – considered

Witness:

Gavin Wailes *Director Finance (1:14 pm to 1:17 pm)*

The Committee suspended at 1:17 pm.

The Committee resumed at 2:02 pm.

Output Group 5 – Justice Support Services

5.1 Victims Support – considered

Witnesses:

Robyn Pearce *Acting Deputy Secretary, Regulation and Service Delivery
(2:02 pm to 2:34 pm)*

Angela McCrossen *Executive Director, Justice Support Services (2:08 pm to 2:34 pm)*

5.2 Victims of Crime Assistance and Redress – considered

Witness:

Gavin Wailes *Director Finance (2:16 pm to 2:18 pm)*

5.3 Office of the Public Guardian – considered

Question on Notice

1. Provide information about complaints that might have been received about the Office of Public Guardian in the past year in relation to:
 - a. How many complaints were received?
 - b. What generally were complaints in relation to?
 - c. How many were resolved and concluded?
 - d. How many remain outstanding? (RA)

5.4 Safe at Home – considered

5.5 Working with Vulnerable People - considered

Witness:

Gavin Wailes *Director Finance (2:32 pm to 2:34 pm)*

Capital Investment Program – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 2:34 pm.

The Committee suspended at 2:34 pm.

The Committee resumed at 2:36 pm.

Bill 2 Division 2 – Integrity Commission

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

\$4 328 000

Witnesses:

Kristy Bourne	<i>Secretary, Department of Justice</i>
Ellen McKenzie	<i>CEO, Integrity Commission</i>
Karen Kingswell	<i>Director Corporate Services, Integrity Commission</i>

The witnesses took their places at 2:36 pm.

Output Group 1 – Integrity Commission

1.1 Integrity Commission - considered

Questions on Notice

1. For 2023-24, 2024-25 and current 2025-26 year to date, please detail what the Integrity Commission has spent on legal fees, and please itemise this expenditure by type of legal service/fee. (MW)
2. Please provide the number of audits the Integrity Commission has conducted of Tas Police investigations into complaints, for each of the years 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26 to date. (MW)

The witnesses withdrew at 3:00 pm.

Bill 2 Division 7 – Office of the Ombudsman

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

\$5 638 000

Witnesses:

Dr Grant Davies	<i>Ombudsman</i>
Kristy Bourne	<i>Secretary</i>
Natasha Freeman	<i>Deputy Ombudsman</i>

The witnesses took their places at 3:01 pm.

Output Group 1 – The Office of the Ombudsman

1.1 Decisions on Complaints referred to the Ombudsman and Health Complaints Commissioner and Right to Information – considered

Question on Notice

1. How many of the 12 recommendations from the TNPM Implementation Reports of 2023 and 2024 have been implemented – please provide a breakdown of the implementation status of each recommendation. (MW)

The witnesses withdrew at 3:31 pm.

Bill 2 Division 5 – The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

\$14 791 000

Witnesses:

Daryl Coates *Director, Public Prosecutions*
Kristy Bourne *Secretary*

The witnesses took their places at 3:32 pm.

Output Group 1 – The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

1.1 The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions - considered

The witnesses withdrew at 3:51 pm.

The Committee suspended at 3:51 pm.

The Committee resumed at 4:15 pm.

Bill 1 Division 6 – Department of Justice

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

\$18 154 000

Witnesses:

Kristy Bourne *Secretary*
Robyn Pearce *Acting Deputy Secretary, Regulation and Service Delivery*
Liz Radcliffe *Executive Director, WorkSafe Tasmania (4:19 pm to 4:38 pm)*
Gavin Wailes *Director Finance (4:31 pm to 4:32 pm)*

The witnesses took their places at 4:15 pm.

The Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs provided an overview.

Output Group 4- Regulatory and Other Services

4.1 WorkSafe Tasmania – considered

Questions on Notice

1. Provide number for psychosocial injury claims for current financial year. (CH)
2. Provide total number of inspections of workplaces by region – north, northwest and south – in the last financial year. (CH)

4.3 Consumer, Building and Occupational Services - considered

The witnesses withdrew at 4:57 pm.

Bill 1 Division 11 – Department of State Growth

Minister for Small Business Trade and Consumer Affairs

\$14 134 000

Witnesses:

Shane Gregory *Acting Secretary*
Michael Mogridge *Deputy Secretary, Economic Development*
Cameron Shield *Senior Director, Trade*

The witnesses took their places at 4:58 pm.

The Minister provided an overview.

Output Group 1 – Industry and Business Growth

1.3 Trade – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 5.17 pm.

The Committee suspended at 5:17 pm.

The Committee resumed at 6:15 pm.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Minister attended the Committee.

Hon Gavin Pearce MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water and Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Bill 1 Division 8 – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

\$86 585 000

Witnesses:

Jason Jacobi

Secretary

Mandy Clarke

Acting Deputy Secretary

The witnesses took their places at 6:15 pm.

The Minister for Primary Industries and Water provided an overview.

Question on Notice

1. Please provide details of any IT or Digitisation projects in progress or in development within your portfolio areas in NRE, including details on whether the project is being delivered on time and on budget. (MW)

Witness:

Dr Susanna Driessen *Chief Plant Protection Officer (6:40 pm to 6:43 pm)*

Output Group 2 – Primary Industries and Water

2.1 Primary Industries - considered

2.2 Supervision of Poppy and Hemp Crops - considered

Question on Notice

1. Late last year the report from the three-year Epping Forest Industrial Hemp Variety Trials came out - with 80 per cent of Australia's hemp seed coming from Tasmania. What is the scope to expand on this into international markets? (MG)

2.3 Water Resources Management – considered

Questions on Notice

1. The NRE Tas Annual Report 2024-25 details programs to support producers to help manage, prepare for and navigate drought and climate change, which have included delivering resilience funding, emergency grants, water infrastructure rebates and mentoring support.

Please provide a breakdown of the amount of funding provided for the 2024-25 year as well as that expected to be provided for the 2025-26 year for each of those areas:

- a) Resilience funding distributed
- b) Emergency grants
- c) Water infrastructure rebates, and
- d) Mentoring support. (MW)

2. Please provide detail on all scientific assessments, reviews, studies that will be undertaken to inform the decision-making on the GSEIS proposed project to extract nearly 40,000ML/yr of water from the River Derwent System at Meadowbank Dam, including who will be responsible for conducting and funding each assessment/review/study, and the timeline within which they will be conducted and completed. (MW)

Witnesses:

Matthew Healey Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Delivery (7:18 pm to 7:30 pm)
David Midson General Manager, Water Resources (7:24 pm to 7:30 pm)

2.4 Marine Resources – considered

Witnesses:

Rae Burrows General Manager (Biosecurity Tasmania)
Chris Lyall Chief Inspector of Primary Produce Safety (Biosecurity Tasmania)

Output Group 3 – Biosecurity

3.1 Biosecurity and Product Integrity – considered

Witness:

Jo Crisp General Manager, Environment (8:01 pm to 8:03 pm)

Output Group 7 – Environment

7.3 Natural Values Management – considered

Witness:

Dr Ryan Wilkinson Director, Inland Fisheries

Inland Fisheries – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 8:27 pm.

The Committee suspended at 8:27 pm.

The Committee resumed at 8:30 pm.

Bill 1 Division 10 – Department of Premier and Cabinet

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

\$983 000

Witness:

Melissa Gray Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform
Jodi Willcox Executive Director, Policy and Intergovernmental

The witnesses took their places at 8:30 pm.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs provided an overview.

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

1.5 Veterans' Affairs - considered

The witness withdrew at 8:45 pm.

Draft questions on notice

The Committee considered the draft correspondence in relation to questions taken on notice.

RESOLVED, that the questions on notice, as amended, be adopted.

Correspondence

Outgoing

1. Letter dated 1 June 2026 to the Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation providing questions taken on notice.
2. Letter dated 1 June 2026 to the Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation providing questions taken on notice in relation to the Integrity Commission.
3. Letter dated 1 June 2026 to the Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation providing question taken on notice in relation to the Office of the Ombudsman.
4. Letter dated 1 June 2026 to the Hon Guy Barnett MP, Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs providing questions taken on notice.
5. Letter dated 1 June 2026 to the Hon Gavin Pearce MP, Minister for Primary Industries and Water providing questions taken on notice.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the outgoing correspondence.

Other Business

Nil.

The Committee suspended at 8:51 pm until 8:45 am on Tuesday, 2 June 2026.

TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026

The Committee resumed at 8:45 am in Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Hobart.

Members present

Ms Armitage (Chair)
Mr Edmunds (from 2:15 pm)
Mr Gaffney (Deputy Chair)
Mr Hiscutt; and
Ms Webb

Apologies

In attendance

Mr James Reynolds (Committee Secretary)
Ms Julie Thompson (Committee Secretary)

The Committee had a general discussion.

The Committee suspended at 8:49 am.

The Committee resumed at 9:00 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Premier attended the Committee.

Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP

Premier

Bill 1 Division 10 – Department of Premier and Cabinet

Premier

\$77 746 000

Witnesses:

Kathrine Morgan-Wicks

Secretary

Lisa Howes

Chief Governance and Risk Officer

Mathew Healey

Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Delivery

Ned Whitehouse

Chief of Staff

The witnesses took their places at 9:00 am.

The Premier provided an overview.

Witnesses:

Noelene Kelly

Acting Chief Operations Officer (9:23 am to 9:26 am)

Mellissa Gray

Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform (10:04 am to 10:05 am)

Amanda Russell

*Deputy Secretary, State Service Management Office
(10:06 am to 10:09 am)*

Questions on Notice:

1. Please provide a list of all ministerial requests for legal assistance made in compliance with the Policy and Guidelines for the Grant of Indemnities and Legal Assistance to Public Officers of the State of Tasmania in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to date, including the names, dates and amounts requested. (MW)
2. Please advise the new timeline for the provision of the new Northern Health Complex to be built at the Launceston General Hospital given the announcement in 2025 noted it would commence construction by 2028. (RA)
3. The guidelines set out that in granting legal assistance a limit can be placed on how much taxpayer support can be provided to a public officer – has any limit been placed on expenditure on Ms Ogilvie's legal costs? (MW)
4. In the 2024-25 financial year, how many invoices for Madeline Ogilvie's legal costs were approved by Cabinet? (MW)
5. What functions do you expect the Independent Complaints Commissioner to perform? Do you know how much was initially requested to fill that position? What is the expected timeline of the outcome to be achieved with these funds? (CH)

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

1.1 Strategic Policy and Government Priorities– considered

Questions on Notice

1. With reference to a media release from the Treasurer on 11 March 2025, entitled “Taking Tasmanian regulation and barriers to task”:
 - The claim is that Tasmania has “the highest number of legislative restrictions per capita in Australia” at 74 per 1,000 people.
 - What is the exact methodology behind this figure?
 - Which independent source produced it, and how does it account for the quality or impact of regulations rather than just raw count?
 - How will success be measured? Will there be a public dashboard tracking the number of repeals, the estimated compliance cost savings, and actual improvements in business investment, employment, or productivity over time?
 - Has the government conducted a regulatory burden audit with independent cost-benefit analysis? If so, what were the key findings on the economic drag of the targeted 40+ Acts and regulations?
 - Can the government publish the full preliminary list of the 40+ Acts and regulations targeted for repeal or amendment, along with the specific reasons for each?
 - a. How will the government handle regulations that appear obsolete but still serve niche protective functions (e.g., old environmental or heritage rules)? (RA)
2. What whole-of-government work is being undertaken to identify and monitor hate groups in Tasmania? Are there any groups or individuals currently on a watch-list? (Not seeking personal identification details of individuals) (MW) Are there any guidelines established to ensure government agencies or representatives are not unwittingly liaising or entering into government contracts with potential hate groups, individuals or those associated closely with them? (MW)

The Committee suspended at 11:00 am.

The Committee resumed at 11:16 am.

Witness:

Noelene Kelly

Acting Chief Operations Officer (11:28 am to 11:35 am)

1.2 Child and Youth Wellbeing – considered

Witness:

Courtney Hurworth

Chief Reform Officer, Keeping Children Safe (11:44 am to 11:57 am)

1.3 Security and Emergency Management – considered

Output Group 2 – Government System Support

2.1 Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliamentary Offices and Office of the Governor – considered

Witness:

Justin Thurley

Chief Information Officer (12:18 pm to 12:22 pm)

2.2 Principal and Subordinate Legislation – considered

Question on Notice:

1. Budget Paper No. 4, pg 77 notes the following performance indicator.: Proportion of key clients that are satisfied that the legislation drafted for the client meets the relevant, and implementable, policy intentions in a legally effective manner. This is trending well. Please provide detail as to how this is measured. (CH)

2.3 State Service Employment and Management – considered

Output Group 3 – Community and Government Service Delivery

3.2 Management and Ongoing Development of Service Tasmania– considered

Tabled Documents

1. myServiceTas information (1 April 25 to 31 March 26)
2. Key highlights (1 April 25 to 31 March 26)

Capital Investment Program –considered

Bill 1 Division 7 – Ministerial and Parliamentary Support

Premier

\$37 919 000

Witnesses:

<i>Kathrine Morgan-Wicks</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Shane Gregory</i>	<i>Associate Secretary</i>
<i>Ned Whitehouse</i>	<i>Chief of Staff</i>

Output Group 1 – Support for Members of Parliament

1.1 Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders – considered

Question on Notice

1. In relation to 1.1 Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders - please provide a detailed breakdown to account for the difference in 2025-26 Budget and 2025-26 Estimated Outcome, including a breakdown by position for any employment separations as part of that increase. (MW)

1.2 Support for Members of the House of Assembly – considered

Questions on Notice

1. What is the total number of staff allocated to all members of parliament in each area of parliament ie. Minor parties and micro parties, independents, including members of the legislative council and hat is the total number of staff they are entitled to? (CH)
2. Regarding Budget paper no. 3, page 5 - Travelling allowance and committee fees do not escalate over the forward estimates, can you please explain why. (CH)

Bill 2 Division 6 – Office of the Governor

Premier \$11 787 000

1.1 Support for the Governor – considered

Witness:

David Hughes CSC *Official Secretary, Office of the Governor (12:59 pm – 1:02 pm)*

Capital Investment Program - considered

Bill 1 Division 1 – Brand Tasmania

Premier \$2 106 000

Witnesses:

Kathrine Morgan-Wicks *Secretary*

Lisa Howes *Chief Governance and Risk Officer*

Ned Whitehouse *Chief of Staff*

Jessica Radford *Acting CEO, Brand Tasmania (1:03 pm to 1:15 pm)*

The Premier provided an overview

Output Group 1 – Brand Tasmania

1.1 Brand Tasmania – considered

Tabled Document

1. About Brand Tasmania 2025-2026

The witnesses withdrew at 1:15 pm.

The Committee suspended at 1:15 pm.

The Committee resumed at 2:15 pm.

Mr *Edmunds* took his place at 2:15 pm.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Minister attended the Committee.

Hon Jane Howlett MP

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events; Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence and Minister for Racing

Bill 1 Division 12 – Tourism Tasmania

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events \$38 325 000

Witnesses:

Brett Stewart *Deputy Secretary, Creative Industries, Sport and Visitor Economy,
Department of State Growth*

Sarah Kingston Clark *Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Tasmania*

Luke Gaetani *Chief of Staff*

The witnesses took their places at 2:15 pm

The Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events provided an overview.

Tabled Document

1. Statement from the Premier – 2 June 2026

Output Group 1 – Tourism

1.1 Tourism – considered

Question on Notice

1. Provide a breakdown of the Tasmanian marketing budget of \$82 million over the forward estimates. (MG)

Bill 1 Division 11 – Department of State Growth

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

\$57 913 000

Witnesses:

Brett Stewart *Deputy Secretary, Creative Industries, Sport and Visitor Economy*
Sarah Clark *Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Tasmania*

Output Group 5 – Cultural and Tourism Development

5.4 Events – considered

Question on Notice

1. Output Group Parks, p. 66 - If we are spending an additional \$63m in Events Tasmania (Budget Paper No. 2, p. 237) over the forward estimates – the return on this investment seems very poor in the state with a target of visitors to our parks shown in Budget Paper No. 4, p. 66 showing a lessening in numbers in the 2026-27 year compared to the 2023-24 target. Will these events not have people exploring our regions? (CH)

5.5 Visitor Economy Support – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 3:06 pm.

The Committee suspended at 3:06 pm.

The Committee resumed at 3:15 pm.

Bill 1 Division 10 – Department of Premier and Cabinet

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

\$18 687 000

Witnesses:

Courtney Hurworth *Chief Reform Lead, Keeping Children Safe Reform Group*
Tegan Dwyer *Assistant Director – Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence*

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence – considered

Questions on Notice

1. In relation to the Federal Government funding streams that are included in Budget Paper No.2, p.222, Table 10.3, line item 1.4 Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, please provide a breakdown of the programs, initiatives, or service streams that are funded and amounts each received from this line item in 2025-26 and planned for 2026-27, and also details of the most recent reporting to the Federal Government in relation to those. (MW)
2. Budget Paper No.2, p.224, explains the decrease in Estimated Outcome for the Women and Prevention of Family Violence Output as reflecting the transfer of appropriation to a number of other Departments to implement activities associated with Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan. Please provide details of the amounts transferred to each Department, the programs funded in each, and amounts of funding transferred for each program. (MW)
3. Please provide the term of reference or scoping document in relation to the evaluation to be undertaken of sexual and family violence services in Tasmania. (MW)

Mr *Edmunds* left the table at 3:54 pm.
Mr *Edmunds* took his place at 4:05 pm.

The witnesses withdrew at 4:14 pm.

The Committee suspended at 4:14 pm.

The Committee resumed at 4:30 pm.

Bill 1 Division 8 – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Minister for Racing

\$45 129 000

Witnesses:

<i>Deidre Wilson</i>	<i>Deputy Secretary Primary Industries and Water, NRE Tas</i>
<i>Sean Carroll</i>	<i>Tasmanian Racing Integrity Commissioner</i>
<i>Anita Yan</i>	<i>Deputy Chief Operations Officer</i>

The witnesses took their places at 4:15 pm.

The Minister for Racing provided an overview.

Output Group 5 – Racing Regulation and Policy

1.1 Racing Regulation and Policy – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 6:00 pm.

The Committee suspended at 6:00 pm.

The Committee resumed at 6:05 pm.

Draft Questions on Notice

The Committee considered the draft correspondence in relation to questions taken on notice.

The Committee **AGREED** that the questions on notice be sent without amendment.

Correspondence

Outgoing

1. Letter dated 2 June 2026 to the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP providing questions taken on notice.
2. Letter dated 2 June 2026 to the Minister for Tourism, Hospitality Events providing questions taken on notice.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the outgoing correspondence.

Other Business

Nil.

The Committee suspended at 6:09 pm until 8:45 am on Wednesday, 3 June 2026

WEDNESDAY, 3 JUNE 2026

The Committee met at 8:45 am in Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Hobart.

Members present

Ms *Armitage* (Chair)
Mr Edmunds (from 9:26 am)
Mr *Gaffney* (Deputy Chair)
Mr *Hiscutt*; and
Ms *Webb*

In attendance

Mr *James Reynolds* (Committee Secretary)
Ms *Julie Thompson* (Committee Secretary)

Draft Questions on Notice

The Committee considered the draft correspondence in relation to questions taken on notice for the Hon Jane Howlett MP, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence.

The Committee **AGREED** that the questions on notice be sent without amendment.

Correspondence

Outgoing

1. Letter dated 2 June 2026 to the Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, the Hon Jane Howlett MP providing questions taken on notice.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the outgoing correspondence.

The Committee suspended at 8:49 am.

The Committee resumed at 9:00 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Minister attended the Committee.

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Minister for Skills and Jobs and Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Division 9 – Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

\$462 227 000

Witnesses:

Adam Foster	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Donna Adams	<i>Commissioner of Police/Secretary, DPFEM/State Controller</i>
Jonathan Higgins	<i>Deputy Commissioner of Police</i>
Adrian Bodnar	<i>Assistant Commissioner Operations</i>
Robert Blackwood	<i>Assistant Commissioner Specialist Support</i>
Doug Oosterloo	<i>Assistant Commissioner Capability</i>
Ross Hinkley	<i>A/Deputy Secretary</i>
Scott Wilson-Haffenden	<i>A/Executive Director, People & Business Services</i>

The witnesses took their places at 9:00 am.

The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management provided an overview.

Mr *Edmunds* took his place at 9:26 am.

Questions on Notice

1. What is the total number of external consultancies for the 2025-2026 year, in a table form with details of the consultants and funding amounts. (MW)
2. Please provide details of all expenditure on internal reviews conducted by external consultants in each of 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26, including how much was spent on each of those contracts. (MW)
3. With regard to the engagement of KPMG for Project Unify and subsequent cancellation of that contract, could you please provide the following information:
 1. Details of all expenditure on KPMG contracts for the project up to the date of cancellation.
 2. Details of deliverables completed under the KPMG contracts.
 3. An explanation of the cancellation of the KPMG contract, for example, was the termination of the contract for cause or convenience, and were any termination payments made to KPMG? (MW)
4. With respect to Project Unify, can you please provide an update on the project's funding and delivery status. Specifically:
 1. In 2020, \$46 million was allocated to Project Unify.
 - Please provide a breakdown of this allocation for specific areas.
 - Please provide details for each area on how much of the allocation has been expended to date?
 - Please provide details on any additional funds which have been allocated in these project areas since the initial 2020 allocation?
 2. Can you provide a timeline showing:
 - What has been delivered in each funded project area
 - The expenditure of funding in each area over time
 - Details on what remains to be delivered
 - The estimated additional funding required to complete the project's objectives. (MW)
5. Please provide the raw data on uptake of the MyPulse wellbeing support service for the past three years, and a breakdown of utilisation by employees and volunteers. (LE)

Output Group 1 – Public Safety

1.1 Support to the Community – considered

The Committee suspended at 10:58 am.

The Committee resumed at 11:15 am.

Output Group 2 – Crime

2.1 Investigation of Crime – considered

Tabled Document

1. Tasmania Police Fatigue Management Framework (January 2026 Version 5.0)

Questions on Notice

1. For each of the years from 2023 to date, how many times has the Special Operations Group been deployed?
2. Of those deployments, how many incidents involved the use or presence of firearms?
3. For the incidents that involved firearms, how many involved:
 - firearms that were registered, and
 - firearms that were unregistered? (MW)

2.2 Fisheries Security - considered

2.3 Support to Judicial Services - considered

Output Group 3 – Traffic Policing

3.1 Traffic Policing - considered

Output Group 4 – Emergency Management

4.2 State Security and Rescue Operations - considered

Tabled Document

1. Family Violence Incidents Involving Firearms as a Weapon, Source: Family Violence Management System, 1 June 2026.

Capital Investment Program – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 12:15 pm.

The Committee suspended at 12:15 pm.

The Committee resumed at 12:17 pm.

4.1 Fire and Emergency Services - considered

State Fire Commission - considered

Witnesses:

Adam Foster

Chief of Staff

Jeremy Smith

Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner

Simon Pilkington

A/Deputy Chief Officer - Operations

Mick Lowe

Executive Director, SES and Volunteers

Ross Hinkley

A/Deputy Secretary

Scott Wilson-Haffenden

A/Executive Director, People and Business Services

The witnesses took their places at 12:17 pm.

Questions on Notice

1. The Terms of Reference for Fire Management Area Committees state reviews of the ToR should occur every 3 years, however it appears they have not been reviewed since 2018 – when will they next be reviewed? (MW)
2. Could you please advise the total number of volunteers and career firefighters within the Tasmanian Fire Service, along with a gender breakdown for each of the past three years, by region across Tasmania? (RA)

The witnesses withdrew at 12:56 pm.

The Committee suspended at 12:56 pm.

The Committee resumed at 2:01 pm.

TasTAFE

Witnesses:

Tim Gardner	<i>Chair, TasTAFE</i>
Dr Norman Baker	<i>CEO, TasTAFE</i>
Alex Paterson	<i>General Manager, Skills and Workforce, Department of State Growth</i>
Adam Foster	<i>Chief of Staff</i>

The witnesses took their places at 2:00 pm.

The Minister provided an overview.

Tabled Document

1. MyPulse activities since program inception

TasTAFE – considered

Mr Gaffney took his place at 2:08 pm.

Questions on Notice

1. As the new health hub at TasTAFE Alanvale opened in late 2025 for training in mental health, youth work and alcohol and other drugs can you please advise the courses available in this health hub and the number of students for each course. (RA)
2. Minister, what resources were released as a result of your cutting 12 courses' last year, and where specifically were those resources reallocated to, (as I understand was agreed to between TasTafe and Skills Tasmania at the time). Were resources reallocated to increasing deed-funded activity in priority training areas, as required by Skills Tasmania, and can you provide evidence of this? (LE)
3. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the total number of external consultancies used in 2025-26, including any still underway, and the costs for each. (MW)
4. How many unfilled TasTAFE teacher vacancies currently exist, and in which course areas? (MW)
5. How many TasTAFE teachers left employment in 2024-25 and in 2025-26 to date? Please provide a gender breakdown of those figures. (MW)
6. Please provide detail of all course fees from 2024-25 and 2025-26. (MW)

7. Please provide the number of TasTAFE teachers at March 2021 and at March 2026 (FTE and head count). (MW)

The witnesses withdrew at 3:14 pm.

The Committee suspended at 3:14 pm.

The Committee resumed at 3:15 pm.

Bill 1 Division 11 – Department of State Growth

Minister for Skills and Jobs

\$120 561 000

Witnesses:

Alex Paterson	<i>General Manager, Skills and Workforce</i>
Stuart Hollingsworth	<i>Executive Director, Economy and Jobs Strategy</i>
Adam Foster	<i>Chief of Staff</i>

The witnesses took their places at 3:15 pm.

The Minister for Skills and Jobs provided an overview.

Output Group 3 – Skills, Training and Workforce Growth

3.1 Skills and Workforce Growth - considered

Question on Notice:

1. In relation to the Closing the Gap initiative which provides a 20% loading of support/subsidy for Aboriginal students, how is the implementation of this by private providers as either fee reduction or additional support monitored? (MW)

Tabled Document:

1. Tasmanian Rescue Helicopter Search and Rescue missions and hours

The witnesses withdrew at 4:01 pm

The Committee suspended at 4:01 pm

The Committee resumed at 4:45pm

Bill 1 Division 11 – Department of State Growth

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

\$55 070 000

Witnesses:

Shane Gregory	<i>Acting Secretary</i>
Dennis Hendriks	<i>Acting Co-ordinator General (to 5:12 pm)</i>
Vanessa Pinto	<i>Deputy Secretary, ReCFIT and Resources</i>
Michael Mogridge	<i>Deputy Secretary, Economic Development</i>
Adam Foster	<i>Chief of Staff</i>
Andrew Crane	<i>Project Director, Office of the Co-ordinator General (5:04 pm to 5:12 pm)</i>

The witnesses took their places at 4:45 pm.

The Minister for Business, Industry and Resources provided an overview.

Question on Notice

1. Please provide details of external consultants used in 2025/26 including any still underway and the costs associated. (MW)

Output Group 1 – Industry and Business Growth

1.1 Office of the Coordinator General – considered

Questions on Notice

1. How much has the office spent on overseas travel? (LE)
2. Can you provide a list of the hotels/motels that have been booked on overseas and interstate travel for the last financial year, including the length of stay, number of guests, and reason for the trip? (LE)

1.2 Industry and Business Development – considered

The Committee suspended at 5:21 pm.

The Committee resumed at 5:22 pm.

Witnesses:

Dr Sarah Russell Director Policy (5:22 pm to 5:47 pm)

Anne Chuter Chief Forest Practices Officer, Forest Practices Authority
(5:23 pm to 5:47 pm)

Output Group 4 – Resources Policy and Regulatory Services

1.1 Forest Policy – considered

Tabled Document

1. TasTAFE Questions on Notice - 03 June 2026

Witness:

Alastair Morton Director, Mineral Resources Tasmania (5:47 pm to 5:53 pm)

1.2 Mineral Resources – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 5:53 pm.

The Committee suspended at 5:53 pm.

The Committee resumed at 5:58 pm.

Draft Questions on Notice

The Committee considered the draft correspondence in relation to questions taken on notice.

The Committee **AGREED** that the questions on notice be sent as amended.

Correspondence

Outgoing

1. Letter dated 3 June 2026 to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, the Hon Felix Ellis MP providing questions taken on notice.
2. Letter dated 3 June 2026 to the Minister for Skills and Jobs, the Hon Felix Ellis MP providing questions taken on notice.
3. Letter dated 3 June 2026 to the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources, the Hon Felix Ellis MP providing questions taken on notice.

The Committee **ENDORSED** the outgoing correspondence.

Other Business

Nil.

The Committee suspended at 6:05 pm until 8:45 am on Thursday, 4 June 2026.

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

The Committee met at 8:45 am in Committee Room 3, Parliament House, Hobart.

Members present

Ms Armitage (Chair)

Mr Edmunds (from 9:00 am)

Mr *Gaffney* (Deputy Chair)

Mr *Hiscutt*; and

Ms *Webb*

In attendance

Mr James Reynolds (Committee Secretary)

Ms Julie Thompson (Committee Secretary)

The Committee had a general discussion.

The Committee suspended at 8:49 am

The Committee resumed at 9:00 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart.

Mr *Edmunds* took his seat at 9:00 am.

Examination of Estimates

According to the Order the Minister attended the Committee.

Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Minister for Education, Minister for Children and Youth and Minister for Disability Services

Bill 1 Division 2 – Department of Education, Children and Young People

Minister for Education

\$2 140 026 000

Witnesses:

Ginna Webster

Secretary

Kane Salter

Deputy Secretary Business Operations and Support

The witnesses took their places at the table at 9:00 am.

The Minister for Education provided an overview.

Witness:

Jodee Wilson

Deputy Secretary Development and Support (9:28 am to 9:33 am)

Output Group 1 – Education

1.1 In School Education – considered

Witnesses:

Trudy Pearce	<i>Deputy Secretary Schools and Early Years (9:46 am to 9:50 am, 10:04 am to 10:20 am, and 10:38 am to 10:42 am, 10:47 to 11.33 am)</i>
Jodee Wilson	<i>Deputy Secretary Development and Support (10:52 am to 11:50 am)</i>
Jenny Burgess	<i>Deputy Secretary Strategy and Performance (10:52 am to 12:00 pm)</i>

The Committee suspended at 10:58 am.

The Committee resumed at 11:15 am.

Tabled Documents

1. Year 11 and 12 annual attendance rates (excluding Colleges)
2. Extension School enrolments – headcount: Year 11 and 12 students at Census 1, 2026

1.2 Early Learning – considered

Output Group 2 – Libraries Tasmania

2.1 Libraries Tasmania – considered

Witness:

Patrick Gregory	<i>Executive Director Libraries Tasmania (11:34 am to 11.50 am)</i>
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Output Group 3 – Education Regulation

3.1 Education Regulation – considered

Witness:

David Tilley	<i>Director Education Regulation (11:50 am to 12:05 pm)</i>
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Grants and Subsidies – considered

Capital Investment Program – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 12:13 pm.

The Committee suspended at 12:13 pm.

The Committee resumed at 12:23 pm.

Bill 1 Division 2 – Department of Education, Children and Young People

Minister for Children and Youth

\$298 041 000

Witnesses:

Ginna Webster	<i>Secretary</i>
Peter Whitcombe	<i>Deputy Secretary Child Safety and Youth Justice Operations</i>
Tiffany Black	<i>Executive Director Children, Young People and Families</i>

The witnesses took their places at 12:23 pm.

The Minister for Children and Youth provided an overview.

Output Group 4 – Children Services

4.1 Services for Children and Families – considered

The witnesses withdrew.

The Committee suspended at 1:13 pm.

The Committee resumed at 2:16 pm.

4.1 Services for Children and Families – further considered

Mr *Edmunds* left the table at 2:31 pm.

Mr *Edmunds* took his place at 2:40 pm.

4.2 Services for Youth Justice – considered

The Committee suspended at 4:15 pm.

The Committee resumed at 4:32 pm.

4.2 Services for Youth Justice – further considered

Witness:

Kane Salter Deputy Secretary Business Operations and Support (4:38 pm to 5:20 pm)

Tabled Document

1. AYDC Incident Review Committee Dates

Output Group 5 – Independent Children’s and Young Persons’ Review Service

3.1 Office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People – considered

The Committee suspended at 5:20 pm.

The Committee resumed at 5:26 pm.

Bill 1 Division 10 – Department of Premier and Cabinet

Minister for Disability Services

\$305 386 000

Witnesses:

Mellisa (Mel) Gray Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

Ingrid Ganley Executive Director, Disability and Reform

The witnesses took their places at 5:26 pm.

The Minister for Disability Services provided an overview.

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

1.7 Disability Services – considered

1.8 National Disability Insurance Scheme – considered

1.10 Office of the Disability Commissioner – considered

The witnesses withdrew at 6:28 pm.

The Committee suspended at 6:28 pm.

The Committee resumed at 6:35 pm.

Questions taken on Notice

There were none.

Other Business

Nil.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 10:00 am in CR2 (Teams available).

Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 6:40 pm.

DATE 17 June 2026

CONFIRMED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rosmary Amato', is written in a cursive style.

CHAIR

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE

ESTIMATES B

MINUTES

17 JUNE 2026

At 9:59 am in Committee Room 2, Parliament House, Hobart and via Teams.

Members Present

Ms Armitage (*Chair*) (*via Teams*)

Mr Gaffney (*via Teams*)

Mr Hiscutt (*via Teams*)

Mr Edmunds (CR2)

Ms Webb (CR2)

Apologies

Nil

In Attendance

Julie Thompson (Committee Secretary)

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 1 June to Thursday, 4 June 2026 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Correspondence

Incoming

1. Letter dated and received 9 June 2026 from the Hon Jane Howlett MP, providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment 1
 - *Table 1 – Tasmanian projects in 2025-26 funded by the Commonwealth under the 2023-25 component of the FFA FDSV*
 - *Table 2 – Tasmanian projects funded by the Commonwealth in 2025-26 under the 2025-30 FFA FDSV*
 - Attachment 2
 - *Table 1 – Agency transfers: Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan*
 - *Table 2 – totals for each Agency*
 - Attachment 3
 - *Evaluation of Tasmania's Family and Sexual Violence Action Plans (2015–2025)*
2. Letter dated and received 9 June 2026 from the Hon Jane Howlett MP, providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events.

3. Letter [no date] received 9 June 2026 from the Hon Gavin Pearce MP providing response to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio Minister for Primary Industries and Water.
4. Letter dated and received 9 June 2026 from the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Premier.
5. Letter dated and received 10 June 2026 from the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, providing a further response to a question taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Premier.
6. Letter dated and received 10 June 2026 from the Hon Guy Barnett MP providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation, including the following attachments:
 - Attachment 1
 - *Response to Question 2 Overview – Breakdown of Consultancies*
 - Attachment 2
 - *Response to Question 3 Overview – Justice ICT Projects and Programs*
 - Attachment 3
 - *Response to Question 4 Overview – Astria Implementation Plan*
 - Attachment 4
 - *Response to Question 4 Overview – Justice Connect Finances*
7. Letter dated and received 10 June 2026 from the Hon Guy Barnett MP providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation (Integrity Commission).
8. Letter dated and received 10 June 2026 from the Hon Guy Barnett MP providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation (Office of the Ombudsman).
9. Letter dated and received 10 June 2026 from the Hon Guy Barnett MP providing response to question taken on notice in relation to portfolio Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs.
10. Letter dated 10 June 2026 and received 11 June 2026 from the Hon Felix Ellis MP, providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Minister for Skills and Jobs (TasTAFE) including the following attachment:
 - Calendar Year [2024] TasTAFE Prices.
11. Document dated and received 12 June 2026 from the Hon Felix Ellis MP, providing responses to question taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.
12. Letter dated and received 12 June 2026 from the Hon Felix Ellis MP, providing responses to questions taken on notice in relation to portfolio of Business, Industry and Resources.

The Committee **RECEIVED** the incoming correspondence.

Outgoing
Nil

Consideration of Draft Reports

1. Hon Guy Barnett MP

Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation – Department of Justice

Integrity Commission

The Office of the Ombudsman

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 and 2, stand part of the Report.

Page 3 to 8, with amendments, stand part of the Report.

Page 9, stand part of the Report.

Page 10, with amendment, stand part of the Report.

Page 11, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

2. Hon Gavin Pearce MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Water – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

Minister for Veterans' Affairs – Department of Premier and Cabinet

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 and 2, stand part of the Report.

Pages 3 and 4, with amendments, stand part of the Report.

Pages 5 and 6, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

3. Hon Jane Howlett MP

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events – Tourism Tasmania

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events – Department of State Growth

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence – Department of Premier and Cabinet

Minister for Racing – Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 and 2, stand part of the Report.

Pages 3 to 6, with amendments, stand part of the Report.

Page 7, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

4. Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP

Premier – Department of Premier and Cabinet
Premier – Ministerial and Parliamentary Support
Premier – *The Office of the Governor*
Premier – Brand Tasmania

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 and 2, stand part of the Report.

Pages, 3 to 7, with amendments, stand part of the Report.

Pages 8 and 9, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

5. Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management – Department of Police, Fire and
Emergency Management
Minister for Skills and Training – Department of State Growth
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources – Department of State Growth

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 and 2, stand part of the Report.

Pages 3 to 8, with amendments, stand part of the Report.

Page 9, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

6. Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Minister for Education – Department of Education, Children and Youth
Minister for Children and Youth – Department of Education, Children and Youth
Minister for Disability Services – Department of Premier and Cabinet

RESOLVED—

Pages 1 to 6, stand part of the Report.

To adopt the Draft Report, as amended, as the Final Report of the Committee.

Other Business

1. Statements – Minister Howlett and Minister Ogilvie legal proceedings

Ms *Webb* raised statements made to this Committee from the Premier in relation to Minister Howlett and Minister Ogilvie's legal proceedings and the subsequent information released by the Premier following Estimates.

RESOLVED, write to the Premier raising the Committee's concerns in relation to statements made and provide Premier with opportunity to address this matter.

2. Presentation for Tabling Final Reports

RESOLVED, the final reports of the Committee be presented for tabling by Ms Webb in the Legislative Council on Friday, 19 June 2026.

3. Minutes from Today's Meeting

RESOLVED, the Chair sign off on today's minutes on behalf of the Committee.

Adjournment

At 11:06 am the Committee adjourned *sine die*.

DATE 17 June 2026

CONFIRMED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rosmary Arncliffe".

CHAIR



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

9 June, 2026

Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Committee B
Email: Julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Armitage

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 1) 2026

DIVISION 10 – DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Please find attached the following responses to questions raised in the examination of the Premier portfolio. I note there are still a couple of answers outstanding, and I will endeavour to have these to the Committee by the close of business tomorrow.

Q2. Please advise the timelines for the provision of the Northern Health Complex to be built at the Launceston General Hospital given the announcement in 2025 noted it would commence construction by 2028. (RA)

The construction of the Northern Health complex will commence following the completion of the new dedicated Northern Mental Health Precinct at Frankland Street, which is expected in 2028.

Q4. In the 2024-25 financial year, how many invoices for Ms Ogilvie's legal cost were approved by Cabinet? (MW)

Once indemnity has been approved by Cabinet, the Cabinet Secretary approves the invoices in line with any conditions.

Q5. What functions do you expect the Independent Complaints Commissioner to perform? Do you know how much was initially requested to fill that position? What is the expected timeline of the outcome to be achieved with these funds? (CH)

The Resolutions of Parliament require the Commissioners to manage the complaints made against Members and they will need to assess, triage, investigate, conciliate and otherwise deal with complaints, including record keeping, case management and reporting requirements. The initial appointees may also be required to assist in developing the framework for this work to occur.

There is funding of \$50,000 in all four years of the Budget to fund this work and the Government will continue to work with the Workplace Oversight Committee and the Presiding Officers to see the framework implemented as soon as possible.

Output Group 1 – Policy Reform and Government Priorities

Output 1.1 – Strategic Policy and Government Priorities

Q1. With reference to a media release from the Treasurer on 11 March 2025, entitled “Taking Tasmanian regulation and barriers to task”:

- **The claim is that Tasmania has “the highest number of legislative restrictions per capita in Australia” at 74 per 1,000 people.**
 - **What is the exact methodology behind this figure?**

The figure was sourced from the Institute of Public Affairs' 2019 report, *The Growth of Regulation in Australia*.

- **Which independent source produced it, and how does it account for the quality or impact of regulations rather than just raw count?**

Further information in relation to methodological approach may be sourced from the Report directly, as well as Institute of Public Affairs and the Mercatus Center/QuantGov at George Mason University.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that a raw count of legislative restrictions, as indicated, is a high-level indicator and accordingly must not necessarily be treated as a standalone measure of regulatory performance.

- **How will success be measured? Will there be a public dashboard tracking the number of repeals, the estimated compliance cost savings, and actual improvements in business investment, employment, or productivity over time?**

On the basis that raw count may not necessarily be commensurate with quality or impact, success will not be determined on raw count.

Accordingly, no public dashboard will be developed at this time, measuring pre-determined metrics. The Government will consider appropriate ways to report on progress.

- **Has the government conducted a regulatory burden audit with independent cost-benefit analysis? If so, what were the key findings on the economic drag of the targeted 40+ Acts and regulations?**

The Government has commissioned an independent audit of State and local government licences, permits and approvals as part of its broader red tape reduction agenda. It is a high-level audit designed to identify potential areas for regulatory reform and streamline approval processes, rather than a cost-benefit analysis of a specific list of Acts and regulations. That Audit was not conducted specifically for the purposes of the approximately 40 Acts and Regulations previously identified.

The Acts and Regulations that were identified were based on a preliminary assessment of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel.

- **Can the government publish the full preliminary list of the 40+ Acts and regulations targeted for repeal or amendment, along with the specific reasons for each?**

The list was prepared with the assistance of the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. It remains preliminary, and was prepared on the basis to inform further consideration by Government.

The Government will consider the release of the information at an appropriate time and once relevant decisions have been made.

- **How will the government handle regulations that appear obsolete but still serve niche protective functions (e.g., old environmental or heritage rules)? (RA)**

This initiative is not directed at removing protections that continue to serve a legitimate regulatory purpose.

The purpose of the review is to identify regulations that are genuinely unnecessary or outdated. If regulations are not obsolete, it is unlikely their removal would satisfy this criterion.

Q2. What whole-of-government work is being undertaken to identify and monitor hate groups in Tasmania? Are there any groups or individuals currently on a watch-list? (Not seeking personal identification details of individuals) (MW) Are there any guidelines established to ensure government agencies or representatives are not unwittingly liaising or entering into government contracts with potential hate groups, individuals or those associated closely with them? (MW)

The Tasmanian Government is part of a national approach to countering terrorist and hate groups. Our approach is aligned to national frameworks that have been developed through groups such as the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee and the First Secretaries' Group, under the direction of National Cabinet. Senior officers in my department, as well as representatives of Tasmania Police, the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies participate in interjurisdictional groups to share information and coordinate a national policy response.

The *Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)* established mechanisms for listing three types of terrorist and hate groups:

- Terrorist organisations
- State sponsors of terrorism
- Prohibited hate groups

Currently listed groups are available on the Australian Government National Security website. There are two currently listed prohibited hate groups: Hizb ut-Tahrir and White Australia.

The mechanisms for listing state sponsors of terrorism and prohibited hate groups were introduced by the Australian Government in late 2025 and early 2026. This was done with the support of states and territories, including Tasmania, in response to the antisemitic activities of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Australia and increased threats from hate groups. Listing decisions are made by the Australian Federal Police Minister based on intelligence advice. States and territories are generally consulted or informed about listings.

I am unable to provide specific information which may prejudice or compromise ongoing Tasmania Police investigative activity, either in Tasmania or elsewhere.

The Tasmanian Government is implementing Tasmania's Protective Security Policy Framework (TAS-PSPF), which is designed to achieve a coordinated, risk-based approach to managing the broad range of security risks that affect government. This includes:

- Obligations to systematically report and investigate security breaches and incidents, to help identify and address incidental or unintentional security risks
- Consistent minimum requirements for managing information, including restrictions on the use and distribution of valuable information beyond government
- Guidance for managing people with access to government resources, including the use of security clearances or other certifications/checks where appropriate

The TAS-PSPF recognises that good security practice, pursued across all security domains, is the best way to build resilience in a security environment where it may not be possible to foresee every specific threat.

Output Group 2 - Government System Support Output

2.2 – Principal and Subordinate Legislation

Q.1 Budget Paper No. 4, pg 77 notes the following performance indicator.: *Proportion of key clients that are satisfied that the legislation drafted for the client meets the relevant, and implementable, policy intentions in a legally effective manner.* This is trending well. Please provide detail as to how this is measured. (CH)

At the end of each financial year, the Office of Parliamentary Counsel releases an annual Stakeholder Survey to Government members and government departments, and other entities such as Marine and Safety Tasmania, who have regularly engaged with its services over the preceding 12-month period. This survey captures performance information that is used to enhance and improve service delivery.

From 2026 onwards, the Office of Parliamentary Counsel will extend an invitation all Members of Parliament who have engaged with their services to provide feedback through a targeted stakeholder survey.

DIVISION 7 – MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

Output Group 1 – Support for Members of Parliament

Output 1.1 – Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders

Q1. Provide a detailed breakdown to account for the difference in 2025-26 Budget and 2025-26 Estimated Outcome, including a breakdown by position for any employment separations as part of that increase. (MW)

There are two primary and inter-related reasons for the increase in expenditure for MPS – including the expansion of the House of Assembly to 35 members, the appointment of two new Ministers, and the operational and staffing impacts arising from, and following, the two elections in 2024 and 2025.

The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the additional MPS employment costs forming part of the 2025-26 Estimated Outcome:

Details	Total Amount
Funding to meet salaries and salary on-costs for two new ministerial offices, staffing and operational costs for 10 new Members of Parliament and additional funding for Labor and the Greens	\$5,000,000
Funding for MPS employment separation costs including leave entitlements and termination payments – across Government, Labor, Greens and Independents – outlined by positions below.	\$938,860
Additional electorate office fit out and leasing costs as part of the increase to a 35-seat parliament	\$1,900,000
Additional supplies, consumables and expenditure	\$387,140

The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the MPS employment separation costs forming part of the 2025-26 Estimated Outcome:

Position Title	Total Amount
Adviser	\$93,439
Chief of Staff	\$144,241
Community Organiser	\$4,957
Director Communications	\$5,743
Director Digital	\$3,237
Driver	\$46,506
Electorate Officer	\$236,368
Executive Officer	\$91,211
Media Adviser	\$47,058
Office Manager	\$19,224
Policy Adviser	\$2,509
Principal Adviser	\$41,150
Senior Adviser	\$157,436
Senior Media Adviser	\$2,338
Senior Political Adviser	\$43,443
	\$938,860

Output 1.2 – Support for Members of the House of Assembly

Q1. What is the total number of staff allocated to all members of parliament in each area of parliament ie. Minor parties and micro parties, independents, including members of the legislative council and what is the total number of staff they are entitled to? (CH)

House of Assembly – Electorate Office Staffing @ 31 March, 2026

Liberal	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Eric Abetz, MP	1.0	1.0
Bridget Archer, MP	1.0	1.0
Guy Barnett, MP	1.0	1.0
Felix Ellis, MP	1.5	2.0
Rob Fairs, MP	1.0	1.0
Michael Ferguson, MP	1.6	2.0
Jane Howlett, MP	1.0	1.0
Roger Jaensch, MP	1.0	1.0
Gavin Pearce, MP	1.0	1.0
Jacquie Petrusma, MP (1 FTE Mat Leave)	2.3	3.0
Mark Shelton, MP	1.4	2.0
Marcus Vermey, MP	1.6	2.0
Totals	15.4	18.0

Labor	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Shane Broad, MP	1.5	2.0
Meg Brown, MP	1.0	1.0
Jen Butler, MP	1.5	2.0
Anita Dow, MP	1.5	2.0
Janie Finlay, MP	1.3	2.0
Jess Greene, MP	2.2	3.0
Ella Haddad, MP	1.4	2.0
Brian Mitchell, MP	0.6	1.0
The Honourable Josh Willie, MP	1.5	2.0
Dean Winter, MP	1.5	2.0
Totals	14.0	19.0

Tas Greens	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Tabatha Badger, MP	1.0	1.0
Vica Bayley, MP	1.6	2.0
Cecily Rosol, MP	1.6	2.0
Rosalie Woodruff, MP	1.6	2.0
Totals	5.8	7.0

Shooters, Fishers and Farmers	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Carlo Di Falco, MP	2.4	3.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Helen Burnet, MP	2.6	3.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Craig Garland, MP	1.5	2.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Peter George, MP	2.4	3.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
Kristie Johnston, MP	2.0	2.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
David O'Byrne, MP	2.6	3.0

Independent	Paid FTEs	Paid H/C
George Razay, MP	0.8	1.0

FTE - Full-Time Equivalent paid

HC - Head Count paid

The Labor Opposition, Tasmanian Greens and Independent Members of the House of Assembly are allocated an overall office budget that includes funding for employee salaries. This allocation is provided as a total budget rather than as a specific full-time equivalent (FTE) or headcount entitlement, with MPs able to allocate funding at their own discretion.

In relation to Legislative Council Electorate Office funding, the Government provides funding for 1.5 FTEs per member, which includes one full-time Band 4 employee, and a further additional recent allocation of \$50,000 per member to spend on electorate office staffing at their individual discretion – bringing the total funding allocation to 1.5 FTE electorate officers per Member.

Yours sincerely



Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

10 June, 2026

Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC
Chair
Legislative Council Committee B
Email: Julie.thompson@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Armitage

I write further to my letter dated 9 June 2026 providing answers to Question on Notice during Budget Estimates.

Please find a further response below, noting that there are still two outstanding responses which we will endeavour to get to the Committee as soon as possible.

DIVISION 7 – MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

Output 1.2 – Support for Members of the House of Assembly

Q2. Regarding Budget Paper No. 3, page 5 — travelling allowance and committee fees do not escalate over the Forward Estimates. Can you please explain why?

Travelling allowances and committee fees are Reserved by Law and are provided for under the Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012.

The relevant allowances are determined in accordance with the statutory framework, including determinations made by the Tasmanian Industrial Commission.

For Budget purposes, the relevant figures are entered into the relevant budget information management systems by the House of Assembly. As these allowances are determined under the statutory framework, rather than through the ordinary agency appropriation process, and are generally fixed by the relevant determinations, they have not been escalated over the Forward Estimates in Budget Paper No. 3.

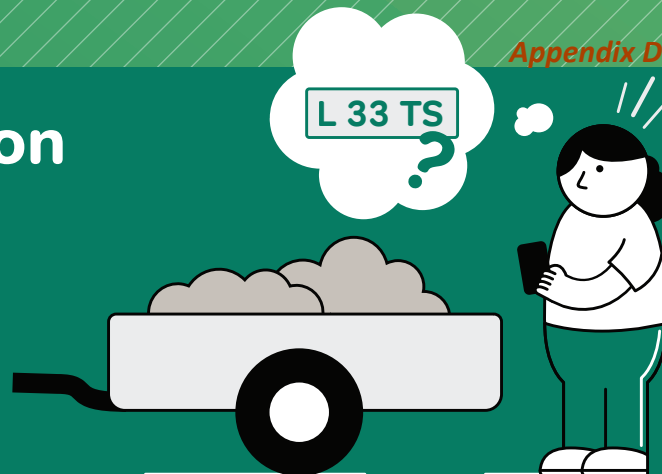
Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

myServiceTas information

1 April 25 to 31 March 26

Providing Tasmanians with a personalised online account for selected government services in one place – anytime, anywhere.



89,355

unique accounts
created

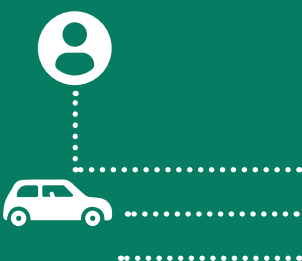
**myServiceTas
transactions**

794

fire
permits

171,319

vehicle renewals



23,423

licence
renewals



6,721

Plates Plus
sign ups



6,559

burn
registrations



2,679

short term unregistered
vehicle permits

New Services



- myServiceTas app launched December 2025
- Temporary upgrade permits for heavy vehicles
- Marine and Safety Tasmania (MAST) portal access for boat licencing, registration and moorings
- Working with Vulnerable People renewals, identity verification and live face check

Coming soon



- Identity verification enhancements
- Seniors card integration
- Payment gateway for cross-agency use
- App digital wallet development

Additional information



- 51,426 'Get Started with myServiceTas' page views
- \$8.3 million funding over four years provided in 2024-25 Budget to keep myServiceTas operational and to develop further services
- myServiceTas complements Service Tasmania's existing service channels (27 service centres, phone and website)

Service Tasmania



1300 13 55 13 | service.tas.gov.au

Key highlights | 1 April 25 to 31 March 26

Customers



- 1,003,764 customer enquiries (in person/phone)
- 5,695 replies to customer email queries
- 86% customer satisfaction rating
- 3 million+ unique website page views

myServiceTas



- 89,355 unique accounts created
- 211,495 transactions completed
- 18,847 digital customer support cases actioned
- 30,000 downloads of new myServiceTas app (launched in December 2025)

See myServiceTas tabling document for more

Community Grants & Programs



The Community Grants and Programs unit within Service Tasmania includes Seniors Card and Companion Card Programs, Personal Information Cards, Veterans Wellbeing Voucher Program, Tasmanian Concessions and Discounts Guide, and Community Grants.

Community Grants

- 7 different ministerial portfolios grant program delivery
- \$70 million grant payments for 993 grants
- 23 total grant programs delivered:
 - 5 emergency assistance grant programs during declared emergency events (\$172,000)
 - o Partnered with Libraries Tasmania and other community organisations to improve access and support of grant applications
 - o Supported 454 individuals across three bushfire events
 - 18 community grant programs (approx. \$11 million)
- Administered \$56 million in funding to community organisations through election commitments and targeted initiatives

Community Programs

- 6,751 new Seniors Cards issued
- 406 new Companion Cards issued
- 7,576 Personal Information Cards issued
- 964 Veterans Wellbeing Vouchers issued

Capital investments



- Refurbishment of Smithton service centre to Service Tasmania's modern look and feel, to significantly improve customer and staff amenities

New customer communications systems



- Centrally controlled digital signage in 27 service centres
- New concierge ticketing system

Community and staff engagement



Community

- Agfest 2025 mobile service centre
- ATSA Independent Living Expo for people with a disability, seniors and carers
- Over 80% community support for change of hours at Beaconsfield and Campbell Town service centres

Staff

- Introduction of a Service Recognition Program for staff across the organisation

New Services



- Embedded Network Electricity Concession
- National Livestock ID System (NLIS) Registration
- Request to Obtain a Property Identification Code
- Ticket to Wellbeing application
- Identity Verification (DVS) for Australian Government Security Clearance,
- Tasmanian Multicultural Advisory Council and Older Tasmanians Ministerial Advisory Council applications
- Recycle Rewards bag sales
- 6 new variations of decorative birth certificates
- Free Personal Information Card exchange for customers who voluntarily surrender licence

Service Tasmania



1300 13 55 13 | service.tas.gov.au



TASMANIAN



ABOUT BRAND TASMANIA

2025-2026

TASMANIAN.COM.AU

#BETASMANIAN





What is a place brand?

A place brand is more than a logo, slogan, or marketing campaign — it's a shared identity, values, and story, expressed authentically through people, products, and place. It captures what makes the place distinctive, guiding how it is seen both by those who live there and by those who engage with it from outside.

Globally, place branding has evolved as an essential strategy for economic development, tourism, investment attraction, and civic pride.

The Tasmanian Brand

Tasmania's brand is one of our most valuable assets. It reflects who we are, where we've come from, what we stand for, and where we're heading. Our brand is grounded in five values — quiet confidence, determination and hard work, quality over quantity, connectedness, and a commitment to protect, preserve and promote the unusual.

The foundation of the Tasmanian brand is a consistent and powerful story built on these five values. It's a story we — Tasmanians — tell ourselves and each other, and how our customers and audiences in Australia and around the world understand it. Our place brand is a unifying cultural expression and strategy.



What is Brand Tasmania?

Brand Tasmania is a government enabled, and industry and community supported, place branding organisation. We were the first statutory place branding authority to be established in Australia, created under the *Brand Tasmania Act 2018*. We are responsible for taking a best practice approach to ensure the Tasmanian brand is strengthened locally, nationally and internationally, and is promoted as a key asset of the Tasmanian community.

Over the past six years, we have proven that place branding is not just about communications and reputation, it's a strategic tool that drives economic growth, unites our communities, and delivers lasting value to Tasmanians.

Our approach has been internationally recognised for bringing together of local voices and shared values to drive meaningful economic and cultural impact. We showcase our work within the international place branding and local development networks — from the OECD to City Nation Place. Since launching the Tasmanian brand work in 2019, we have received the following recognition.

- 2020 – City Nation Place Best Use of Design – Finalist
- 2021 – City Nation Place Best Citizen Engagement – Finalist
- 2021 – City Nation Place Place Brand of the Year – Winner
- 2021 – Place Marketing Forum Branding – Winner
- 2023 – City Nation Place Best Citizen Engagement – Highly Commended
- 2024 – City Nation Place Best Citizen Engagement – Winner
- 2025 – Place Brand Impact Story Awards Originality – Winner

Who we are

Brand Tasmania is led by the Chief Executive Officer. It has a small and dynamic multi-skilled team. At 30 June 2025, Brand Tasmania had 6.9 full-time equivalent employees and a 10-member board.

Because of the enormity of our ambition and the small size of our team, we operate as a client-service organisation, partnering with stakeholders across business, all tiers of government and the community, to empower Tasmanians to tell their story in words, in images and, most importantly, through action.

Brand Tasmania's 2024-25 budget was \$2.263 million.

The Tasmanian Story

It isn't easy in Tasmania. It never has been. People said it was impossible, and for too long we believed it. This is why, for Tasmanians, good enough is never good enough. We work harder, we follow our obsessions, we support one another, and we protect what makes this place different.

Being Tasmanian is the quiet pursuit of the extraordinary.

Our objectives and purpose

These are our broad objectives:

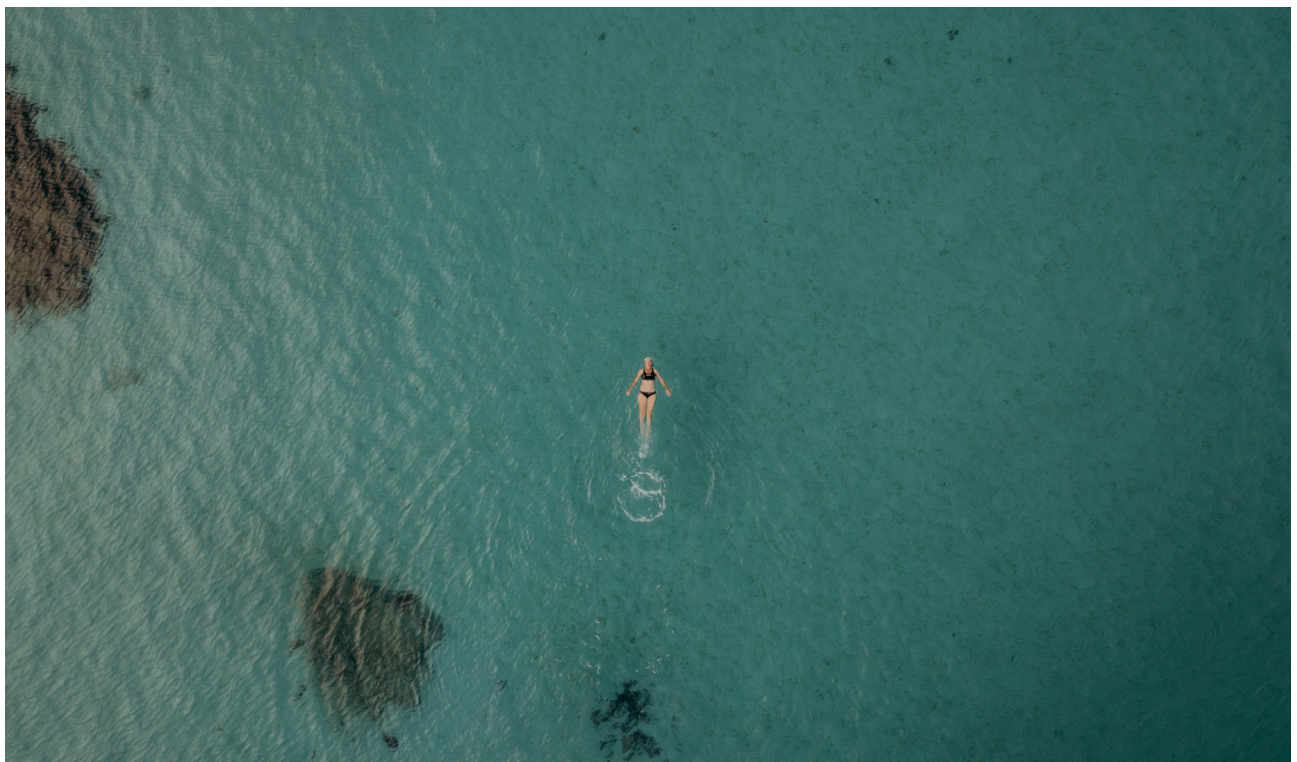
- To develop, maintain, protect and promote a Tasmanian brand that is differentiated and enhances our appeal and competitiveness nationally and internationally.
- To strengthen Tasmania's image and reputation locally, nationally and internationally.
- To nurture, enhance and promote the Tasmanian brand as a shared public asset.

Our purpose is to bring more value to everything Tasmanian.

Because of the enormity of our ambition and the small size of our team, we operate as a client-service organisation, partnering with stakeholders across business, all tiers of government and the community, to empower Tasmanians to tell their story in words, in images and, most importantly, through action.

BICHENO

Image by Bree Sanders





Our reach and value

With our modest annual budget of around \$2.2 million, Brand Tasmania engages over 3,500 Tasmanian individuals and businesses through our Partner Program, certifies hundreds of Tasmanian products and services, delivers the Tasmanian story directly into the homes of more than 5,800 new Little Tasmanians each year, captures 150,000 unique users and 80,000 direct followers across our websites and social channels, and receives more than 5 million impressions of our digital content annually. We build pride in our young people, deliver workshops, undertake research, support innovation, and are helping Tasmania compete for global talent in a fiercely contested market.

Our work is already delivering for our partners and stakeholders across the state, and the demand for our support and services continues to grow. We are building a comprehensive measurement and impact framework to more completely understand the ROI of our projects and the impact of our work.

How we add value

Over the past six years, we have witnessed an extraordinary shift in the way Tasmania sees itself and how the world sees Tasmania. More than ever, the Tasmanian brand — informed by our community and their quiet pursuit of the extraordinary — has become a powerful force for economic, social, and cultural progress.

We have built a new and distinctly Tasmanian model of place branding that has been studied, replicated, and celebrated across the country and around the world.

A strong Tasmanian brand builds pride, trust, and alignment internally, while signalling authenticity, stability, and opportunity externally. We can use our place brand to:

- **Strengthen community cohesion** by providing a unifying narrative that highlights who we are, at our best.
- **Attract and retain talent** by aligning with our audiences' lifestyle aspirations and values.
- **Invite investment and trade opportunities** by showcasing our competitive advantages and high-quality products.
- **Increase tourism yield** by appealing to visitors seeking authentic, values-drive experiences.



“Tasmania has so much to offer. But it’s been a well kept secret for a very long time. I think it’s time that we do share Tasmania with the world.”

- CLARA JO, ORAL HEALTH CLINICIAN



How we work

Every project we deliver, every story we tell, every workshop we host, and every conversation we have is designed to ensure more Tasmanians feel seen, supported, and inspired to be part of this work. This includes you.

To maximise our impact, we take a layered and coordinated approach to our different activities:

- We start by **building emotional connection** — we shape how people feel about Tasmania through storytelling and direct engagement, growing brand loyalty with our community, audiences, and customers.
- We form **purposeful partnerships** that align stakeholder initiatives with the Tasmanian brand, using practical tools and advice to amplify our collective benefit. We use the Tasmanian brand to enhance our partners' success, support unified messaging across sectors and regions, and to increase our differentiation.
- We support **brand-informed strategy** by working with policy and decision makers to embed the brand into long-term planning, allowing us to better manage risk, ensure sustainable growth, and support broader strategic outcomes for Tasmania.

Starting with emotional connection, building through trusted relationships and stakeholder involvement, and leading to meaningful outcomes — informed by Tasmanian thinking — our approach ensures the brand has an impact at every level of influence, and across the breadth of our stakeholders.

Our projects



Tasmanian Stories

The Tasmanian brand is an evocation of what our partners told us in our interviews: a story and a strategy. Our role is to tell their story back to them, to share examples of how Tasmanians have made the impossible possible, of overcoming obstacles, of determination grit, invention, imagination and extraordinary outcomes.



Little Tasmanian

Little Tasmanian aims to bring the Tasmanian story into the lives of new Tasmanians in their early years, and connect parents and carers with Tasmania-relevant information about the first 1,000 days. Using a message of 'someone like you did it, and you can do it too', Little Tasmanian encourages aspiration, confidence, and pride in children and their trusted adults from the very beginning.



Tasmanian Health Recruitment

This content-driven project shares a range of stories and resources from Tasmanian health professionals demonstrating the advantages of pursuing or continuing a health career in Tasmania.

In partnership with the Talent Acquisition team in the Department of Health.



Tasmanian Youth Story

The Tasmanian Youth Story project captures the unique experiences of what it is like being a young person living in Tasmania and helps decision-makers better understand what young people want and need — making it a fairer and more inclusive place for everyone.

In partnership with the Youth Network of Tasmania.



The Tasmanian Mark

The Tasmanian Mark operates as a 'place of origin' marker and is part of a targeted effort to differentiate Tasmanian products and services in local, national and international markets, and to drive more value for everything Tasmanian.



Population Policy

This project aims to translate Tasmania's complex population challenge into a clear, emotionally resonant narrative that influences strategic thinking and coordinated planning across government and partner organisations.

In partnership with the Population and Coordination team in the Department of State Growth.



Women in Tasmania

This project celebrates and showcases the leadership and contributions of Tasmanian women by highlighting the diversity of their achievements and the impact they have on our community, economy, culture, and environment.

In partnership with the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



The Tasmanian Scent

In our interviews with Tasmanians, we heard a lot of stories that were connected to sensory experiences: the taste of the food, the sounds of birds, the smell of fresh air. Scent came up a lot: the unique fragrances of leatherwood honey or Huon pine, the smell of gum trees on a bush walk, seaweed on the coast at low tide. We experience places through all our senses, and the Tasmanian scent project is the olfactory expression of our story.



Public Sector Culture and jobs.tas.gov.au

This project uncovers a unified Tasmanian Public Service story that reflects the meaningful, diverse work of public servants. In the next stage of this project, the jobs.tas.gov.au website is being redesigned to align with the Tasmanian brand and support recruitment through the message of “Meaningful Work, Meaningful Place.”

In partnership with the State Service Management Office in the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



Tasmanian Workshops

Our brand workshops empower partners to understand and apply the Tasmanian brand story in ways that are authentic to their own work. By building shared language and confidence, these sessions help bring the brand to life across diverse sectors and communities.



Climate Change Champions Storytelling

The Climate Change Champions project will commence in late 2025 and celebrate innovative climate action across Tasmania by sharing real-world stories that inspire others and build momentum for change.

In partnership with the Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania team in the Department of State Growth.



Tasmanian Toolkit

The Tasmanian digital toolkit is an important resource that helps partners access brand-aligned content while providing insights into what materials are most needed. By continually expanding and refining the toolkit based on user feedback, we ensure it remains a practical and inspiring tool for sharing Tasmania’s story.



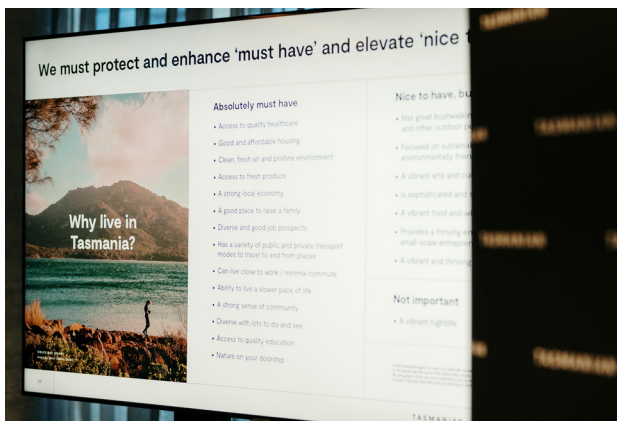
The Tasmanian Lab

The Tasmanian Lab is our strategic and creative engine. It brings together government, business, and communities to co-design solutions that are uniquely Tasmanian. This is where our Tasmanian identity fuels Tasmanian innovation, and where we tackle the complex challenges facing our communities with imagination, evidence, and place-based insight.



Local Government Engagement

Working with local councils is essential to sharing the Tasmanian brand in ways that reflect the character and needs of each community. By supporting place-based projects instead of traditional rebranding, we help councils bring their existing identities to life and invite people to connect more deeply with their regions.



Sentiment and Research

Brand Tasmania's sentiment and research work is essential for ensuring that strategies and storytelling are grounded in the real needs, values, and aspirations of people in Tasmania, on the mainland, and abroad. By combining quantitative tracking with deep qualitative insights, this work helps tailor messaging to different audiences and strengthens partnerships across government and community.



Women in Sport

This project celebrates and showcases the quiet achievers and community champions in sport and active recreation across Tasmania by highlighting examples of women who lead, women in their communities, and women supporting other women. The project aims to improve participation and access for women and girls in all aspects of sport and active recreation.

In partnership with the Active Tasmania team in the Department of State Growth.



“The brand storytelling workshop was my first introduction to Tasmania. I had never seen such a high level of support for a person who had just moved to the state. I didn’t know that anything like this existed. I was a bit overwhelmed at how genuine and engaged the agency was in trying to make a meaningful difference to people’s lives among those that choose to live here.”

- FY23-24 PARTNER SURVEY

Why investment in the Tasmanian brand matters

For our partners

Across government, business, and community sectors, partners are actively engaging with the brand and seeking support, advice, the tools, and inspiration.

To tell our stories

Through initiatives like Little Tasmanian, the Tasmanian Mark, Tasmanian Stories, and our partner program, we are shaping how Tasmania sees itself and how the world sees us.

Our impact is real

Brand Tasmania's work has always been focused on supporting economic, social, and cultural growth across Tasmania: it all its forms. Our work engages with economic development, early childhood wellbeing, workforce attraction, community resilience, and public sector innovation. This is not marketing; it is systems change through identity and belonging. And it has a real impact on how we see ourselves and how others see us.

FLINDERS ISLAND

Image by Studio Hubert





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TASMANIAN





PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

TRANSCRIPT

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP

Tuesday 2 June 2026

MEMBERS

Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC (Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Mike Gaffney MLC

Hon Casey Hiscutt MLC

Hon Meg Webb MLC

OTHER PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

IN ATTENDANCE

HON. JEREMY ROCKLIFF MP

Premier

Ministerial Office Representative

Ned Whitehouse

Chief of Staff

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Kathrine Morgan-Wicks

Secretary and Head of the State Service

Lisa Howes

Chief Governance and Risk Officer

Mathew Healey

Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Delivery

(in the room)

Noelene Kelly

Deputy Secretary and Acting Chief Operations Officer

Courtney Hurworth

Chief Reform Officer, Keeping Children Safe

Amanda Russell

Deputy Secretary, State Service Management Office

Melissa Gray

Deputy Secretary, Policy and Reform

Penny Ratcliffe

Director, Human Resources Transformation Program

Glen Dean

Chief Financial Officer

Simon Hiscock

Executive Director, Resilience and recovery Tasmania

Justin Thurley

Chief Information Officer

Jessica Radford

A/CEO, Brand Tasmania

PUBLIC

Premier

The Committee met at 9.00 a.m.

DIVISION 10

Department of Premier and Cabinet

CHAIR - Thank you very much, Premier, for being here this morning, and welcome to our second day of Estimates. I'll just introduce the team at our side of the table. We have the honourable Meg Webb, the member for Nelson; myself, Rosemary Armitage, member for Launceston; the honourable Michael Gaffney, member for Mersey; and the honourable Casey Hiscutt, member for Montgomery.

Assisting us we have James and Julie, our secretaries, and Gaye on Hansard. Premier, if there are questions that you can't answer, we're very happy to provide them to you in written form so that you can provide them either later in the day or in a few days' time, preferably. If you'd like to introduce the members of your team.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I would, Chair. Thank you very much for the day, and I do have a very short opening statement. But prior to that, I want to welcome to the table Kath Morgan-Wicks, who is the Secretary and Head of State Service; Lisa Howes, who's the Chief Governance and Risk Officer; and Mathew Healey, who's the Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Delivery; and I'll introduce others as they come to the table for the other output groups; and to my left is Mr Ned Whitehouse, who's our Chief of Staff.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. If you'd like to start with your opening statement, and then we'll ask a few questions.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Chair. The 2026-27 Budget gets the balance right. It delivers a responsible plan for strengthening the state's finances. It delivers economic growth and supports our central services. Two-thirds of this Budget will be spent on health, education and public safety, and it's about delivering this investment without increasing taxes, mindful of the cost-of-living pressures that Tasmanians are already facing.

In this Budget, health spending is more than \$15 billion, over \$10 million a day, an increase on last year's interim Budget. To put that into context, when we came into government, health spending was just \$5.8 billion, and that's a 159 per cent increase, up \$9.2 billion. Education funding has grown from \$5.8 billion in 2014. I remember it well as education minister. Today, it is nearly \$10 billion, \$9.92 billion. That's an increase of 71 per cent, or \$4.1 billion.

This Budget will also invest \$1.37 billion into policing and community safety and \$900 million for safe and affordable housing. Of course, the Budget continues our free public transport for an additional 12 months.

You can see that delivering and maintaining our frontline services remains a priority for our government. However, I do reiterate that growth in the State Service is unsustainable. It has grown by almost 6 per cent at the same time as our population's grown by just 0.6 per cent over the past four years prior to our hiring freeze.

The hiring freeze for our non-essential recruitment in March last year has helped to arrest this growth, but in order to responsibly manage growth, yesterday I announced a voluntary redundancy program across the State Service. This will assist the government in meeting operational budget efficiencies outlined in the 2026-27 Budget. We do not intend the Targeted Negotiated Voluntary Redundancy Program to be ongoing. It is a one-off opportunity for approximately 500 TNVRs for the 2026 calendar year only and will assist our agencies realign and continue to deliver essential services to the community.

I do want to be clear, Chair, that we will also be delivering sensible and considered reductions in staffing, in the main through natural attrition, transfers and voluntary exits. It will be up to each departmental secretary to consider every role in their agencies and the most efficient structures needed to support our central service delivery, prioritising workload, public service, and of course managing their budget.

This is about a sensible, measured and sustainable approach to bring the size of our State Service to a level that we can continue to afford, and one our community can rely on for the essential services that Tasmanians need and deserve. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. First question's from Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Morning, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Morning, Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - I'm sure you probably realise the matter that I'm going to open with, Premier, here today. It's a serious matter, one that goes to the heart of your government's reputation for accountability, transparency and trustworthiness. Let me preface my questions with the reassurance that I am very well aware of the need to not reflect upon live legal in-court actions.

I do not believe that the questions I'm going to put to you do that, and more importantly, Premier, I don't believe that you providing answers to these questions would do so, either. That's my understanding as we go, and I'm going to genuinely put some questions to you.

Premier, it's now recognised that former minister Ogilvie misled the parliament on 17 November 2025 when she responded during that session of budget Estimates hearings with 'no' when asked if she had been a subject or party to any Supreme Court matters in the prior 18 months. Premier, when were you first aware that the minister had misled the parliament on that occasion?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Ms Webb. I appreciate the question, and I was asked a series of questions yesterday on this matter. My answers remain the same: these are complex matters, particularly given the confidentiality requirement, and I will not commenting further on these matters.

Ms WEBB - Were you aware of Ms Ogilvie's subsequent clarification note dated 20 November at the time it was submitted by the budget Estimates Committee process, in which you sought to address the error but in a less-than-transparent manner, as it still failed to disclose any legal proceedings she initiated?

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you very much for the question, Ms Webb. I will provide the same answer as I gave yesterday to these questions, and I was asked many questions to do with these matters, and I won't be commenting further.

Ms WEBB - If you were aware in November last year of Ms Ogilvie's attempt to clarify the situation, when did you become aware that the clarification still failed to correct the record and was misleading parliament?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question, Ms Webb. Can I say also that Ms Ogilvie has given and undertaken to provide full details when she's legally able to do so.

Ms WEBB - Premier, there were two serious matters of non-transparency here. One is the former minister's misleading of parliament, and the other is whether you were aware that she had done so and when you were aware.

We have to presume that those matters of ministerial responsibility relevant to our Ministerial Code of Conduct and parliamentary transparency are not being examined by the current Supreme Court proceedings, and as such there should be no impediment to you disclosing to the parliament what you knew when and what action you took. On what basis are you refusing to answer these questions?

Mr ROCKLIFF - As I said, these are complex matters, and I won't be commenting any further.

Ms WEBB - Premier, can you confirm that under the Policy and Guidelines for the Grant of Indemnities and Legal Assistance to Public Officers of the State of Tasmania, the guidelines that have been referred to in some previous hearings, including ours yesterday, the definition of 'public officer' includes a minister of the Crown?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm advised, yes, it does.

Ms WEBB - Premier, can you confirm that under section 3, 'Guidelines for the Application of the Policy', 3.1, 'Notification of Legal Proceedings by Public Officer', as Premier, you are the relevant responsible officer for ministers or other government members?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, that's correct.

Ms WEBB - According to the guidelines, can you confirm that should a minister be seeking legal assistance, they must notify you as the Premier or submit a request to you as Premier?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, under the policy, that is correct. Yes.

Ms WEBB - Did former minister Ogilvie notify you or submit a request to you under this provision of the guidelines or any other provision?

Mr ROCKLIFF - We're getting into areas - that brings me back to the first answer around complex matters, and I won't be commenting any further.

PUBLIC

Ms WEBB - Again, this is a procedural question not related to court matters; it's related to processes and procedures of your government, Premier. I'm asking whether Ms Ogilvie submitted a notification as per these guidelines, and did they comply with the requirements in the guidelines, which require that such notification include details such as a full disclosure of circumstances giving rise to the legal proceeding, inquiry or investigation; and supply of any additional information reasonably requested; and also a description of the facts leading up to and relevant to the event giving rise to the legal proceedings. Did Ms Ogilvie's notification to you comply with those requirements?

Mr ROCKLIFF - The best of my knowledge is that the guidelines have been complied with.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, Premier. Ms Ogilvie has informed the public she has initiated a current legal action. That's a matter of public fact that she has done that. The guidelines that we're referring to state on page 12: 'Legal assistance will not be provided in relation to legal proceedings initiated by a public officer other than in respect to a range of matters.' Were you satisfied that the legal action for which she was applying for legal assistance would be exempt according to the guidelines?

Mr ROCKLIFF - To the best of my knowledge, the guidelines have been complied with. Thank you for the question.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Premier, are all requests for taxpayer-funded legal assistance for ministers and MPs approved by Cabinet?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - What information is provided to Cabinet when a request is considered?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That would -

Ms WEBB - I'm not asking about a specific example.

Mr ROCKLIFF - All requests are complying, to the best of my knowledge, with the guidelines.

Ms WEBB - But I'm asking you, in terms of the Cabinet decision or a decision put to Cabinet, what information is required to accompany such a request?

Mr ROCKLIFF - It's a matter for a Cabinet, and to the best of my knowledge, all those requests have complied with the guidelines.

Ms WEBB - So, the details that are required under the guidelines are the details that go to Cabinet in such an example?

Mr ROCKLIFF - To the best of my knowledge, yes, comply with the guidelines.

Ms WEBB - And are ministers required to absent themselves from Cabinet when their own legal assistance is being considered?

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Premier, it's been reported that in the matter of the Supreme Court proceedings initiated by former minister Ogilvie it has been confirmed by court registry that the orders pertaining to those proceedings have not been made public.

While it's not unusual for the court to issue suppression and non-publication orders, the fact that the order exists is usually disclosed by the court, along with basic details such as dates, the presiding judge, et cetera, on the court portal as a matter of routine that's consistent with our principle of open justice. My question, Premier, is: did your government apply for the existence of any suppression order or non-publication order relating to these specific proceedings to not be disclosed by the court?

Mr ROCKLIFF - To the best of my knowledge we have followed the guidelines as you've been speaking to, and I cannot comment any further.

Ms WEBB - The question I'm asking you about isn't relating to your guidelines. This is about whether the government requested that the court not put details on the portal of a suppression order in existence for previous minister Ogilvie's matter. Was that request made by the government?

Mr ROCKLIFF - These are matters that I'm unable to comment on, as I said before.

CHAIR - With respect, member, the Premier has answered the question.

Ms WEBB - Yes. Thank you. I'll move on to my next one. I'm just about done, if that's okay.

CHAIR - So if the -

Ms WEBB - The final one, yes, is here.

CHAIR - Right.

Ms WEBB - Premier, can you confirm whether the government sought or received legal advice regarding the release of procedural information surrounding the public notification regarding former minister Ogilvie's current legal action?

And I'm noting, Premier, I'm not asking you to release or divulge the legal advice which may have been received; instead, on behalf of the taxpayers, I'm requesting that the factual and procedural clarification of whether any such legal advice was sought or received by the government regarding what could or could not be disclosed publicly when it comes to disclosing the dates of knowing who knew what, when, in relation to parliament being informed or misinformed, the dates of decisions that were made, or the portfolio the legal action relates to, for example.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. As I've said before, Ms Ogilvie has given an undertaking, as the other member has, to provide details - full details - when legally able to do so, and I will not be divulging whether or not I do or don't have legal advice on this matter this point of time.

PUBLIC

Ms WEBB - Are you claiming that the suppression order of the court is preventing you from answering procedural questions not directly related to the court action itself?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I won't be commenting on these matters any further. To best of my knowledge, the guidelines have been adhered to.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. And then in terms of that, when before you mentioned that all guidelines have been complied with in requests to Cabinet, can you please table a list of - not with details, but a list of times in recent years when requests have been made to Cabinet for legal assistance, the dates on which those requests have been made and whether they did comply with the guidelines, each of them?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll seek advice on those matters, but, of course, I won't be divulging Cabinet information.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Ms WEBB - Well, it's not deliberations, it's just decisions of Cabinet relating to requests for legal advice.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Again, I won't be divulging Cabinet information.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. Mr Gaffney.

Mr GAFFNEY - The overview?

CHAIR - Yes, we're still with overview.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you. Just a couple of questions, and specifically to do with strategic policy and government priorities. We've got three different examples. If you can make comment, please.

The government is working with the federal government to support and secure the future for the Liberty Bell Bay smelter and its 200-plus workers with millions of dollars of public money, which is fine.

But we also have a place like TasFoods and its Nichols Poultry business - I know that you're very aware about - that's also now in voluntary administration, with 160 workers directly employed and many neighbouring farmers have invested millions of dollars in state-of-the-art contract poultry-rearing facilities.

My two questions to this: (1) what is the government doing to support the Nichols Poultry business situation; and (2) how does the government assess and determine what businesses or industries receive intervention or financial support? What is the threshold of that government stepping in to assist? Which I'm not disagreeing with; I just want to know what that process is. How do you work out which companies or which industries deserve government intervention, whether it's state or federal?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's a good question, and we do take it on a case-by-case basis, and I have been speaking with a particular farmer who finds themselves in the circumstance that you're speaking of in terms of the uncertainty. With respect to TasFoods, I understand - and I stand to be corrected, because I haven't got the information in front of me that perhaps minister Ellis would have - that there's been, I think, a buyer for that, or at least believe that's the circumstances.

It is a case-by-case basis, and there's a process for the Tas Development Board as well that would go through in terms of assistance, usually. And whether it comes to the major industrials, of course, there are other threshold issues that we would consider. For example, a closure of a major industrial that consumes a lot of power may well have impact on other GBEs, such as TasNetworks, which, if that power was not utilised, it would put pressure on the network in terms of the cost to - or the economies of scale for the network, which would most notably impact on consumers of power.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And as these major industrials are matters of state and national significance - and, for example, Liberty Bell Bay, there's a sovereignty issue here, given it's the only manganese smelter in, you know, the country, and so there's other factors at play there. There's factors at play in terms of the amount of employees, the businesses that rely on a particular entity.

I can well recall the closure of Caterpillar in 2015, when they centralised their operations to Rayong in Thailand, the impact of 284 direct jobs and all the small businesses surrounding that, and so there was a need then to set up what was called a Caterpillar transition taskforce that evolved into advanced manufacturing strategy - employment of a defence advocate in terms of supporting our advanced manufacturing base, including defence.

And so it is a case-by-case basis, and obviously we as a government have got to be very mindful of not wanting to throw good taxpayers' money after bad, and so these judgements would have to be made with the best evidence in front of us. So, on the specifics of TasFoods, you may need to - minister Ellis and his portfolio and the details around that. But it gets complex. There are a lot of variables involved in terms of the impact of losing a major industrial - for example, there is heavy reliance of Boyer on TasRail, and take Boyer out of the equation, TasRail would sustain some loss out of that. And so TasRail's also would sustain some loss out of that. And so TasRail's also a government business enterprise that we'd have to support through that transition. So, a lot of factors at play.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. Just on that, so if a situation comes up, how does the government - what process, through Cabinet or through the ministers - how does that decision come back, 'Yes, we need to support this one to x amount of dollars or have a conversation with the Feds'? I'm just wondering how that decision is - come about through your priorities and strategic policy and government priorities, I suppose.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Sure. So, in the case of major industrials, we have a subcommittee of Cabinet, which is a major industrial steering committee that's established. And so, we speak of these matters and we get full and frank advice around the circumstances surrounding major industrials. The subcommittee of Cabinet would make those decisions for the broader Cabinet.

PUBLIC

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Thank you. My second example is a little bit left-of-centre as well. Just a bit of a history, I understand that DPAC is responsible for managing the Neighbourhood Houses program, the connector program -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, that's correct.

Mr GAFFNEY - and that last year, DPAC began a review of the funding methodology used for Neighbourhood Houses. And I understand that it operates under a needs-based SEIFA index, like a Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas with a three-tier funding category outcome of: X is not eligible, B is baseline funding and A is higher-needs funding.

Given the almost level funding distribution for each house in the recent announcement, can you explain how the review came to its decision? And I read somewhere - I can't find the document - I noticed that there were three neighbourhood houses that missed out, and one of those was East Devonport.

And so, I'm just wondering how that decision came about, because if you look at the SEIFA index, I would have thought that East Devonport would have clearly qualified for extra funding. So, I just want to understand the process and the reason for that decision. Three out of - I don't know how many have - 30, I suppose, I'm not quite sure, neighbourhood houses didn't get funding - or didn't get extra funding, sorry.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, sure. Mr Gaffney, that's a good question. Now, as context, in late 2025, which I believe you've alluded to, the Tasmanian government committed to undertake a Neighbourhood Houses needs analysis to identify government and community needs for neighbourhood houses. And I might bring to the table Noelene Kelly, who is Deputy Secretary - or Acting Chief -

Ms KELLY - And also acting COO.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Deputy Secretary and Acting Chief Operations Officer. And thank you, Noelene.

Ms KELLY - Through you, Premier. The needs analysis was announced last November, as the Premier mentioned, and that's underway at the moment. We've engaged three consultants to work on that and there's a number of components to that. So, KPMG are undertaking the broad review, and then there's a company called profile.id, who are undertaking an analysis of the communities and the population areas and so on, and the results of that review are due in sort of towards September, October in time for the next budget cycle.

In terms of the Community Connector Program, that's been in place for quite a few years and that provides every neighbourhood house with resourcing, with funding to engage a community connector who is a person who, when people from the community come in and need help, they connect them with different services across the community.

And so, each neighbourhood house - and there's 35 neighbourhood houses now going into 2026-27 because we've got a new one, HATCH, in Ouse, and they all have community connectors. And in 2026-27, funding from the following year has been brought forward, so they'll actually get double the funding they were going to get for the Community Connector Program. Part of the needs analysis will actually be looking at the Community Connector

PUBLIC

Program and the value it provides to communities, and providing recommendations to government around future funding for that.

In terms of East Devonport Neighbourhood House, another component of the Neighbourhood Houses program is CIP funding - capital investment program funding - and we were given \$6 million over three years to invest in houses that needed capital works or works done on their houses, and that program's underway at the moment. East Devonport sits slightly out of that because we're actually working with East Devonport Neighbourhood House on a new location because there are issues with their house that are sort of fundamental to the location that they live in.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes, it's terrible.

Ms KELLY - That one's quite complex, that one. Yes.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. Okay. So, they haven't missed out. It's just that you're looking at a different venue and so it'd be a waste of money to put something into where they're at because it's quite - it's not purpose built, as you well know. Yes. Okay. That's fine. Good. And who are the other two houses, do you know? I read somewhere there were three.

Ms KELLY - Through you, Premier. I can't quite remember who the other two are. I know that we've got a couple of houses where we're actually looking at alternative locations for them.

Mr GAFFNEY - As well.

Ms KELLY - Yes, yes.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Yes. Thank you very much.

Ms KELLY - Yes. Thank you.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. That's all, thanks, Premier, from me.

CHAIR - Thank you. Mr Hiscutt.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thanks, Mr Gaffney.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. Premier, I just wanted to turn to the Budget. I'm not sure if these are questions for yourself or the Treasurer but just noting, with the expenses in the Budget that you're looking at next year, slightly more than last year - more than this year, but the year after, 2027-28 - a real shrinkage in expenditure by between 3 and 4 per cent, I just wanted to get a statement from you on your confidence on achieving a real shrinkage expenditure in Tasmania.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. Discipline is required and I am confident. And our ministers have been - they know their responsibility to ensure that efficiencies are made. In our own Department of Premier and Cabinet, since we announced the non-essential wage freeze or the non-essential worker freeze - recruitment freeze - that Department of Premier and Cabinet have reduced FTE to the tune of around 82 FTE in the last 12 months.

So, that's taken a lot of discipline within the department and I'm very mindful when I speak of FTE; they are people and families so I'm always very mindful of that. And so that discipline that our agency has led I expect across government and each minister knows that.

Mr HISCUTT - And obviously recently announced the 500 voluntary redundancies. What will you do if you don't have that take-up of that total 500 through voluntary means?

Mr ROCKLIFF - It's getting into some hypothetical territory, but we will - again, when we've announced the 250 FTE reduction as a result of the changes, or the machinery of government changes with State Growth, we've received around 148 expressions of interest - would you call it? - of voluntary redundancy.

Ms KELLY - First one within two minutes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - So, that's significant. And as the secretary has just said, the first one of those was in the first two minutes of that announcement.

Mr HISCUTT - Must have the email ready to go.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Maybe. And so, my expectation is we'll reach that number - that 500 number - but time will tell by the six months of which to work through that.

Mr HISCUTT - Is there any concern with voluntary redundancies being people who are most employable, people who are happy to give up a job because they may be more employed versus people who won't give up the job because they don't think they can be employed elsewhere, that there could be a concern of, I guess 'brain drain' is the colloquial term to use? Is that something you've considered or how you'd approach that?

Mr ROCKLIFF - It is something we've considered. It's an insightful question and I received that yesterday as well, so thank you for asking the question here. How we're going to navigate our way through that, I'll ask the secretary to talk about. Thank you.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Thank you. And through you, Premier. In terms of approaching the way in which we manage a staffing reduction and noting that secretaries will always look at non-salary savings first, so that's absolutely our go-to. There are times when there's not sufficient non-salary savings to achieve that target. We'll look at our employee expenditure in - if I use my own department as an example - with natural attrition. And there's no agency that has zero per cent attrition.

Mr HISCUTT - No. Absolutely.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - I think a lot of people think that everyone's not going to go. There is attrition every single day across the service and that is managed. It's whether you then fill that position. If the position is essential, we would look within our department to see if there's someone else that we could transfer into the position and then not backfill that other position - so, using our own internal processes and, notably, there's a quite a few transfers between agencies.

PUBLIC

In terms of brain drain, we absolutely do an assessment on every single expression of interest that will be made, and we have a look at the work that's undertaken by that staff member, the team that's around them, so in terms of the strength of that team.

Should that person go? Do they possess skills that haven't been, actually, shared across that team, for example. And we will make a decision not to accept an expression of interest if we think it's going to impact on our service delivery. So, that's absolutely assessed with each and every position.

Mr HISCUTT - That's good to know. No worries. Just one more, if I could.

CHAIR - No. That's fine.

Mr HISCUTT - And I'll just wait till the Premier's back at the table, I could ask.

I understand there's, I think, what's colloquially called the unattached list or the redeployment list. How many people are currently on that list? I'll repeat the question. I understand there's a thing called the unattached list or more commonly called the redeployment list. I was just wondering if you could answer how many people are on that list.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Sure. Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. I'd need to probably - if the Premier agrees - to take that on notice. I'm not aware of a number that is currently on a list. At any point in time, an employee under managing positions in a State Service policy may be identified, and there is a process in the *State Service Act* to deal with identified employees. But the process that we're going through at the moment in terms of the 500 is about voluntary redundancy.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes. No, this isn't separate to that, but I was just wondering if I can, if you're happy to take that on notice across the government.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - I've just got the information back from our State Service management office and there's zero.

Mr HISCUTT - Zero on the unattached. Is that just within the whole State Service or is that just within Department of Premier and Cabinet?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - That's the whole State Service. There's zero currently on the identified list for the whole State Service.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you for the answer.

CHAIR - Thank you. Now, Premier, I might just ask you a question about health. It's obviously not your portfolio, so I'll ask you the overview. While the Budget states that it delivers record health spending and you have mentioned that two-thirds of the Budget is spent on health; \$15 billion, \$10 million per day, -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - there's also \$700 million in operational efficiencies in the health system numbers over the next four years. How is it that you can cut millions from the health system without it affecting services, staffing, waitlists or patient care?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. And, really, it's about the way it's presented in the Budget. And so, yes, there are efficiencies that have been outlined and we need to ensure that every dollar is spent and invested wisely on behalf of the Tasmanian taxpayer.

When you overlay the National Health Reform Agreement that we worked very hard to secure - and for the first time ever the federal government have agreed with our request for a small states adjustment when it comes to health investment from the Commonwealth - we've effectively been reaching in and funding the Commonwealth's share of health.

Overlaying the National Health Reform Agreement over the efficiencies, you end up with \$264 million increased investment across the forward Estimates. In that sense, there are no cuts to Health because of the National Health Reform Agreement and the good work that, indeed, Ms Morgan-Wicks led and, indeed, Tasmania led those discussions in national Cabinet.

CHAIR - If I could just ask you, then, about the Launceston General Hospital, because I noticed on 29 June 2025 there was a media release, 'A brand new seven-storey tower at the Launceston General Hospital will be delivered under a re-elected Tasmanian Liberal Government.' And it goes on, 'Premier Jeremy Rockliff said the Tasmanian Liberal Government has a strong plan... This \$240 million investment will deliver 250 additional beds and will be directly linked to the LGH, as part of our long-term masterplan while also enabling the co-location of services in the future...'

However, I do notice on page 170 in budget paper 1 that there only appears to be \$1.2 million allocated by the end of the financial year 2029. I'm just wondering if you could advise me how the work on the new northern health complex would commence construction by 2028 when there doesn't appear to be money allocated for it, or not very much, in the Budget. Or is \$1.2 million just for the planning?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. Since the release of the LGH masterplan in 2021, initiatives like the Northern Heart Centre, expanded emergency department, relocation of the mental health precinct and a \$240 million, 250-bed northern health complex changed the initial masterplan. Therefore, the masterplan is currently being revisited, including clinical services planning to ensure future capital investment appropriately reflects the new recent developments in the precinct.

As part of a first 100-day plan, the LGH masterplan revision draft report was released for public consultation for a period of two weeks between 21 September 2025 and 5 October 2025. Following this engagement, the final LGH precinct masterplan revision is expected to be released shortly and will be informed by consideration of stakeholder feedback received from the draft.

We've already delivered a new women's and children's precinct, various ward refurbishments across the hospital, works to the ED, ambulance bay and air lock, an additional CT scanner room, a new helipad and the redevelopment of the Northern Integrated Care Service building, including a new research and innovation centre in partnership with the Clifford Craig Foundation and the Tasmanian Health Service's first ever searchable robot.

PUBLIC

Right now, works are underway to expand the ED, deliver the Northern Heart Centre, build a new dedicated mental health precinct, upgrade the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system in D block and ward 40, maternity, and a new multistorey carpark is being built.

Construction on the Northern Health Complex will commence following the completion of the new dedicated northern mental health precinct at Frankland Street, I'm advised.

CHAIR - Do we have an idea of the timeline, then, when that - so it won't be 2028. And also, the Northern Heart Centre, that was already in play.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Mrs Archer, of course, would be well and truly across this.

CHAIR - No. I do understand it's not your portfolio.

Mr ROCKLIFF - But I'm happy to take it on notice and get the new timeframe for you, if you'd like that.

CHAIR - It would be good. Thank you, Premier. And while we're still in overview - we're just about to leave overview. Not just yet. We may find that some of the line items have been covered in overview. You have a supplementary?

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. Just to that question. You mentioned the enormous amount spent on health, which is - we understand - and education, I think, was the other one that was quite a high priority. Is it possible to get a breakdown of that health funding, how much of that is into infrastructure, buildings, that sort of thing, renovations, compared to the actual services or -

Mr ROCKLIFF - The recurrent expenditure.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. That would be handy. Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - All right. We're happy to do that for you and break it down in a non-budget paper way. But I'm advised that table 5.4 on page 106 of budget paper 2 breaks down the capital investment program succinctly when it comes to health, Mr Gaffney.

Mr GAFFNEY - That's fine. I've got the table there. That's good.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Any further detail you require - I'm not sure if Mrs Archer's in front of you or not.

CHAIR - No.

Mr GAFFNEY - No, that's fine.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Happy to get that for you.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - Premier, if I could ask you, an email from the Chair of Committee B, Ms Forrest, was actually sent with a personal request with regard to strong perfume scents being used by people in Estimates committees. Can you advise whether you have investigated the leak? If so, do you have an update; or if not, why not?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. I do not intend to take the matter any further. I note that Ms Forrest's desire was to have her request distributed. There is a mechanism for the independent complaints commissioner, of which we are working through that establishment now, of which Ms Forrest may well want to take that concern.

CHAIR - Further, did you respond to Ms Forrest and say you didn't acknowledge the issue that happened to Ms Forrest to -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ms Forrest hasn't approached me. I'm not aware of how this got to the media.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. Overview question?

Ms WEBB - Just a quick follow-up on that to start with and then on to mine, if I may. Premier, pointing to a complaints process that doesn't yet exist is somewhat problematic. There isn't a complaints commissioner in place yet. Ms Forrest didn't want her email distributed far and wide; she wanted the request made and put forward as a policy request to people appearing here. Are you suggesting that she wanted her email sent far and wide?

Mr ROCKLIFF - No. I understand the email said it was for distribution for people's knowledge. I can't think of the exact words of the email, and I have no idea how it got to the media.

Ms WEBB - You're not going to investigate how that got to the media?

Mr ROCKLIFF - No, but the independent complaints commissioner process may well be the mechanism for that.

Ms WEBB - Are you confirming that that email itself was sent far and wide?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I don't know where it was sent to.

Ms WEBB - Internally within government, surely, you can ascertain where it was sent.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I don't intend to take the matter any further.

Ms WEBB - All right. A quick follow-up on the others. Looking at the Policy and Guidelines for the Grant of Indemnities and Legal Assistance to Public Officers in Tasmania, two quick questions. You've confirmed that all requests comply. The guidelines set out that in granting legal assistance, a limit can be placed on how much taxpayer support can be provided to a public officer. Has any limit been placed on the expenditure of Ms Ogilvie's legal costs?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll have to seek advice on that matter.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - I can take it on notice. I can take it on notice.

Ms WEBB - You'd like to take that on notice?

CHAIR - Yes.

Ms WEBB - Perhaps then associated to that, in the 2024-25 financial year, how many invoices of Ms Ogilvie's legal costs were approved by Cabinet?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll have to take that on notice.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. On to other matters, if I may. While we're still on overview, I've been asking this of each department that appears before us. I'm interested if, Premier, you could provide a detailed breakdown of the total number of external consultancies used in this 2025-26 financial year through your department, DPAC, including any still underway, and the quantum of costs for those consultancies. Is that information you can provide to us, maybe in a table or something like that?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll endeavour to get that for you, Ms Webb, if it's possible. We can search for that. Could we clarify the time period, please?

Ms WEBB - I was asking about the current financial year. I probably wouldn't mind the previous financial year, 2024-25, as well so we can compare.

Mr ROCKLIFF - 2024-25, 2025-26?

Ms WEBB - 2026, the one we're in. And then looking ahead, the -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Up to 31 March, would that be all right?

Ms WEBB - That would be fine. And then I'm interested in looking ahead. Any external consultancies that are planned for 2026-27 and onwards, are they going to be subject to operational efficiencies, and have you actually had to change any plans for external consultancies in order to meet targets or outcomes around operational efficiencies?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. Just as we're finding some information, Ms Webb, I can comment, for example, in terms of future, over the last three years, if I look at advertising, for example, in DPAC, we've been on a continuous reducing expenditure; and in terms of supplies and consumables, while it looks probably pretty flat at the moment in terms of our budgeted expenditure, you'll note in our estimated outcome that we continuously underspend in terms of supplies and consumables, and that's us trying to tighten up and also probably transfer into employee expenses as required.

Ms WEBB - I'm mostly asking about consultancies. Does that come into that same line item, does it?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes, it would.

Ms WEBB - Okay. Thank you.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - So, in terms of contractors and consultancies, I note DPAC has the HRTF program, which is probably our highest component of contractors and consultancies. That's, for example, SAP expertise that we don't have within DPAC that we'd be required to go out and procure a contractor or consultant.

Probably the second would be in relation to independent reviews that DPAC are responsible for engaging independent experts. For example, we had engaged Peter Woolcott and Radha Thomas, for example, in relation to a review.

That would come in as a consultant or contractor expense. Our efficiency and productivity unit currently has Chris Eccles engaged to provide advice in relation to our efficiency and productivity unit, and we'll also be engaging experts in relation to the DECYP efficiency and productivity review. Certainly, we are looking to very closely control our expenditure in relation to contractors and consultants.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

CHAIR - I just have a follow-up on expenditure. In relation to DPAC, what proportion of the expenditure reductions shown in the forward Estimates on page 217 in budget paper 2 reflects genuine savings being implemented within the department, and what proportions simply reflect the transfer of functions and FTE positions to other agencies?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Chair. Kath, are you able to answer that now, or do I -

CHAIR - I'm happy to, if you'd prefer to take it on notice -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ms Morgan-Wicks, thank you.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. I'd probably go to expenditure -

CHAIR - If you could provide a breakdown, that would be really handy.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes. Table 10.3, rather than 10.2, in relation to DPAC. In terms of looking at - and I know once we get to the output level, I can probably answer per output as required, but in terms of - this is a budget that is representing the Department of Premier and Cabinet as at today.

In the machinery of government change that the Premier has announced in relation to Department of State Growth and the establishment of Building Tasmania and functions coming over from that department to DPAC, that's at a future point in time, with the major functions coming over in December of the end of this year. We have groups and divisions that will be leaving DPAC and transferring to, for example, Department of Health or DECYP and also the Department of Justice, but their expenditure and revenue currently still sits within these budget papers.

The machinery of government change requires us working with Treasury to then do output transfers to receiving agencies, but that said, in terms of DPAC's effort in managing functions that will stay, these are genuine operational efficiencies that are captured within each

of our estimates of expenditure, and we are working through a list of operational efficiencies that we continue.

In fact, this is not starting now; DPAC has been doing this since 2024-25 through 2025-26, and that's how we achieved our reduction in FTE of 82. We think that most of that work has been done in relation to our FTE. There may be some more. And as the Premier announced yesterday, I'm also committed as the secretary to do a TNVR opening across DPAC. But I'll have a look at exactly where we would need to focus that TNVR process.

CHAIR - And State Growth was mentioned, so even though it probably fits into the next one, just while it's actually come up, just wondering, what's the likely - the projected costs of the rebranding and converting the Department of State Growth? Because we all know that rebranding has a huge cost in changing names and everything else that goes with it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - Premier?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ms Morgan-Wicks.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. And I am aware as the chair, as the head of the State Service, of the transition oversight committee for the machinery of government change, and the intention - so, for example, for the establishment of Building Tasmania - is to do most of the work as internally as we can and for as low a cost as we can.

Obviously we need to make, you know, minimum level of changes so that the public know who they're, you know, contacting and dealing with, but Department of State Growth have, you know, a very good website, for example; and Environment, which we believe we're able to internally reskin in terms of names, et cetera. But we're trying to absolutely keep that cost down. We do not want to be spending money on big and flashy brand changes when we're obviously dealing with staffing reductions.

CHAIR - Is there a budget currently for the rebranding? There would be a budget, I'm assuming.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. It'd be within internal resources.

CHAIR - Just one last question on that: can you provide assurances that whoever provides the advice on the rebranding will be a Tasmanian business?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That would be preferable.

CHAIR - But not guaranteed?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier, our intention is to use internal staffing who -

CHAIR - Yes. For the advice?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Here in Tasmania and working.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - They might not be external consultancies on the rebranding?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Probably internal to the department.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - As far as can be achieved, if there's a graphic design piece that could not - and I can't imagine what that would be - yes, certainly we have Tasmanian businesses that we'd engage, and we have a marketing panel.

CHAIR - Might be a question for next year.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It may well be.

CHAIR - It may well be.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Chair, I've got an update for Mr Gaffney on poultry.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - First published in the *Advocate* newspaper at 9.09 this morning, would you believe -

Mr GAFFNEY - But please, please.

Mr ROCKLIFF - that the food business has found a buyer. 'TasFoods, including' - and I'm quoting *The Advocate* newspaper here - 'including its key Nichols Poultry business, has been sold to RAMP Tasmanian Poultry for an undisclosed amount. "The sale ensures the continued local operation of TasFoods and the employment of all Tasmanian staff under the new ownership," administrator KPMG said.' I hope I got some way to your question in terms of process, particularly with Liberty Bell Bay, but that's good news.

Mr GAFFNEY - But the government itself had no role in that negotiation with RAMP?

Mr ROCKLIFF - No. Thank you.

Mr GAFFNEY - That's a good outcome.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Good outcome, yes.

CHAIR - Mr Hiscutt, then we're back to Ms Webb.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you, Premier. I'm just referring back to your former statements regarding Ms Forrest's potentially sending her complaints to the independent complaints commissioner. I note in the Budget that that is only funded at \$50,000 per year over the forward - \$50,000 per year over the next four years. Do you think that is sufficient to manage and run that position?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I do. It won't be a full-time position, I would imagine, and so I believe the \$50,000 initial investment is appropriate. If there is more need for further resources, then, of course, we'll consider that at the next budget.

PUBLIC

Mr HISCUTT - What functions do you expect the commissioner to perform for that \$50,000?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I have to take that on notice. I know this has been the subject of a matter to do with the committee that's been established to work through these matters, so I can take that on notice, if you like.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. And do you know how much was actually asked for by the Clerks for that position?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I cannot recall, no.

Mr HISCUTT - Are you able to take that on notice as well?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Mr HISCUTT - No, I'll come back. I had another question.

CHAIR - That's fine.

Ms WEBB - More will fit in a line item on that, too.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes.

CHAIR - Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Still in overview, Premier. I'm interested in: is your government still committed to delivering the pathway to truth-telling and treaty as accepted by government in 2021, and what funding is provided in this Budget and across the forward Estimates to progress truth-telling and treaty?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I'll just come to the funding in a moment. But we are committed, firstly, to truth-telling and recognising the desire of Aboriginal communities - the TAC - for a treaty. I believe it's very important that we go through a truth-telling process first and engage the TAC, other Aboriginal communities, engage the broader public when it comes to truth-telling, which may lead, then, to treaty, of course, which I understand is really around a series of agreements that can be established in terms of - it may well be educational attainment, it may well be health and other matters.

There is a need for truth-telling and, in my view, investment in supporting engagement of all Tasmanians on this process first, rather than what I would say is a very - in the eyes of some Tasmanians who don't fully appreciate what treaty means, there needs to be a better understanding of the truth-telling process, and indeed, the history of Tasmanian Aboriginal people in Tasmania / Lutruwita.

Ms WEBB - And on the funding?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Funding.

PUBLIC

Ms WEBB - Just to state, I asked what funding is provided in this Budget and across the forward Estimates to progress truth-telling and treaty.

Mr ROCKLIFF - \$4.4 million over four years in last year's Budget for truth-telling and Closing the Gap, which -

Ms WEBB - Can you break that down for me?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I can seek to do that, yes, on notice, if that's all right. It's a matter for Mrs Archer, who's the minister responsible, but we can take that on notice and confer with minister Archer's office, minister Archer.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, I appreciate that. And that brings me to my next question, actually, which is the fact that you now find yourself in a situation of having a Cabinet reshuffle to consider, and so I would put it to you that this is a very positive opportunity to restate the significance and the leadership required to drive real reconciliation and progress on this with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community and provide that portfolio with the gravitas it deserves by having it become a portfolio that you are responsible for as premier. Is that something that you would consider, Premier, taking the opportunity that now presents itself to make that kind of positive step and demonstrate the importance of driving progress on this?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question, Ms Webb, and I appreciate why you've asked the question. I have every confidence in our minister, Mrs Archer, with respect to these matters, who is undergoing a large engagement with the Tasmanian Aboriginal people right across Tasmania, and I have every confidence that Mrs Archer is doing really a very good job in this area.

Ms WEBB - My question wasn't premised on any criticism of Mrs Archer in this area whatsoever -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. No, I know. Yes.

Ms WEBB - just the opportunity to have the gravitas of a premier's leadership behind the portfolio. In terms of the Closing the Gap -

Mr ROCKLIFF - My apologies. I do have a budget table for you of our investment and breaking that down.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - In 2025-26, \$1.4 million; 2026-27, \$1.4 million; \$800,000 in 2027-28; and \$800,000 in 2028-29.

Ms WEBB - That was for the truth-telling elements of that?

Mr ROCKLIFF - And Closing the Gap.

Ms WEBB - Right. Right. And are you able to break out within that total amount what's allocated to those different elements?

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - So, in 2025-26 there is \$250,000 each year across the forward Estimates for the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre. There's \$150,000 commencing in 2025-26 across the forward Estimates for the Tasmanian Regional Aboriginal Communities Alliance. There's \$200,000 across the forward Estimates for the Palawa Business Hub, which I had the pleasure of launching a couple of years ago. I'm very proud to do so and it's doing some really great stuff.

The truth-telling and healing element - so I just went through the Closing the Gap matters. The truth-telling and healing element of the Budget, there's the Elders Council of Tasmania is \$50,000 each year across the forward Estimates. Reconciliation Tasmania - and can I commend the organisers of Reconciliation Tasmania for the breakfast last Wednesday morning - \$100,000 across the forward Estimates. There was an Aboriginal-led design and engagement process of \$150,000 in 2025-26, and \$290,000 in 2026-27. And there are other support program initiatives across the forward Estimates, including \$500,000 in 2025-26, \$360,000 in 2026-27, \$50,000 in 2027-28 and \$50,000 in 2028-29.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I appreciate that detail. From the sound of it, with that total number that you mentioned at the beginning, it sounds like it tapers off over time. Is that because there's programs coming to an end or projects coming to an end?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I think it really is - and I'll go back to the table - the engagement process, that first two years - was it \$250[,000] and \$290[,000]? Yes. The Aboriginal-led design and engagement was \$150,000 and then \$290,000, but then nothing in 2027-28, 2028-29, which would account for some of that -

Ms WEBB - Is that because it's expected to come to an end at that point in time as a project? And what will be the deliverable from that then, or the outcomes from that, if it's coming to an end?

Mr ROCKLIFF - It's about the design and then I believe that it'd be probably another ask following the design.

Ms WEBB - A follow-on project of some sort. A follow-on project of some sort, potentially.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. I stand to be corrected on that. I can provide more information.

Ms WEBB - I'm mindful of time. The other thing I particularly wanted to hear about - thank you for the funding details. In terms of the Closing the Gap priority reforms under the DPAC responsibilities, can you update on some of those? We did discuss them in our last budget Estimates. Particularly, we discussed that the Aboriginal expenditure report was being completed at that time but not yet complete, and we also had the Tasmania State Service Aboriginal Employment Strategy and action plan being completed, but not yet complete. Can you update us on those?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Can I request, Chair, Mel Gray to the table, please.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And Melissa Gray is Deputy Secretary of Policy and Reform.

CHAIR - Welcome, Melissa, back to the table.

Ms GRAY -Yes. Thank you, Chair.

Ms WEBB - I'm just looking for a quick update on those projects.

Ms GRAY - From last night. I did go home and sleep.

Ms WEBB - We did, too.

CHAIR - Melissa spent time with us last evening, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Great.

CHAIR - With another minister.

Mr HISCUTT - We didn't sleep, we were just making up questions all night.

Ms GRAY - Yes. Thank you. Through you, Premier. Thank you for the question. The Aboriginal expenditure review has been completed. We're just making final editorial changes, and we'll make that publicly available by the end of this month. It's a really good story. Across all government agencies, we're working to identify existing government programs and services that can be transferred to Aboriginal community control.

Because we know when Aboriginal people are the architects of their own solutions on what's going to improve their lives, we get much better outcomes. And we're seeing that through a nationally leading partnership at the moment with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre to transfer child safety to Aboriginal community control, and that's through the Nukara Strategy. The Department for Education, Children and Young People is working with the TAC and lots of other Aboriginal organisations to empower them to design solutions for getting better outcomes for children and young people across our state. So, that's one example in one agency. There's lots of other examples. I won't go on though.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Ms WEBB - And the employment strategy and action plan, did you just mention that?

Ms GRAY - That's through Mandy.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. That is for another person, yes, Amanda Russell. Amanda, thank you very much, who's Deputy Secretary of State Service Management Office. Thank you, Mandy.

CHAIR - So, for *Hansard*, it's Mandy Russell.

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Ms RUSSELL - Good morning.

CHAIR - Good morning. Welcome to the table.

Ms RUSSELL - Thank you. Through you, Premier.

Ms WEBB - I'm really just looking for a brief update on whether we have completed that strategy and action plan, and if so, what's the action coming from it?

Ms RUSSELL - Thank you. And through you, Premier. We are very close to completing the consultation on the Aboriginal strategy and action plan. I'm really delighted at the engagement that we've had right across the service and through community organisations, and that's been led by two Aboriginal employment members in the State Service Management Office.

It really does touch on the clear priorities for attraction and retention of Aboriginal employment in the State Service, and also builds on the work that I'm sure the committee is aware of around the cultural respect training that has received widespread adoption right across the State Service. It's really so important to build on the work that Mel has already spoken about in relation to cultural load and how we actually provide and support respectful workplaces and inclusive workplaces for members of our Aboriginal community.

Ms WEBB - Thank you for that update. So it's near completion, you mentioned.

Ms RUSSELL - Very.

Ms WEBB - So, I'm looking for an indication of timeline because when we spoke in November, both these things were near completion at that time. So, I'm just looking to see if we're progressing. When are we expecting it to actually be completed?

Ms RUSSELL - Thanks, Ms Webb. We were hoping to have the final strategy to the head of the State Service last month. We have taken a little bit more time to consult with members of our Aboriginal employer network and the community organisations. And without putting a firm date on that, I expect that that will be within the next month.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. And is it something that then becomes public and publicly available on the DPAC website or something like that?

Ms RUSSELL - Yes, very -

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm advised yes.

Ms RUSSELL - Sorry. Through you, Premier.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - Thank you. Mr Hiscutt.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. Sorry to jump around on this issue, but just coming back to the Motion for Respect and independent complaints commissioner, I just wondered if you could answer me how the decision was made regarding the quantity of funding and what consultation occurred to make that decision?

Mr ROCKLIFF - There was a budget process and through the budget committee.

Mr HISCUTT - The budget committee. And can you update me on a timeline on the expected series of events that would come from that \$50,000?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll have to take that on notice.

Mr HISCUTT - Take it on notice.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Matter for the Clerks, as I understand it.

Mr HISCUTT - Okay. Thank you. And a separate issue, I just wanted to know if you have - or the government has - recommenced negotiations with LK Group on the proposed sale of Wilkinsons Point.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Not as yet.

Mr HISCUTT - Not as yet.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I have spoken to Mr Kestelman in recent weeks about where things are at. There's a Public Accounts process underway, but as I stated yesterday, a huge opportunity for half a billion dollars' worth of private investment, made even more significant by the recent announcement of the Dowsing Point opportunity with surplus Defence land that we've come to an arrangement with the federal Labor government on, for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. And do you still intend to, and when do you intend to, have that conversation, commence formal discussions regarding Wilkinsons Point?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll have to say as soon as practicable.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you.

CHAIR - Thank you. I have one last question in overview. We've probably covered off some of the line items, and then we will go to Strategic Policy and Government Priorities. Premier, if I could just ask you about TasInsure, is the goal of the new version of TasInsure still to ensure that Tasmanians save on their insurance costs and premiums?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - It is. Okay. How will market interventions work where TasInsure identifies things like to hard-to-insure activities and risks or existing market settings aren't delivering

adequate outcomes? Will TasInsure have any sort of enforcement powers, and how many staff do you envisage that TasInsure will require when it's up and running?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. TasInsure is about making insurance fairer and more accessible, and I'm sure if any one of us who represent the Tasmanian community have been doing our jobs, then we would've had feedback about the high cost of insurance.

I raised this on the national agenda as tourism minister a couple of years ago because the tourism sector and those within the visitor economy were being hardest hit, and there was an indication that there would be a national approach to this that hasn't eventuated, so we're going it alone. I acknowledge that it's changed somewhat, not hugely, from our original intent.

There'll still be a state-owned statutory authority, TasInsure, but through that mechanism, we'll place sustained downward pressure on premiums by addressing the underlying drivers of insurance affordability, rather than guaranteeing specific savings for every single policyholder. Mr John Trowbridge we engaged, who is an insurance expert in the field, to deliver a report for us, and that report's there for everyone to see.

There's an implementation plan as well that takes into account, if you like, isolating Tasmania's risk and some of the big challenges that I've stated throughout the election campaign and since that time have been the fact that Australia is a large place. There's floods and there's fires, and our premiums were reflecting natural disasters across a very big country.

CHAIR - I'm just trying to understand, though, Premier, how TasInsure is actually going to make insurance fairer and more accessible. It's not going to offer policies itself, so does it have any teeth? Does it have any enforcement power? Actually how will it work? From a layman's perspective, if I'm - and I do have insurance - getting insurance - I use our Tasmanian insurer, I must admit, RACT - how will that actually work, and will it affect the premiums of or affect our other Tasmanian insurer, or will you work with our other Tasmanian insurer?

Mr ROCKLIFF - The RACT, of course, is Australia's only mutual insurance agency, so it's member-owned.

CHAIR - Of Tasmania.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, Tasmania. That's right, and I'm sure we can have a conversation with the RACT and TasInsure, but our aim supports and facilitates an insurance arrangement. Now, that role should be -

CHAIR - I'm just trying to understand how it actually works.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I'm coming to that. That role should be transparent to policyholders. The precise form of that recognition will be settled through implementation and engagement with industry. Where the insurance market or ecosystem uses the services and reforms TasInsure will provide, it will state clearly on your policy, and it will do this so that Tasmanians know that TasInsure has played a role in improving the affordability and accessibility of their insurance. Now, to your question -

CHAIR - Because I'm still not sure how it makes it cheaper.

Mr ROCKLIFF - TasInsure will have three divisions. Now, the consumer division, supporting Tasmanians to engage confidently with the insurance market, this division will be the main public-facing part of TasInsure. It will provide practical support, online resources, digital tools, and guidance materials for households, small businesses and community organisations. It will also provide more tailored advisory support where community groups or small businesses are facing hard-to-place insurance problems.

CHAIR - Like a broker?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I can come to that in a moment. There's a market division, supporting the market to deliver better outcomes for Tasmanians. This is the most market-facing division. It will work directly with insurers, brokers and reinsurers to reduce insurance costs, address hard-to-place risks, and support development of the designated risk pool and possible natural hazards reinsurance arrangements.

There'll also be a risk assessment and mitigation division, improving understanding of risk and supporting long-term structural change. This division, as I indicated before, will build the evidence base needed to lower insurance costs over time. It will improve hazard data, identify risk drivers, support targeted mitigation, and help align risk reduction with insurance pricing. It will also support better targeting of state and Commonwealth mitigation funding towards projects that reduce disaster risk and insurance costs. Perhaps I can ask Mr Healey to add anything further, if he wishes, who's been doing great work in this area.

CHAIR - It would be good because, Premier, I'm still not sure how it's going to work with insurers to reduce costs. I understand you say risk reduction, but looking at insurers, does TasInsure have any enforcement to actually make other insurers reduce their costs? It appears to me that TasInsure is basically taking the job of a broker, looking -

Mr ROCKLIFF - No, it's different to that.

CHAIR - All right. Mr Healey.

Mr HEALEY - Through you, Premier. Just building on what the Premier has said in terms of the three divisions of TasInsure, the advice that we had was that the best way to target a reduction in the cost of insurance in Tasmania is through three mechanisms. First, I won't say 'plainly', but it's very constructively empowering individuals to better understand their circumstances and to engage with the insurance industry from more of a position of strength so they understand their risks. They can articulate those risks clearly to industry and help to drive down policies.

That's probably the first step in trying to lower insurance. We don't expect that that will drive the sorts of improvements that we need to see in Tasmania, so TasInsure will take two further steps, which are unique and which are quite innovative in terms of the government's role in the insurance industry.

The first is, as the Premier said, dealing with hard-to-place risks. They're the sorts of risks where there may be only a small number of those risks within the state. The insurance industry finds it hard to price those risks, and so what ends up is that the policyholder pays a lot more than they need to, having regard to the nature of that activity, and if I can be more specific, it

PUBLIC

includes things like community events. They can be fairly hard to assess in terms of the risk. The insurance industry at times doesn't really want to dedicate the resources to -

CHAIR - TasInsure will look at the risk and be almost a broker in that case?

Mr HEALEY - Not a broker, but it will look at creating a designated risk pool which would underwrite policies for public events, for adventure tourism, for risks that the insurance industry is not really set up to deal with. For example, let's say the football team in Richmond wants to put on a fair. TasInsure will be able to work with the insurance industry and the Richmond Football Club to say, 'We understand the nature of this risk locally. We think that that should be priced at x , and we will, through the designated risk pool, underwrite the insurance industry to provide a policy that is affordable and reflective of the risk of that event.' That's the first hard-to-place risks approach.

The second part, which is also nation-leading, is to consider how we ensure that the prices of insurance for things like flood and fire in Tasmania reflect Tasmania's circumstances and are not being inflated by the risks associated with storms in Sydney or -

CHAIR - How do you do that? Will it have enforcing power?

Mr HEALEY - The first thing that we do is we make sure that we understand that risk better than anyone else does. We do the work. TasInsure will do the work to specifically understand the risk of bushfire for Tasmanian communities and then get itself into a position where they can work with individual landowners to mitigate those risks to the greatest extent possible and in areas that will have the biggest impact on insurance.

CHAIR - You're going to try to lower the risk as opposed to lower the premium.

Mr HEALEY - Lower the risk, and if we need to -

CHAIR - But rather than ask the insurers to lower the premiums.

Mr HEALEY - This part of the work is very complex, so TasInsure will take a little bit of time to work its way into it. But if we find, for example, that the cost of flood and fire insurance in Tasmania is too high because it's being priced at national or international risk levels, then the government can consider - and what Mr Trowbridge said is that the government should consider - whether or not it provides a form of reinsurance into the market that allows Tasmanian insurance policies to be supported by a risk profile that relates to Tasmania only and not the nation.

But I have to say, in that space, part of the issue, and what is particularly nation-leading, is the government agreeing to step in to understanding what's driving and risk-profiling Tasmania, and then linking that to the tools that we have, that local government has, that the community has, to drive that risk down so that we can put our best foot forward in terms of the insurance industry by saying, 'Actually, we're managing our risk really well; your insurance premiums should be coming down'.

CHAIR - Thank you. Premier, so the question is the cost. I know it's a statutory authority, but the money comes from the government, so can you advise what this is going to cost? Because if it's going to save you \$100 but actually really cost you \$200 because it's still

PUBLIC

government money, I'm just wondering, what would the cost of this TasInsure be, and how many staff do you envisage?

Mr ROCKLIFF - We'll work that through, but the Budget has an investment of \$4.2 million to establish TasInsure, of which \$200,000 -

CHAIR - And ongoing.

Mr ROCKLIFF - has been allocated to John Trowbridge.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Ms WEBB - I have one more.

CHAIR - Yes, unless you want to go onto 1.1.

Ms WEBB - It's probably similar across both, so we'll stay here for the moment.

CHAIR - Yes. Yes. Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Premier, I know we've had some discussions about operational efficiencies already in this overview. One of the things I just wanted to clarify was, do we still have the Efficiency and Productivity Unit in existence?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - When we discussed that last Estimates, I put to you whether - and you committed to putting a gender lens over the activities and the assessments made by the EPU when they were looking at efficiencies and cuts.

What I'm interested to hear from you is how that is being operationalised in terms of the activities of the Efficiency and Productivity Unit, and when it comes to the operational efficiencies that are being applied to all agencies within this Budget, will we be putting a gender lens over what is being planned and undertaken there around operational efficiencies?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you.

Ms WEBB - Just to remind you, at our discussion last year we'd had a discussion about it to some extent, and at the end of that I said, 'I'm imagining that if there's ever times you're giving updates on the work of that unit, it would be clear that you've implemented a gender lens on the work that it's doing so we can see what has come of that work in terms of a gender analysis', and your response was, 'Yes, that's my expectation we'd reinforce that. It's a good idea and we'll make sure that happens.'

Mr ROCKLIFF - Excellent.

Ms WEBB - I'm coming back to you to see where are we on that.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Prior to throwing to Mr Healey again, the efficiency and productivity agenda is being progressed through five practical streams of work each aimed at improving

services, reducing duplication and supporting long-term budget discipline: (1) artificial intelligence and digital service delivery; (2) functional leadership and shared services; (3) medium-term efficiency and productivity agenda; (4) program review framework; and (5) whole-of-government commitment monitoring.

Of course, we also have a gender budget statement, and placing responsibility for the gender budget statement within Treasury is an important and positive step, because it recognises that gender equality is central to strong economic policy and sound fiscal decision-making rather than a separate or supplementary consideration. I'm pleased that gender analysis is embedded in how the government plans, invests and delivers outcomes for Tasmanians. In that context -

Ms WEBB - That is a positive shift. I congratulate you on that. I agree. So, yes, in that context, how will we be putting a gender lens over operational efficiencies and the work of EPU?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question and the strong endorsement of that move, and if I now throw to Mr Healey to provide some more.

Mr HEALEY - Yes, I certainly can, and through you, Premier. The Efficiency and Productivity Unit is - well, maybe I'll start with what it's not doing. Unlike some previously conceived or some perceptions of the Efficiency and Productivity Unit, the unit is not going program by program across government considering the merits or otherwise of government expenditure. Rather, the Efficiency and Productivity Unit is looking at whole-of-government reforms that can improve generally the efficiency and productivity of the public service.

As the Premier mentioned, it is looking at things like the responsible implementation of artificial intelligence around the government. It's looking at things like a functional leadership framework and how we can promote the structured development of shared services across government.

It's also looking at setting a framework for an annual program of program reviews, looking at areas where the cost of state government services is climbing at unsustainable rates, and how we might deal with those on a case-by-case basis. In all of those, certainly a gender lens can be applied in how those frameworks are used to drive efficiencies and productivities, and the government's gender budget statement helps to give some focus on that. The government's -

Ms WEBB - Sorry, through you, Premier. It's not a given that it does. The gender budget statement - and it's improving every year, and I thoroughly endorse that improvement each year - is one thing. But a gender lens on the work of the Efficiency and Productivity Unit or a gender lens on the operational efficiencies that are being sought is a separate matter altogether.

It's not just something to be reported on at budget time. We know that the gender budget impact statement isn't going to report on every single thing of that. That aside, how is a gender lens being applied? Because the Premier committed last year that it would be.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm advised that a gender impact assessment toolkit will be able to be used by the EPU for this, and that's deliverable on behalf of our Minister for Women and will

be available to all state services to support a gender lens over their work. And my understanding is that this will be released in September, Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - September this year?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, September this year. Do you have anything further, Kath, you'd like to add to Mat's answer?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes. So, through the -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Don't want to cut off Mat, but -

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Sorry.

Ms WEBB - That seems to be something that could be added to in the answer that Ms Morgan-Wicks might provide. A toolkit sounds positive. Is it going to be required that that toolkit is applied or is it just there as an optional toolkit to dip into and out of?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier - and I'm sure the Minister for Women will also be able to add to this - but certainly as Head of the State Service, that would be something that I would be raising with the Secretaries Board in terms of the rollout of the toolkit and the expectation that that will be used and promoted by secretaries across the service in that regard, noting that secretaries are responsible for each of their own operational reviews and the rollout of operational efficiencies.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, I appreciate that.

CHAIR - Thank you. I think at this time, while there are other questions we could go into Overview, we can always continue Overview later on if we get through our line items. We can go back to Overview.

Output Group 1.1 Strategic Policy and Government Priorities

CHAIR - We might go to 1.1, Strategic Policy and Government Priorities, and Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR - Let's get some of our line items out of the way.

Ms WEBB - First line item. It's always a good move an hour-and-a-half in. Premier, I'm interested to talk with you a little bit about the Woolcott review and some recommendations in particular from that review. As you know, the independent Woolcott review parts A and B reports have been released, and they make a suite of recommendations across the employment framework, culture and justice reforms.

My question to you is this, and the first question is: can you please provide an update on progress of those 34 operational and strategic recommendations, including any timeframes for full completion and any resourcing required and provided in this Budget.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the very important question. We are taking strong and immediate action to strengthen child safety in Tasmania by progressing legislative reform, improving information-sharing and reinforcing accountability across institutions in response to the Woolcott review and the commission of inquiry.

This response includes the lead agency responsible for implementation of supported-in-part and supported-in-principle recommendations. The overall coordination of implementation is sitting with the responsibilities of the Chief Reform Lead in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, reporting to me through the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. These reforms are focused on ensuring concerns about child safety identified earlier are shared more effectively and acted on decisively across all parts of government.

To your question and more specifically, since accepting the Woolcott review recommendations in March this year, the government has moved to progress legal and system reforms aimed at better protecting children and young people. The draft Commission of Inquiry (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026 released for consultation gives effect to a number of Woolcott and other commission of inquiry recommendations.

The bill proposes amendments to six acts to strengthen child safety and information-sharing, improve accountability across public institutions, and support more effective child-safe responses across government, including strengthening information-sharing settings so agencies can share concerns about child safety risks and reportable conduct more effectively, improving the State Service disciplinary framework through amendments to the *State Service Act 2000*, and explicitly bringing Tasmania Police in the Child and Youth Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme with retrospective effect proposed as a priority issue.

Your other part of the question was about budget, or have I answered it in anything -

Ms WEBB - Probably what I'm looking for is an update across the 34 operational strategic recommendations. Perhaps the core question here is: having confirmed just now in your answer that it's your area and you're responsible for leading the implementation there, how will you be making public regular updates on how we're progressing against those recommendations so that it can be followed or monitored or held to account?

Mr ROCKLIFF - All right. Thank you for the question. I will provide some further comments relating to your question and then hand to the secretary to give some more detail. The government's response supports recommendations directed at strengthening child safety and State Service employment in integrity settings, while noting some recommendations, particularly those relating to the State Service Management Office, further consideration as part of ongoing public sector reform work.

We welcome the review's findings, concerns raised by the commission of inquiry about state servants' conduct as being appropriately dealt with. A formal government response has been released, and the government is already progressing implementation of supported recommendations. The Woolcott recommendations, as I'm advised, do not require new funding as they refine existing child safety settings that are already in place. Where additional resourcing is required, however, funding considerations will form part of the normal budget process.

Finally, before I throw to Ms Morgan-Wicks, recommendations that directly relate to child safety are being referred to the Office of the Child Safety Reform Implementation Monitor. The Attorney-General has written to the monitor with a proposed set of recommendations to be referred to the monitor, and we are currently awaiting the monitor's response. Secretary, do you have any further matters?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Thank you, and through you, Premier. Building on what the Premier has just answered, importantly, anything to do with child safety in terms of the Woolcott report, the findings, or the recommendations will be incorporated into our Change for Children action plan, which we're very close to completing. It's due for final approval and release in early August after we provide our next progress report to the office of the implementation monitor in July, but I know the team are actively working on that.

A lot of the focus has been on the miscellaneous bill development which the Premier has just summarised. We also have some significant recommendations in relation to the State Service Management Office and, for example, employment directions that were attached in terms of drafts, which we're currently working through with agencies in relation to feedback on the drafts that were provided by Mr Woolcott in the review.

In terms of the structure and the way in which the State Service Management Office works and operates and interacts with our agency, we are examining that as part of the machinery of government changes because we're also bringing in jobs and skills from the Department of State Growth, so it gives us a true opportunity to look at both that together with what Mr Woolcott had recommended.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I appreciate that, and I do have a question to follow up on with that, too. In terms of the monitor, the implementation monitor in that child safety space then will be providing updates on the implementation of some of the Woolcott recommendations that have been accepted, but the ones that won't go there - again, perhaps, is there any public way of seeing which recommendations will be monitored by the implementation monitor and which won't be? My question, then, is about how we will see public updates on the implementation of the others.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - We're going to have both the Keeping Children Safe website, which is a continuing way in which we're reporting on COI recommendations, and we'll be incorporating any recommendations also that aren't being reported by the independent monitor.

Ms WEBB - The ones relating to the State Service office and others?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes. We also have a page that's dedicated to the Woolcott review on the DPAC website.

Ms WEBB - Okay. That's where we'll see it.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - We'll make sure that we are reporting against the recommendations through a combination of those websites to make it easy.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. That's good to hear. In terms of those recommendations that relate to the State Service Management Office in the part 1 report, there's some that are

supported in principle, and from some of the answer you've already provided, that's because you're looking at them in the context of other things that are moving and changing in that space.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - That's correct.

Ms WEBB - So, I am interested to understand, particularly around the context of operational efficiencies also overlaying everything here in the near future, how you're going to prioritise those. The one that recommends that the key stewardship role and the structural reforms that it recommends around that are of particular interest to me to know where the government's thoughts are on progressing that, even if not specifically the way it's described in Woolcott's recommendations, how you're going to give effect to the intent of the principles there.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question, Ms Webb. Ms Morgan-Wicks.

Ms WEBB - That's around the new role of a commissioner sort of model, not to a full state service commission, but reinstating a commissioner role.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. There are a few facets to that question, Ms Webb. Certainly, in terms of the commissioner, that's still under active review, and I had many conversations with Mr Woolcott in relation to that, noting that Tasmania has previously had a public service commissioner.

That was then abolished, went to a State Service management function and Head of the State Service function. That is under review in terms of the context of the structural changes that we're looking in machinery of government, and I need to put advice to the Premier as the employer in relation to that.

In relation to operational efficiencies, the team in the State Service Management Office have been doing an incredible amount of work, particularly as we've had our wage negotiations taking a huge focus in terms of the team, but also in the establishment of the new Shared Capability and Investigations Unit, our SCCI team, which I have prioritised as full funding within DPAC's budget. I don't have any intention of attempting to diminish or create an operational efficiency in that area. They do incredibly intensive and complex work and incredibly important work.

From the perspective of bringing in a jobs and skills area and other areas of DSG, looking at our existing teams within DPAC, it'll be about looking to make sure that we have the right structure, the right skills, and that the work is prioritised for that area in accordance with what the government's priorities of the day are. I know that the COI, the effective management of the State Service, but also making sure that the State Service is the right size, shape and location is a critical priority of the Premier and government.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It is.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I appreciate that. I've got more in this area, but please share around.

CHAIR - No, that's all right, if you want to continue.

Ms WEBB - Keep going? Thank you. We recently had come out from the Auditor-General the report, report number 10 of 2025-26, around planning and early implementation of the Human Resource Information System. It's a pretty damning report in terms of a project that seems to have gone astray in many ways across its time, showing that during the time that it sat with the Health department, \$47 million was spent to no avail. It's switched to DPAC now and sits within your responsibilities, Premier, I would think. But there's still no assurance, really, through this report and the Auditor-General that the project is going to deliver what is intended and needed.

One of the things that interested me when I attended a briefing from the Auditor-General on the project - offered to all parliamentarians - was the comment that a briefing on this report was offered to you, Premier, and you didn't take up that offer. Why wouldn't you have been briefed by the Auditor-General's office on this report when it is such an important one in terms of highlighting some clear problems in project management here on this project?

Mr ROCKLIFF - As I understand, the secretary attended a briefing and the secretary briefed me.

Ms WEBB - Right. Okay. And so in terms of now, this project sitting with you in DPAC and under your responsibility, are you confident that it's now on track, given they pointed in this report to some ongoing lack of clarity around project management, that we're going to end up with this project delivered? And what do you think the final budget and timeline is going to be for that?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I provided a response to the report, as did the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. It's a critical project that will deliver critical public sector infrastructure. And to highlight how big a project it is, it will replace more than 40 ageing HR payroll and rostering platforms for our 36,000-strong Tasmanian State Service. Many of these systems are at or beyond end of life. They're no longer capable of providing reliable, accurate or timely workforce data.

Health alone runs over 1200 different rosters and enters its payroll information manually twice for over 16,000 employees, including into a system which often requires restarting during the pay run to allow it to complete. The need for a systemwide reform is both evident and pressing. This program will deliver PeopleCentral, a single modern HR platform making it easier to pay people, roster people, reduce paperwork and free up time so staff can focus on delivering services. It improves workforce visibility, including volunteers, supports delivery of commission of inquiry recommendations, and strengthens a more consistent, capable public service for the Tasmanian community.

A staged delivery approach has been adopted for PeopleCentral, and this approach allows government to realise benefits early and gain a clear, evidence-based view of the return on continued investment. This has seen position management functionality successfully implemented in the Department of Premier and Cabinet in April this year.

Work is underway to roll out this functionality to the Department of Health, followed by the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, with additional agencies planned to follow on a phased basis.

Additionally, the next stage of the HR transformation program is underway, focusing on payroll replacement delivering a single, consistent set of processes across government. The Auditor-General's report on planning and early implementation of the human resource information system recognises both the strategic importance of this work and the scale and complexity of delivering a whole-of-government HR and payroll system.

I consider it necessary to state clearly that I do not agree with some of the observations or conclusions the performance audit report contains because, in my view, the report does not adequately or accurately characterise the program, the basis for key decisions or the extent of work undertaken to date. Nor does it sufficiently reflect the complexity, sequencing and risk profile inherent in a program of this nature. This system was built in the Department of Health. It is now the foundation of what is being rolled out to government now.

Ms WEBB - Given that the Auditor-General in his report has put a rejoinder there, defending the quality of the work that they have done in this report, are you suggesting that the Auditor-General has done sub-par work in this?

Mr ROCKLIFF - No. I'm suggesting my views are as stated and the same.

Ms WEBB - For example, an inaccuracy or something that wasn't correctly characterised, can you give an example from the report?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I might just refer now to the secretary to say a few words. Thank you.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Thank you, Premier. If it's in relation to the accuracy of the report, there were several issues that I raised with the Auditor-General, and I raised them because I've been involved with the HRIS project, which is now known as HRTP, since its inception in 2020 when I was secretary of the Department of Health. I've basically put out the begging bowl for money for that because of the concerns back in 2020 in relation to the way in which Health was running its payroll. I worked with Jenny Gale, who was then department secretary for Premier and Cabinet, given her concerns in relation to whole of government.

This has been funded as a single project over the last seven budgets. It's not two projects. I note and I did raise with the Auditor-General my concern that the report made it look like one project in Health that's now been handed to DPAC, who has now improved things. This is a single project. While it's had a couple of project directors, the one that was at Health under me has moved to DPAC and they're still working for me, and I'm providing no key guidance in relation to the project.

In terms of accuracy, we corresponded with the Auditor-General in relation to the number that he had originally had in the draft, for example, in the report about \$58 million being wasted by Health, which was incorrect, and we corrected it to \$47 million. We provided feedback in relation to that it was a single project and not two. We provided feedback that Health did deliver in terms of the \$47 million.

Health procured whole-of-government PeopleCentral licences, securing a 10-year deal for government. Health built core system components, including employee central, recruitment, onboarding and payroll. Health developed critical integration, data migration and the testing frameworks to support deployment.

Health also cleaned and prepared tens of thousands of workforce data records. They resolved many legacy complexities and enabling future migration. Health undertook system integration and data migration testing, and this evidence was provided to the Auditor-General's team, validating the build and confirming the readiness of it.

What Health did do in 2024 was engage an ICT expert to review the readiness of the program to roll out to Health. And we've all seen what happened in Queensland when Queensland tried to roll out a payroll system and then had to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to rectify that mistaken rollout and the suffering of people who were working in Health who were not paid correctly. It's a significant issue.

That expert said pause, this needs to be piloted and rolled out into a smaller agency, and that's exactly what we've done. So, using what Health has built, we have now rolled that out and we deployed the first functionality of HRIS, which was establishment management, into DPAC in 2025.

The next functionality, position management, is now live in DPAC and we're now preparing for further deployment, having tested, piloted, gone through a hypercritical support stage. It is then going into the Department of Health and will then roll out. And we're working with each of the agencies who, importantly, are doing their business readiness work in the background.

It's not just about procuring an ICT system and making sure we've designed and developed and rolled it out. We also need to do all of the clean-up of the quite manual and paper-based systems so that we can actually -

Ms WEBB - I think the complexity of the project is noted, absolutely. And it is noted in the report, too, and in the -

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And we have ICT experts, so they're involved in actually doing this. And I note the Auditor-General's rejoinder.

Ms WEBB - Yes, and the fact that the government has accepted all recommendations made by the Auditor-General.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Because we've completed those recommendations.

Ms WEBB - And the Auditor-General also notes in terms of his recommendations that it would be advisable for other state entities to take note of the context of this report. Is there a way that the government, probably through DPAC, a central agency, does draw this to the attention of other agencies who are similarly engaged in complex ICT-based or digital-based projects and may be encountering some of these same issues?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And yes - through the Premier. We're already engaged with our interjurisdictional colleagues because we've also been testing with them their rollout. I think most states around Australia, at the moment, are attempting to replace or have replaced their payroll and HR infrastructure. And, for example, New South Wales has done it very successfully, which we've - you know, they've rolled out to some 70-plus agencies within New

PUBLIC

South Wales. We are learning and they are being very generous in terms of sharing those lessons, and we will absolutely do the same from a Tasmanian perspective.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I've got more.

CHAIR - I'm just going to ask another question just in the last 15 minutes. We'll have a break at 11, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR - So, very shortly. Premier, just with regard to - it was a media release back in 2025 by the now Treasurer regarding Tasmanian regulation and barriers. With reference to the media release from the Treasurer, which was entitled 'Taking Tasmanian regulation and barriers to task', the claim was that 'Tasmania has the highest number of legislative restrictions per capita in Australia, 74 per 1000 people'. So, can you advise, what's the exact methodology behind the figure and which independent source produced it? How does it account for the quality or impact of regulations rather than just a raw count?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. I will have to take that on notice and consult with the Treasurer.

CHAIR - That's fine. Well, I do have some others with regard to it that you might be able to answer.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Great. Okay.

CHAIR - How will success be measured? Will there be a public dashboard tracking the number of repeals? The estimated compliance cost? Perhaps I could forward all the questions to you, then. Are you able to answer any of them, do you think? Or do they all need to go to the Treasurer?

I'm just wondering, has the government conducted a regulatory burden audit with the independent cost-benefit analysis? Can the government publish the full preliminary list of the 40-plus acts and regulations targeted for repeal or amendment, along with the specific reasons for each? How would the government handle regulations that appear obsolete but still serve niche protective functions? Old environmental or heritage rules.

I should mention at this time, I did ask the Attorney-General yesterday with regard to a bill or an act that's relevant to a bill that I plan to amend, and that was the *Retail Leases Act 2022*, which hadn't been fully proclaimed. Only section 1 and section 88 of that act had been proclaimed since 2022. And there were others.

I also note, I think it was the *Electrical Safety Act 2022* that hasn't been proclaimed yet either. So, we're looking at repealing legislation and regulations. I'm just wondering how many of those acts still sit there unproclaimed.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I'll look at the *Hansard*, and you've asked a series of questions there, including the ones that you ended your contribution with, and if it's all right with you, I can take those as questions on notice.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - That's fine, Premier. I'll provide you with the list rather than spend time now if you can't answer. If they're questions you really need to take on notice, I'm happy to do that.

Mr ROCKLIFF - If that's the appropriate process.

CHAIR - Yes, if that's satisfactory to you, I'll provide my list of questions to do with the repeal of legislation and regulations, and then if you could respond in a timely manner before we actually come back to parliament to deal with Estimates, that would be great.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Sure. Best endeavours.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. Ms Webb, then. Are we still on -

Ms WEBB - Still on the first line item, I think.

CHAIR - Yes. So if we could just maybe start -

Ms WEBB - I've got two.

CHAIR - Two questions and we'll need to move on to some other line items.

Ms WEBB - I'll just get one done before the break, I imagine.

CHAIR - Yes.

Ms WEBB - Premier, I'm interested to talk with you about hate group identification.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Sorry?

Ms WEBB - Hate group identification.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Okay.

Ms WEBB - Internationally and nationally we're seeing a disturbing rise in the presence of hate groups and hate speech. So, I'm wondering what whole-of-government work is being undertaken to identify and monitor the emergence of hate groups in Tasmania, and are there any groups or individuals currently on a watch list? And obviously I'm not looking for personal identification there, just confirmation of whether we have a watch list and whether there are groups on it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - All right. We did have some nation-leading legislation, you'd be aware, around Nazi symbols and matters of that nature, and that was a few years ago now.

Ms WEBB - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm happy to take the rest of your question on notice in terms of identification of hate groups.

Ms WEBB - Yes. So the question I had about -

Mr ROCKLIFF - There's obviously national intelligence matters we concern ourselves with here, is my understanding. But we've recently strengthened Tasmania's *Sentencing Act 1997* to ensure that racial or ethnic hatred, including antisemitism, as you'd appreciate, is being treated as an aggravating factor in sentencing. As I've already alluded to, we have in place an offence to display a Nazi symbol and we are considering extending these provisions to cover other types of symbols.

But our government's very clear priorities, Ms Webb, are to ensure that Tasmania's Multicultural Action Plan includes ensuring Tasmanian communities feel safe, and we've already progressed a range of initiatives to achieve this, and we have continued Tasmania's community-led Social Cohesion Grants Program providing funding to support projects that address racism and foster, indeed, our social cohesion as well.

Ms WEBB - I appreciate that. Those are good programs. Did you indicate that you would take on notice my question about what whole-of-government work is being undertaken to identify and monitor the emergence of hate groups in Tasmania?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll take it on - yes, in the context I can possibly provide some information from a national perspective as well.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. The follow-on question I also had from this is: Premier, do you have any guidelines established to ensure that government agencies or representatives are not unwittingly liaising with or entering into government contracts with potential hate groups or individuals or those associated closely with them?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Right. Okay. Is this a similar line of questioning given to Murray Watt the other day, I saw in Senate Estimates?

Ms WEBB - I don't know. I didn't watch Senate Estimates the other day.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I saw something come up in my reels about this matter. Anyway, my reels tend to - algorithms obviously tend to have parliamentary stuff on them, obviously. I'm making light of this. However, hate groups are a matter for the police and particularly the counterterrorism area of responsibility, which we are involved with in terms of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Commissioner of Police, I'm certain, and the Police minister would be available to answer such questions of this nature as well.

Ms WEBB - Yes. My questions are not so much from whether there's criminal activity going on side of things; it's more to do with hate groups emerging, becoming an insidious presence in our community, and then whether we have things in place from a whole-of-government, from a central-agency perspective to ensure, for example, that government agencies or representatives don't unwittingly form links with those groups, whether that's through contracts, whether it's through some sort of liaising or given - are there guidelines or are there ways that we are looking to ensure that we aren't putting our government agencies in a position where that might occur?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Okay. I'll take your question at face value and understand the sentiment and the context behind it. I will respond to you around these matters. I don't disagree with the intent of your line of questioning in terms of outcome.

Ms WEBB - It's not meant to be a tricky line of questioning.

Mr ROCKLIFF - No, no. No, I understand that, which is exactly why I've answered it in this way. And Ms Morgan-Wicks would like to say something as well.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - So, through the Premier, from a whole-of-government perspective or from a Premier and Cabinet perspective, we obviously work very closely with our police colleagues in terms of the Commissioner of Police. Within our own risk and recovery and resilience focus, we also have responsibility for Tasmania's Protective Security Policy Framework, which also looks at the way in which we are dealing with information, classifying information and distributing it and setting protective security measures across agencies in terms of particular hate groups, which I understand are identified and classified from a national perspective.

And that information is then shared through our intergovernmental mechanisms, which DPAC and both police have representation on. We would have to then take that information in and consider whether that's applied through our security framework in itself or whether particular instructions are provided to agencies.

Do we have a particular policy that is naming hate groups and having that as a consideration in procurement? I'm not aware of that, but I'm happy to go back and ask and talk to my teams about whether that supplement's been considered.

Ms WEBB - Especially in a small community like Tasmania. These things can overlap and intersect.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Understand.

CHAIR - Now being 11 am, if we could stop the broadcast, please. We will break for 15 minutes.

The committee suspended from 11 a.m. to 11.16 a.m.

CHAIR - Thank you. Welcome back, Premier and I believe there might be a correction that you just wanted, for clarification, to make.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Thank you. One clarification from the prior session concerning legal fees. There are occasionally some minor matters that relate to a minister that may not go to Cabinet, depending on the circumstance. As noted in the ministerial - sorry, as noted in the guidelines, ministers are automatically indemnified in the guidelines it follows.

Ms WEBB - Can I just follow up on that, Premier, just a quick question. So, ministers are automatically indemnified to defend for defensive legal actions, but when it is something that the minister is bringing as an action there are some exclusions and things there. Could you clarify that, because it's not an automatic - in my reading of the guidelines which I've got right here is that it's not an automatic granting of legal assistance in the case of bringing a legal action for a minister.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. As I'm informed there are occasionally some minor matters that relate to a minister that may not go to cabinet, depending on the circumstance.

Ms WEBB - If I ask you in this instance, did the decision about then Minister Ogilvie's matter go to cabinet, are you able to provide a straightforward answer to that?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm not going to comment on cabinet matters.

CHAIR - Thank you. I think that's an answer from the Premier, because it was a clarification. Premier, I'd just like to ask you the government's response to the announcement this morning that Lion announced the proposal to close James Boag Brewery in Launceston, which I'm sure you'll accept and admit that it is an absolutely terrible, terrible thing to happen for Tasmania, but particularly for Launceston and for the 42 people employed at James Boag Brewery.

Do you have a comment to make? Can you give some indication of anything the government may be able to do to assist those workers, bearing in mind what Lion had already said that they will do and contribute. And I note that they will repay the \$1 million to the government but any comment that you may make with regard to the proposed closure of the James Boag Brewery this year?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. I acknowledge the question, Chair, and of course you're a member for Launceston, of which this would be very deeply concerning to you as well.

CHAIR - Absolutely. Hardworking and they've already had many cuts, and it's always been a fear.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. It has and I'm extremely disappointed in the decision. I've conveyed that to Lion. I really feel for the 42 workers and their families who will be very impacted and very saddened by today's announcement. And if I can reflect on a conversation I had with an employee of the visitor's centre just a few years ago, and the despair that that person conveyed to me around the job insecurity and the announcement of the closure of the visitor's centre, which is one of the reasons why we very quickly engaged with Lion to save the visitor centre.

That's where the government put in \$1 million to revitalise the visitor centre experience but also the associated infrastructure, which has been a wise investment. Those who have been to the visitor centre and seen the new infrastructure would most certainly concur with that. I acknowledge the fact that this will be very, very concerning for the 42 employees and their families.

Naturally, our efforts of the government to work with Lion and put the best interests of the employees at the forefront of the ramifications for this decision, working with unions, of course, which we always do, workers and the hospitality industry, more broadly, for those who are impacted on this.

Acknowledging Lion's commitment to honouring employee benefits and delivering \$500,000 investment for a reskilling fund and also acknowledge - and there was some discussion in commentary around the \$1 million of investment that the government put in to save the visitor centre and, indeed, improve it. In my view, that was a worthy investment because I understand the visitor centre will remain open.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - The brewhouse will remain open. I'm guessing that's attached to the visitor's centre, the new brewhouse.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And acknowledge, of course, the \$1 million will be paid back to the Tasmanian people through the Tasmanian Government, as well, by Lion. But very disappointing and my heart goes out to all the employees who have been affected.

CHAIR - I would assume that as a priority that you would be reaching out and speaking with Lion, with the board of Lion? Or just trying to think who the general manager is now in Sydney. It's changed from time to time.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I have spoken to Lion directly about this. I've conveyed my disappointment. I've acknowledged the additional investment they're making in terms of repaying the grant of \$1 million and, indeed, the additional \$500,000 reskilling fund. That will be little comfort, however, to the affected employees and the workers.

CHAIR - Little comfort for the workers, but they also note in the media that Lion sent on to me that they would be working closely with the Tasmanian Government on the future of the brewery site. I guess if something could even be enabled on the brewery site that could employ some of those workers. Obviously, it's a brewhouse. So, I'm assuming that you actually will - or you or your people will be working with them to try to find something to actually go hand in hand with that, to try and employ some of the workers to give them something back.

It's just so devastating coming up to the end of the year with 42 workers. And as you said before, FTEs workers, they have families, they're people who have children, they've got mortgages, they've got bills to pay. So, the government, I'm assuming, will make every effort to stay in contact to try to work something out and, if possible, even to put something back in that area that could maybe re-employ some of those people.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. I agree with you. We will, quite clearly -

CHAIR - Reach out this week.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Well, quite clearly, at the forefront of our mind, and our first actions must be to support the workers and their families.

CHAIR - Yes. Absolutely.

Mr ROCKLIFF - You're right. They have mortgages to pay, commitments, and we need to support them as much as humanly possible in terms of future economic enabling through other opportunities for the visitor economy or advanced manufacturing. In this case, food production, beverage production.

We'll consider all options and ideas and work with affected workers and, indeed, the community. Now, Business Tas has a support function, of course, that will kick in straight away, as I understand it but most importantly, the workers are at the forefront of our minds and our actions with respect to the announcement today.

CHAIR - That's the thing. Any ray of hope for the workers, I think, that there might be somewhere that they can actually go if it could be repurposed, obviously. It is a brewhouse but thank you, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Indeed. And thank you for the question.

CHAIR - Devastating news.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - Ms Webb, you had one more question in this line item before we move on.

Ms WEBB - Yes. Thank you. Dealing with strategic policy and government priorities. Premier, the dismantling of the Department of State Growth has resulted in a realignment of community sector areas into other departments. There's been a bit of a flow-on effect of that.

A key area of concern amongst sector members is the realignment of Older Tasmanians into the Department of Health, and it just seemed to reinforce a perception it is a health problem rather than a demographic within our community to be celebrated and supported. Premier, can you please detail the policy basis of relocating aging and Older Tasmanians out of DPAC and into the Department of Health.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. Supporting people to age well is a priority of our government. It is a whole-of-government responsibility, which is why we've created the designated portfolio of minister for Aging; Ms Archer holds that responsibility and this portfolio ensures that a holistic view of aging informs all our decisions.

These matters, of course, when they come to the cabinet table, at the very least there is an aging lens over decisions brought to the cabinet table by our minister for Ageing and this portfolio remains in place irrespective of which agency administers the funding for these matters, and indeed in this case, the advocacy group COTA.

The Department of Health has a lifespan approach to supporting Tasmanians to live well. This aligns very closely with the role of COTA Tasmania to support Tasmanians to age well. And the Minister for Ageing expects her department to provide her with that holistic advice to discharge her role, and this will continue in new arrangements -

Ms WEBB - even though it was done without consultation with that representative organisation and against the advice, it would appear, of that organisation representing older Tasmanians.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I understand the view of the organisation, but we have a Minister for Ageing, which is an important area of ministerial responsibility, which does give that whole-of-government focus and lens.

Ms WEBB - Can I ask in a related way about the release that was put out yesterday, which I welcome, which is calling for expressions of interest for the new Ministerial Advisory Council to be established under the Older Tasmanians Action Plan. And then I note, though, that delivery detail and whole-of-government accountability for the plan is not yet clear. So, in

PUBLIC

the Budget, it looks like there's \$281,000 per year over three years towards the Older Tasmanians Action Plan.

My question then, Premier, is around what actions contained in the plan are to be funded by that allocation, and what measurable outcomes will be reported publicly? Can you confirm that those actions are assigned to action areas assigned to DPAC and are still the responsibility of DPAC to have oversight on, or will they shift?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. I'll seek some advice on the matter. Thank you, Ms Webb. So, if it's all right, Chair, I'll bring back to the table Ms Noelene Kelly, who has responsibilities for this matter, and Ms Webb can, through me, engage with Ms Kelly.

CHAIR - Thank you. Welcome, Noelene.

Ms KELLY - Thank you. Through you, Premier, the funding and responsibility for the Older Tasmanians Action Plan will transfer to the Department of Health.

Ms WEBB - You might need to bring your microphone around to you.

Mr HISCUTT - That was me.

Ms KELLY - So the funding and responsibility for the Older Tasmanians Action Plan will transfer to the Department of Health as part of this transition. Also, the Ministerial Advisory Council, which the Minister for Ageing announced yesterday, will also transfer through, and we're working really closely with Health in terms of that transfer.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. And then my question around the budget allocation of \$281,000 per year over three years towards the action plan, the actions contained in the plan funded by that allocation - which actions contained in the plan are to be funded by that allocation and what measurable outcomes will be reported on publicly?

Ms KELLY - Through you, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms KELLY - So we're working through, at the moment, in terms of the funding allocation based on the actions, and we're doing that in consultation with government agencies, because it's a whole-of-agency plan, but also we're really looking forward to the establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Council to help inform that as well. And certainly, we'll talk to Health Department about making the tracking of the actions from the action plan public.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I appreciate that. That's always useful. Just to really clarify, while responsibility for the plan is shifting to Health, the action areas that are assigned to DPAC presumably still stay with DPAC within the plan?

Ms KELLY - Through you, Premier. That's right.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I appreciate that clarification.

CHAIR - While we're actually on talking about older people, I was just wondering, Premier, what safeguards will be in place to ensure that the older public sector workers are not directly or indirectly pressured to apply, including through assumptions about age, retirement intentions, salary level or length of service, to the voluntary redundancy.

I accept that we had the answer before about what's actually going to happen to try to retain skills and levels, but what's in place to actually make sure that the people who maybe - or maybe is thought to be looking to retirement, or close to retirement age - that they're not pressured to actually leave? Obviously, that's a skill as well that we need to keep in many cases.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. Kath.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier, our older cohorts in our Tasmanian state service are an absolute value sector in our workforce.

Ms WEBB - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - They're often the people that you can rely upon with the memory of exactly what has happened in relation to a particular program or project or something that we've tried before and are able to share that experience, as well as immense skill with our developing workforce. Certainly, in terms of our voluntary negotiated redundancy program, that is exactly what it is. It is voluntary. In terms of pressuring people, all secretaries absolutely understand that people choose to be employed in our Tasmanian state sector for many reasons, often, which is about -

Ms WEBB - Young or old.

Mr MOGRIDGE - Young or old, which is often about returning to the community and providing service to the community. But people may need to be employed for quite a significant length of time, and everyone has different financial pressures and perspectives, or they absolutely love the work they do and would like to continue to work for as long as they physically can.

CHAIR - Thank you very much.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - So we absolutely respect that. I wouldn't want to hear any complaints or stories about anyone being pressured to do something that is voluntary.

CHAIR - Thank you. Thank you, Premier. Appreciate it.

Ms WEBB - Follow on -

Mr GAFFNEY - Supplementary -

Ms WEBB - No, you go.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes. I'm interested in that. That's the response I was hoping you'd say. Perhaps in a department you have four people who voluntarily want redundancy. There's a skills gap there. You've got another four over here. A couple of those may need to retrain to fill that position that's now void or now vacant.

I suppose, in the Budget, do - or does each department, I suppose, have budget allocations for professional development in case that occurs? How do you handle that, not having enough people in the right area, so you might have to reskill some people who may be quite happy to step sideways or up or whatever? Does each department have that capacity?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through you, Premier. So, Mr Gaffney - and this can obviously be quite complex - you're going from an extreme of specialists within a hospital who are part of a specialist training program. One might decide, 'Well, I guess I've had enough', or 'I want to go back to my private practice', or 'I'd like to just do two days a week'.

We have dedicated skills that are required under accreditation in hospitals, for example. So there is absolutely dedicated professional learning, continuing development and that's part of the whole hospitals' arrangement. I'm just using that as an example -

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - compared to a very senior policy analyst who sits within the Department of Premier and Cabinet who has seen everything from COAG through to COVID through to national cabinet and is able to assist in training more junior policy analysts, for example, coming through on the art of inter-government negotiations. So, in that respect, I wouldn't say that we necessarily have dedicated-learning funding.

We always manage our budgets. If someone needs to go on a policy-writing course or if we need to send them over to Canberra, for example, for a period of time to also understand and get to know that policy environment, if it's of benefit to Tasmania, we would look at prioritising that within output 1.1, for example, in strategic policies.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes. Okay. So therefore, it's not a - it could be a whole-of-government approach to whatever the vacancies are. So, it's not a siloed approach to each department looking out for its own sort of thing.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. We have our training consortium which is part of our State Service Management Office that does tend, though, in the main to look at that whole-of-government leadership and management approach, for example, as some of their outputs but they will also hear about training needs that are across the agencies. I think in terms of this timing, everyone's not going to go out in one day.

Mr GAFFNEY - No.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And if a manager is concerned that there is insufficient skill within their own team, they shouldn't be accepting that EOI for a voluntary, as much as the staff member might beg for it and really want it.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - There's hurrays across the public service compared to others that absolutely want to remain as a public servant.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And we just need to look at making sure that we are balancing the timing and that if further time is required, we'd be saying, 'Can you please stay on for this length of time so that we can make sure that Sally and Jo or Henry have got now sufficient training and experience so that they can carry on the work that you've spent years providing.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Okay. Yes. Thank you. Thanks.

CHAIR - No, thank you. Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Just to follow on to that as well, thank you, thinking about the questions that were there around age profile, potentially, of people taking voluntary redundancies and other redundancies from state service over the next few years, is that something that you're planning to be able to report on publicly?

When it comes to reporting on redundancies that've been taken, say, on an annual basis or however you're going to be reporting on that, will you give consideration to thinking about the ways to present that information so that we can see what the profile of the state servants who are taking those redundancies looks like?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. We report on age profiles through our Head of the State Service annual report. Certainly, in terms of separations data and commencement data, we receive an age profile in relation to separations and commencements on a whole-of-government perspective. I just need to check if that information is also included in our annual reporting, but what I look for -

Ms WEBB - And the granularity of redundancies as a separation, rather than other forms of separations.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes. I would need to check to see that we're recording that, noting that separations from a TNVR perspective will increase, obviously, with the Premier's announcement around the 500 TNVR package for this calendar year, but we'll absolutely monitor that data, including age, and report.

Ms WEBB - Back to what we spoke about earlier around a gender lens on operational efficiencies, it would be useful to have a gender breakdown of those as well as an age profile breakdown.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier, yes. We receive a gender breakdown in relation to the age profile, but also noting that we have, for example, a predominantly female workforce in the state service.

Ms WEBB - Yes. Understood within the context of the workforce that you're speaking about, again, is that done on an agency-by-agency reporting basis, then, so we can see and have that context around the figures?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. We receive the data on an agency-by-agency basis, but I'd just need to check whether that's provided in specific.

PUBLIC

Ms WEBB - If I may suggest that you consider the sorts of information that people are going to be interested to know about in terms of the public reporting of these separations and these voluntary redundancies and think about how you can proactively report publicly on that so we don't necessarily have to drag that information out at Estimates processes, that would be helpful.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. We'll absolutely consider that. There is an incredible amount of detail that's in our Head of the State Service annual report that we absolutely and routinely disclose.

Ms WEBB - Yes. I appreciate that. I'm sorry to go back to it, but because you came back with that clarification, I needed a bit of time to process it in my mind, and I just wanted to check on one aspect of that, Premier, just to make sure I'm clear about what you were clarifying, if I may, in relation to the fact that you clarified that there were instances in which things might not need to go to cabinet for approval when it came to requests for legal assistance from a minister.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Minor matters, I understand, yes.

Ms WEBB - Pardon?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Minor matters, yes.

Ms WEBB - Minor. Right. Just to clarify, when they are minor matters? When they are minor requests? What does the 'minor' attach to in that statement?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Depending on the circumstance.

Ms WEBB - The question I'm going to just check with you as well on this, just for full clarity, is even if it's not going to cabinet, under 3.1 of the guidelines, which is 'Notification of Legal Proceedings by Public Officer', does it still under that have to come to you as the responsible officer for that notification?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's my advice, yes. That's my understanding, yes.

Ms WEBB - Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - If the guidelines are followed.

Ms WEBB - Can you clarify the use of the word 'minor' and what that relates to?

Mr ROCKLIFF - The nature or the dollars amount.

Ms WEBB - If the matter itself is a minor matter or if the amount being sought in terms of assistance was minor, that could just come to the responsible officer as a notification and under automatic coverage of ministers would be covered without going to cabinet?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's my understanding, yes.

Ms WEBB - That could happen.

CHAIR - Thank you. I think you've probably prosecuted that.

Ms WEBB - I appreciate the further information brought back to the table, and I appreciate being able to fully understand what's being presented.

CHAIR - The Premier's answered to the best of his ability.

Output Group 1.2

Child and Youth Wellbeing

CHAIR - Would we like to move on to item 1.2: Child and Youth Wellbeing? Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, Chair. I'll just get myself rearranged into that area. This is an area that is clearly moving and shifting in terms of DPAC's responsibilities over the coming years. I just want to talk through some of that a bit, if we might, but first of all, perhaps, look at the key deliverables that relate to this space that's here in the budget papers.

Noting that key deliverables are continuing on from 2025-26, and one of those that is relevant here is the therapeutic services for victim/survivors of sexual violence that was going to SASS and Laurel House, that's \$3.5 million in the 2026-27 financial year and \$3.5 million in the 2027-28, or just over 3.5 in both of those. I'm just checking in.

That will cover 2026-27 and 2027-28, and then there is nothing further in the forward estimates. I want to check on what is now being funded out of that bucket of money, and what will happen when we get to 2028-29 and there's no further funding there for whatever is being funded now?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. You're referring to table 10.1, page 206 of budget paper 2, where you've correctly highlighted therapeutic services for victim/survivors of sexual violence, SASS and Laurel House, \$3.54 million in 2026-27 and 2027-28. I will, if that's okay, ask Courtney Hurworth to arrive at the table. Thank you, Courtney. Courtney is the Chief Reform Officer, Keeping Children Safe.

CHAIR - And Courtney's full name, Premier, just for Hansard? We have Courtney -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Courtney Hurworth, H-u-r-w-o-r-t-h.

CHAIR - Thank you, and welcome, Courtney.

Ms HURWORTH - Thank you. Through you, Premier. As you would appreciate, the funding for these organisations is complicated and comes out of multiple output groups. What is funded out of this output for SASS and Laurel House is a funding uplift for core therapeutic services that was related to demand that increased during and post-commission of inquiry and then funding for harmful sexual behaviours, which is therapeutic services for children who use violence.

We also provided a small amount of funding to SASS and Laurel House for our change leads program, which enabled key representatives across community organisations to implement Keeping Children Safe reforms in their sectors. SASS and Laurel House's core

PUBLIC

funding and their additional funding through the Survivors at the Centre action plan, plus their funding for services delivered in Arch centres, comes out of output group 1.4.

Ms WEBB - Yes. In terms of the key deliverables line item, which is the \$3.5-odd million in 2026-27 and 2027-28 and then nothing after that, when that funding finishes in June 2028, what will cease in terms of the service delivery through those two organisations? What will we stop funding at that point?

Ms HURWORTH - If the funding did not continue at that point in time, the funding for core therapeutic services would reduce. It would reduce to the core funding provided through output group 1.4. The harmful sexual behaviours funding is additional here as well. I should have mentioned that, sorry. The additional funding for harmful sexual behaviours would also stop, and the program would reduce down to its core funding. That would be the impact.

Ms WEBB - Sorry, just to clarify because I think I got confused then, the harmful sexual behaviours funding, is that included in this 3.5?

Ms HURWORTH - Yes.

Ms WEBB - It is. Okay. Thank you.

Ms HURWORTH - The breakdown is \$1.35 million for HSB and \$1million for therapeutic services uplift.

Ms WEBB - \$1.35 million and \$1million. That doesn't equal 3.5, though, does it?

Ms HURWORTH - And the change leads funding.

Ms WEBB - Okay. Across the three.

Thank you. And so presumably there's going to be ongoing conversations prior to 2028-29 about what might happen next in that space and what funding needs will be then for those organisations.

Ms HURWORTH - We'll probably talk about this more this afternoon, but we have just commenced a major evaluation of the Tasmanian Government's investment into family and sexual violence prevention and response, and that evaluation will be a key informer of funding moving forward.

Ms WEBB - Great. I look forward to talking about that in more detail and ask more questions this afternoon in the appropriate portfolio for that. So, then the other key deliverable that's in the 2026-27 key deliverables is the therapeutic services in Arch centres.

That's \$900,000 in 2026-27 and the same in 2027-28, and again, nothing across the forward Estimates there. So, I'm keen to understand what that is - what outcomes that is looking for in these two financial years it's funded, and what's going to happen when it drops away in 2027-28 - sorry, 2028-29 is when there's no funding from then on.

Ms HURWORTH - Through you, Premier. That funding funds Laurel House and SASS to provide services in the Arch centres. So Arch centre funding is split between DPFEM's

budget and this budget line, and we provide, through this output, the funding for therapeutic services. If that funding ceased, therapeutic services wouldn't be able to be delivered in those Arch centres.

Ms WEBB - Premier, that's why I don't understand why it's a key deliverable and not some sort of core funding that's provided. The Arch centre model relies on the delivery of these services, therapeutic services within the model. That's the whole premise of the Arch model. So why are we funding it and only funding it across two years in this Budget and not funding it as part of core funding?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, Courtney. Thank you.

Ms HURWORTH - Through you, Premier. This funding is - we're looking at how we better integrate the Arch centre therapeutic delivery with the core services of those organisations. So, we are looking at how we can consolidate that into single funding pools, as you're alluding to. The funding for therapeutic services in Arch centres was initially provided through national partnership agreement funding, and that was to pilot innovative approaches. The inclusion of this in the budget recognises that those innovative approaches have worked and that it's now included in state appropriation.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Can I say, though, they're still relatively new, including the newest one being the North West Coast.

Ms HURWORTH - Yes, that's only come online.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And so we'll continue to evaluate and to see where the investment's best applied. I don't imagine a world where we don't continue funding, but we need to continue that evaluation to get the model right in terms of service delivery.

Ms WEBB - And that evaluation is the evaluation that Ms Hurworth referred to just before, or a different evaluation?

Ms HURWORTH - No. I think the Premier is referring - sorry, through you, Premier. The Premier is referring to the evaluation that I spoke about which will look at Arch centres, and how clients accessing Arch centres have or have not changed the client profiles and behaviours in terms of accessing broader sexual violence services. But there has been an independent evaluation done of Arch through DPFEM, and that provided a number of recommendations for improvement. It also commented on how excellent they are, and so we're looking at how we implement those over the next couple of years as well.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. And so, is DPAC's role going to change in terms of its oversight or involvement in these spaces in coming years?

Ms HURWORTH - Through you, Premier. Yes. The Family and Sexual Violence secretariat that sits under me will transition to the Department of Justice and will sit in the Justice Support Services area. Our anticipation is that it won't change in the sense that the team and the processes and the governance that we use will all remain in place, but it will be administrated out of Justice, not DPAC, and they will take on that whole-of-government coordinating role.

Ms WEBB - Right. And in terms of, say - so coming back then to the other aspect here, which is the Keeping Children Safe reform, which had that whole-of-government coordination function that sat here in DPAC, looking at the commission of inquiry recommendations and monitoring and sort of reporting on those, are we going to see that function for DPAC in relation to the Keeping Children Safe reforms shift as well?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes, through the Premier. That function will move to DECYP, and it is following the stage also of the phasing the recommendations, with the majority now sitting within DECYP to deliver.

That does not mean that DPAC does not maintain an absolute interest in ensuring that there is whole-of-government coordination and delivery of the COI recommendations and that we will continue to monitor and receive updates at our secretary's board in relation to that. We also have and report to a committee of Cabinet in terms of the Premier's interest in making sure the recommendations are implemented.

Ms WEBB - It's important to hear that that oversight is still there from a whole-of-government perspective, because I think it's not necessarily a good look to have both those things shifted out of the central agency, given their importance, the sexual violence side of things and the Keeping Children Safe side of things.

One thing I'm interested in, then, is, does that explain the shift in funding in this line item or are those 'machinery of government' changes not reflected in this line item at the moment? When we look ahead and see the - basically dwindles down to a fraction of things in 2028-29 and then 2029-30 - is that related to the shifting of these responsibilities?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Just on the matter, while Ms Morgan-Wicks provides an answer to you, Ms Webb - and thank you for acknowledging, still, the whole-of-government lens, if I can put it that way. While various responsibilities shift with other departments, including DECYP, there is also, as you may well be aware already, a subcommittee of Cabinet to do with child safety and including implementation of the commission of inquiry recommendations.

And all relevant ministers, including myself as Premier, sit on that. In fact, I chair it as Premier and obviously it's Minister for Education, the Minister for Police and other relevant key ministers as well to ensure there's whole-of-government oversight of the implementation of recommendations and child safety reforms more broadly.

Ms WEBB - Good.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And through the Premier, in relation to budget - and I think I mentioned before, this is a Budget that's prepared as at current day for Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Ms WEBB - Yes, reflecting now.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - So it includes these functions. But there will be output transfers that we're working with Treasury in relation to. But noting in terms of the commission of inquiry funding, it actually increases in this Budget. So, it remains a priority. It is not dwindling, but it is shifting and moving towards recommendations that are still required to be

delivered. As once we deliver particular items, they move into base funding. You don't necessarily see them in the key deliverables table anymore.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Does DPAC still then retain the Shared Capability Investigations Unit to undertake the functions that unit's been doing in relation to the investigations that came out of the commission of inquiry?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - And is it anticipated that that has a particular shelf life or is that going to just be funded in an ongoing way until it's no longer required? What's the plan?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - So through the Premier. The SCCI, in my view, as the current head of the State Service, does not have a shelf life. It is a continuing and important function. We've developed up some significant capability within that team which looks at the greater context, serious misconduct matters and they have started their work in relation to allegations and long-standing matters in Ashley Youth Detention Centre. But we are continuing to work with agencies in relation to serious misconduct, ED5 investigations, and we see the SCCI team as being core to that investigation, uplift and delivery.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And I share honourable Ms Morgan-Wicks' view with respect to no shelf life. This is a key priority of our government, if not the number one priority, and I have the same view as Ms Morgan-Wicks.

Ms WEBB - Excellent. And on those long-term investigations that have been going on from AYDC, I think it's, sort of, remiss in these opportunities not to get an update on where we are, how many of the very longstanding four, five year-plus investigations still remain and what's the expectation on bringing them to a close. Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Just seek advice on that. Thank you, Ms Webb. Through you, Chair.

CHAIR - If you don't have the information available now, we can always take the questions on notice if that's preferable, to give a more fulsome answer.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Thank you, Ms Morgan-Wicks.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier, and noting in terms of the longstanding ED5 investigations, just in terms of context, DPAC provides routine and regular monthly disclosure in relation to suspensions of employees in relation to child sexual abuse allegations. We have done that, I think, since 2024 when I transitioned to DPAC as secretary. We have had 127 suspensions of employers in relation to child sexual abuse since October 2020, of which 124 proceeded to ED5 investigation.

Of those, 93 have now been completed; 32 of those, or some 34 per cent with breach found in relation to the investigations. Seven employees resigned prior to a finding being made, and we have 24 ED5 investigations still underway. In terms of outcomes in relation to those investigations, 25 state servants have been terminated, or would have been terminated had they not resigned prior to the finding of termination in relation to their investigation, so that's some 27 per cent.

In relation to the longstanding suspension, we currently have 23 who are suspended in relation to child sexual abuse on full pay. Fifteen of those matters are greater than 365 days and we have eight who fall into the longstanding over two-year period, which our SCCI team received a referral in 2024 - late 2024 to investigate. All of these eight have had additional allegations identified during the course of the SCCI investigation. Six are now in the final stage of determination and response, and two are in the final stages of their investigation report.

In relation to - originally, it had been 11, which contain some 193 allegations and also required the assessment of class action material, national redress claims that had been received in relation to these employees, civil claims.

Regina Weiss was also appointed to assist the SCCI team, and took some 20 statements, not all relating to these 11 cases, but the majority of which. And we've also had some - I think it's around five, from recall - Tasmanian Industrial Commission matters that have been involved. They are incredibly complex. We are disclosing as much as we are able to legally, noting the private nature of an employment relationship and also people's rights in an investigation.

CHAIR - Thank you. I just have a follow-up on that, actually, because I have very similar questions for Minister Palmer, actually, who obviously undertakes the AYDC. But just a question with regard to those. Obviously, the allegations are investigated, I would assume. An allegation is made; someone is stood down instantly. I would assume that the allegations made by the person are investigated to make sure they're not vexatious. But how many of those serious sexual assaults or proposed assaults are actually investigated by Tas Police? Because I would have thought that if it's a serious -

Mr ROCKLIFF - All.

CHAIR - Are they all? My understanding is that's not the fact.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. Yes. All matters involving child sexual abuse are all -

CHAIR - All are investigated by Tas Police.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - No. Sorry, if could just finish, Chair.

CHAIR - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - All matters and allegations are provided to Tasmania Police, but also to the independent regulator. We notify Working with Vulnerable People registrar, for example, if an employee's required to hold a Working with Vulnerable People registration. They are provided to Tasmania Police who will then undertake their own assessment of the information and make a determination whether or not they're investigated.

CHAIR - Because the question I would have there, and I will have these questions not necessarily now, because I believe probably the more relevant portfolio would be Minister Palmer. My understanding is that - yes. All police. That there are people on suspension who have had these serious allegations made that are still on suspension who have never had a police

officer speak to them, which is interesting. So that if the police don't consider its worthy of investigation, yet they're still on suspension, I just find that a little confusing.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. I am aware of matters that have been investigated by Tasmania Police. I'm not going to comment on individual matters.

CHAIR - No. That's fine. I have actually spoken - I've had these people come to my office, that's all, telling me the -

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - We are aware of matters that have been referred to the DPP.

CHAIR - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - But I cannot comment on individual matters and -

CHAIR - No. That's fine. It just seemed interesting, but I will take this up.

Ms WEBB - And just to clarify, the people are on suspension while, say, an ED5 investigation occurs and that investigation is in relation to breach of code of conduct. So, it's not necessarily about criminal conduct or whatever the ED5 investigation done through the DPAC unit relates to the state service code of conduct. Is that correct?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. That is correct. And it responds to a multi-commission of inquiry that made recommendations that said children are to be believed. That is what we accept. We accept the recommendations of the commission of inquiry. When an allegation of child sexual abuse is made against an employee in the Tasmanian state service, we have a process where there is immediate standdown and then we consider whether there's the commencement of an ED5, which I think, as I've read out, in terms of the numbers, has occurred.

CHAIR - Yes. You have. No, thank you. Thank you. Are you ready to move onto a new area? Are we finished in 1.2?

Ms WEBB - There's just one small thing I wanted to keep going with in the Child, Youth and Wellbeing because it's the wellbeing part, and it won't take long, I don't think. The Tasmanian Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, which was a DPAC responsibility: I just wanted to clarify, is that still a DPAC responsibility? Is it anticipated to shift elsewhere? And are we reporting against that strategy? Could somebody go and see how we're tracking against what's laid out in the strategy and how well we're delivering on it?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. That's a very important matter because the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy sets a very clear direction of how we improve outcomes for children and young people. Since it was developed the system has changed. We've introduced new programs, shifted how services are delivered and adjusted funding across government and community sector. Over the life of the first action plan, we've made a significant investment in new and expanded services, and we continue to invest to sustain and embed those programs to support children and families across Tasmania.

But we also recognise that there is a significant amount of work that needs to be done and already being led by both government and the community sector to support children and

families. And what we are hearing loud and clear now from the stakeholders and the community is that it's becoming harder to see how everything fits together. So, the next phase of work is focused on ensuring we do provide that clarity. We're commencing work to map services across Tasmania and undertake a gap analysis to understand what has been delivered, where and, indeed, by whom.

This will give us a clear joined up picture of the system. Alongside that, we're developing a shared outcomes framework, and this will set clear, evidence-based outcomes for children and families, will provide a consistent way for organisations to align their work and measure impact. It will strengthen accountability, support better decision-making and drive shared ownership across government and, indeed, across the community sector as well.

We're going to engage key stakeholders to help develop and inform the work, and this approach brings together existing efforts across the system in a more coordinated, whole-of-government view. We're not developing a separate action plan at all. Instead, this work will be guided by coordinated action and inform future priorities, and importantly, this work will be delivered within existing resources, of course recognising the circumstances we are now in in terms of the nub of the question around driving that strategy, where that is responsibility with Department of Education, Children and Young People.

CHAIR - No, thank you. Thank you, Premier.

Output Group 1.3

Security and Emergency Management

CHAIR - We'll now move on to 1.3, Security and Emergency Management. And if I could ask you, Premier, the budget papers state in number 1, volume 2, page 223, that the variation from 2026-27 primarily reflects operational efficiencies and the completion of regional drought recovery planning initiatives.

Can you expand on what these operational efficiencies have been? Have any positions been eliminated? And can you provide more information on the completion of the regional drought recovery planning initiatives?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Okay. So, I'm on -

CHAIR - Yes. Have any positions been eliminated?

Mr ROCKLIFF - - table 10.3, page 223 of -

CHAIR - Number 1, volume 2.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - The quote there is about the variation reflecting operational efficiencies and the completion of the drought recovery planning initiatives.

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's right.

CHAIR - Just wondering if you can actually expand on the operational efficiencies and what they've been.

Mr ROCKLIFF - In addition to expenditure for core policy and emergency management functions and for fixed-term projects, Resilience and Recovery Tasmania distributes funding to disaster-affected communities, local governments and Tasmanian government agencies, delivering recovery support.

What this means is that Resilience and Recovery Tasmania's expenditure can vary from year to year, with higher expenditure, obviously, in years which there are more occurrences of natural disasters. And this also means that Resilience and Recovery Tasmania's budgetary expenditure decreases over the forward Estimates as extraordinary disaster recovery expenditure cannot be forecast over the forward Estimates.

The expenditure in 2026-27 contains approximately \$5.7 million to distribute Australian government funding provided under the disaster refund to recipients. And the difference between the budgeted expenses and revenue from appropriation that's a common feature of Resilience and Recovery Tasmania's budgets, indeed, and reflects the increasing role the business unit plays in administering Australian government funding programs as well. When it comes to matters of FTE reduction, we'll just seek that information on advice for you, Chair.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. We have look from a whole-of-agency perspective in terms of our FTE management, and I think I've spoken previously to the reduction of 82. In terms of this area, as of 31 March 2026, Resilience and Recovery Tasmania had 24.9 paid FTEs, and paid FTEs have decreased by 2.4 FTE between March 2025 and March 2026.

CHAIR - No, thank you. Any other members have on this item? They have no more questions on 1.3.

Output Group 2.1

Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliamentary Offices and Office of the Governor

CHAIR - We'll move to 2.1, Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliamentary Offices and Office of the Governor. Mr Gaffney.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you. Thank you. I note that the Efficiency and Productivity Unit is funded through this line. We've had a brief discussion about that already, so may not take that long. This output provides advice for executive government processes as well as managing machinery of government matters. There was a significant increase in the expenses for 2025-26 estimated outcome against the Budget.

My question is, what percentage or how much of these costs, if any, have been brought on by the whole government reform and dissolution of the Department of State Growth? Would that be part of the gambit of this line item?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Mr Gaffney, for the question. I'll just seek advice on that matter. To the best of my knowledge, the answer to your question is no, because the EPU is funded through item or Output 1.1, which is the Strategic Policy -

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Well, it actually says to me the Efficiency and Productivity Unit is also funded through this output, 2.1, in our government systems support, Output Group 2. I think I've got the right one.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll just confer with that.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Yes. Through the Premier while that's being confirmed. So, Efficiency and Productivity Unit organisationally sits within DPAC and within our Premier's authorities and implementations, so within Output 1.1, Strategic Policy and Government Priorities, but they advise in relation to operational efficiencies across all aspects of government, which would include all outputs within DPAC and all agencies at a whole-of-government level.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. For future reference -

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - But apologies if I've misunderstood.

Mr GAFFNEY - No, no. If you go to page 214 where it says, 'Output Group 2, government systems report', Efficiency and Productivity Unit is also funded through this output. So, I've based my questions on that statement.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Page 224 says, 'The increase in the 2025-26 estimated outcomes for the State Service employment and management output reflects estimated additional support for the State Service Management Office primarily for the Shared Capability and Centralised Investigations Unit'.

Mr GAFFNEY - Sorry, I'm on page 214, Premier, not 224.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, but I thought that was relevant.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. Okay.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Apologies, through you, Premier. I just would need to check. It might be an error due to an output restructure that has occurred within DPAC, so I just need to check whether that has been included from a previous budget line or not. But I absolutely confirm that the EPU is within DPAC. We can answer - well, the Premier is minded to answer questions in relation to Efficiency and Productivity Unit.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. So, moving on, so there was an -

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Apologies.

Mr GAFFNEY - No, that's all right. Got a little bit about government reform. Okay. Have legal fees formed any part of the expenditure in this increase for 2025-26 from this line item at all?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - At Output 2.1?

PUBLIC

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes, in this Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliament and Offices of the Governor.

Mr ROCKLIFF - No, is my understanding. The answer to that is no.

Mr GAFFNEY - See, all of my questions now are based on the assumption that it is funded from this output.

Ms WEBB - It wasn't your mistake; it was the budget paper mistake. You should still ask them.

Mr HISCUTT - Can I just follow up, Gaff, then on that if it's not your -

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

CHAIR - Yes. Mr Hiscutt had a follow-up, yes.

Mr HISCUTT - Just, I mean, to note the fact that the Budget was 10.3 million and the estimated outcome was 13.8, which is an increase of 3.5.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Mr HISCUTT - Can we have an understanding of -

Mr GAFFNEY - That increase.

Mr HISCUTT - - where that increase was against the original Budget?

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is the increase in the 2025-26 estimated outcomes for the State Service Employment and Management Output reflects estimated additional support for the State Service Management Office, primarily for the Shared Capability and Centralised Investigations Unit.

Further, the decrease in the 2026-27 primarily reflects the completion of the 2024-25 key deliverables, whole-of-government human resources information system, which has been replaced by the human resources transformation project, and the decrease in the 2027-28 reflects completion of the 2025-26 key deliverable State Service Management Office report, and I refer to page 28 and 24 with respect to that matter.

Mr HISCUTT - To ask the question, it says, 'Primarily for the Shared Capability and Centralised Investigation Unit'. I guess the question is, if that accounts for \$3.5 million, what did that achieve in the year?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I've been advised that could include increased costs for, not funded in the output, that include an increased size of parliament, \$2.5 million; March 2026 state visit, Queen Mary and King Frederik, \$300,000; Tasmanian agricultural shows, \$500,000; and unfunded costs associated with implementing Motion for Respect, \$160,000, and that's included in the estimated outcome.

Mr GAFFNEY - From our discussions last year about the Efficiency and Productivity Unit and increasing use of AI, because I didn't ask it earlier, have recent hacking breaches altered the government's approach to the use of AI in the public service, because we've had some massive breaches and hacking? Is there any concern from the government about having something that fool-proofs or security-proofs, as best they can, the public service?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. That's a good question, and I'm happy to talk to artificial intelligence, which is already embedded across many of the systems and platforms that the government relies on. Perhaps if I can ask Justin Thurley, who's the Chief Information Officer, to come to the table, if that's all right, Mr Thurley, and Mr Gaffney probably has some questions of operational detail with respect to this.

Mr THURLEY - Sorry, could I, through you, Premier, just ask the question be clarified again?

Mr GAFFNEY - My question was: because we have an increasing use of AI, as was discussed last year in this forum, have recent hacking breaches worldwide altered the government's approach to the use of AI in the public service, or has it made you change the way you think of organisational - I'd be interested to know what that impact has had.

Mr THURLEY - Through you, Premier. Certainly, we have some concerns around the developments of AI and the potential for misuse from a cybersecurity perspective, but we also have opportunities that come through the defensive use of AI for cybersecurity-type measures as well. It's sort of a bit of a double-edged sword.

The main thing we're doing is that our obligations don't really change. We've still got the same privacy, the same security mandates in government to protect government data, and as that approach doesn't necessarily change, it just means that we're looking at different threats and different vulnerabilities that are emerging because of those AI threats. We're very cognisant of them. We're working with other jurisdictions to understand what the controls that we need to have in place are, and we are putting those controls in place where they are viable and we're able to put them in place.

Mr GAFFNEY - You may not be able to answer this, but in other jurisdictions as well, if there was a security breach, that's obviously going to have a budget impact about how to solve or work on that breach. Do you have contingencies planned, or where do you get the funding from for that?

Mr THURLEY - Through you, Premier. Yes, we have a cyber program in play in DPAC. We look after whole-of-government cybersecurity, and we have plans in place for when a cybersecurity breach takes place. That's the state cyber emergency management plan, which falls under the Tasmanian emergency management arrangements. If we have to activate that plan, the same arrangements for reserved funding, et cetera, come into play for cybersecurity issues.

For breaches that don't meet the threshold of going into an emergency, we also have arrangements in place through services that we provide through third parties and through ourselves to respond to cybersecurity matters, and we're able to engage third parties who are on retainers to respond to those types of events.

PUBLIC

Mr GAFFNEY - My last question while you're here, because I don't even know if you're supposed to be here in this line item: in the last 12 months, have we had many cybersecurity breaches within government of a serious nature; or do you have those at low, medium, high - or what's the word?

Mr THURLEY - Through you, Premier. Yes, we do. We're continuously monitoring, and we do have events that sometimes translate into incidents. I do have the number of incidents et cetera we'd be happy to share that we report against. As for serious cybersecurity incidents, ones that need to be escalated to an emergency state, I have to check back on my notes because I didn't bring them to the table with me. We have had a couple of incidents that relate to that, but we've managed to wade through them.

CHAIR - Thank you. Ms Webb has a short question to finalise this line item. We'll just go to Ms Webb, and we'll come back to Mr Hiscutt to finish off 2.2.

Ms WEBB - Thank you, Chair. Premier, I'd like to talk about ministerial diary reform. You released a public discussion paper and announced a review of the current ministerial diary disclosure regime in November last year, following the third successful motion of mine in the upper House. That consultation period closed in early December. Premier, when can we expect an update on that consultation and any reforms to the current inadequate ministerial diary disclosure processes that are in place?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I wouldn't characterise it in that way, shape or form. It's another example of transparency of this government, and we are light-years ahead of where we were prior to coming into government when it comes to transparency between us and the Labor-Greens government.

Ms WEBB - Of nothing, yes. It's not hard to be light-years ahead of nothing.

CHAIR - Well, we're not going to get political, Premier. If we could just answer -

Ms WEBB - There's plenty of opportunity here to improve. You put a discussion paper toward that end. I'm just engaging with you on an update of where we're up to with that consultation.

CHAIR - Just an update, Premier, would be great.

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is that we'll be providing an update on Thursday.

Ms WEBB - On Thursday. Thank you.

CHAIR - Okay. Thank you. Mr Hiscutt.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you, Premier. Just in budget paper 4, which is the performance information, and this falls under the Support Services for Government, Ministerial Parliamentary Offices and Office of the Governor. It has a performance output: draft responses to routine ministerial correspondence actioned within 10 days of receipt.

I would believe that to mean, basically, are you getting back to routine correspondence, and the budget document has that at only 59 per cent in 2023-24 and 58 per cent in 2024-25

when the target is 90. Just wondered what you're doing to ensure that ministers are getting back to correspondence from either constituents or other members of parliament.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We'll certainly always have best endeavours. A 10-day turnaround is and can be quite challenging, given the information that often has to be sourced from across a department or, indeed, departments to get back to constituents. I have strong expectations that ministers get back as soon as practicable and provide best endeavours.

Some are better than others in terms of the types of correspondence that we're able to get and turn around very quickly, but the RTI requests and draft response to routine ministerial correspondence 2023-24 and 2024-25 actuals reflected the significant number of concurrent priorities the department managed over that time, including, I have to say, elections in both years, incoming government processes and two budget Estimates periods, has challenged this somewhat.

Mr HISCUTT - We can see a commitment to hopeful improvement over the coming -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, definitely.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. Just on the same page, since you've got it in front of you, the Right to Information requests responded to, as I said, I'm not sure if you were answering the same question there, but obviously a target of 100 and lacking at 77 and then 84, another commitment to try to improve that is what I'm after.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. There's been significant policy reform work undertaken, and I do recall the release of the RTI independent review by Professor Rick Snell and Tim McCormack, which I released with them in September last year. I note an improvement in terms of table 11.2, performance information, output group 2, from 77 to 84 - of course, the target being 100 over the course of the next two years - and we will also do best endeavours, but there's been significant reform work underway in this area

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you.

CHAIR - And Mr Gaffney had the last question in this output.

Mr GAFFNEY - Just a quick question. As this output also talks about 'provides the administrative, financial, human resources, information systems, records and property management services to support the Ministerial and Parliamentary Offices and the Office of the Governor' - and we've mentioned AI. Is AI used in any way to develop ICT policy? I mean, this may not be the place to ask. I'm just wondering, when you talked before or last year about using AI, I'm just wondering, is that used, or is that something you can provide me with?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'm happy to take it on notice.

Mr GAFFNEY - Take it on notice. I'm just interested to see. I mean, it's about protection and whether we use AI like that.

Mr HEALEY - I'm not aware of any deliberate use of AI to craft ICT policy. Clearly, AI is embedded in most workplaces and most desktops now.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes.

Mr HEALEY - It could be used for making sure that you're correcting grammar and the like for routine documents. But there's certainly no deliberate program that I'm aware of across government for AI to be used for ICT policy development.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Yes, I'm not saying it's negative, I'm just - I was just interested whether it was -

Mr HEALEY - No, no, no. Yes, the only reason we can't be definitive in saying no is because AI is becoming part of the routine daily work of everyone.

Mr GAFFNEY - Exactly. Okay.

CHAIR - Thank you. If we now move on to 2.2 Principal and Subordinate Legislation. Mr Hiscutt.

Output Group 2.2

Principal and Subordinate Legislation

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. Just while people have got the page open on book 4, I'll ask this question first; page 77, where we should be - the targets, it says, 'Proportion of key clients that are satisfied that the legislation drafted for the client meets the relevant, and implementable, policy intentions in a legally effective manner'. I've certainly had no complaints, and I understand 97 per cent is really, really good. I just wonder how we actually measure that. I've never been asked whether I was happy with how things have been drafted when I've used that service.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Fair enough question. And I'll seek some advice on that methodology.

Mr HISCUTT - Happy to take it on notice if you are.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. I'm advised that we probably should check in with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. So if I take it on notice and then seek their advice, Mr Hiscutt, I'll be happy to do that.

Mr HISCUTT - Take that on notice. Yes.

CHAIR - We'll provide you a written question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Excellent.

Mr HISCUTT - And, secondly, on the same line item in there, before I go to other questions, 'Percentage of achievable legislative timings that have been met to enable the legislative priorities and other critical legal or political obligations of the Government to be met' - again, how that is, and as an example, and not to be antagonistic, the greyhound

PUBLIC

legislation didn't pass, you know, in an effective timeline. So, I would have thought that would have made that not 100 per cent in the last - well, I guess that would be in the next year. Is that the type of thing that would be covered in that? Again, not to be antagonistic with that.

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is, Mr Hiscutt, this performance indicator refers to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and them producing the legislation rather than the legislation getting through two houses of parliament.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you for the understanding on that.

Ms WEBB - You sounded pretty presumptuous about that.

Mr ROCKLIFF - No.

Mr HISCUTT - Good to see them at 100 per cent. Well done, OPC.

Mr ROCKLIFF - They do a great job.

Mr HISCUTT - Absolutely.

CHAIR - They do.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And might I say, as a result of continued reforms in this area from the Liberal government, OPC is available to all members of parliament to do their job, as it should be and perhaps should have always been.

Ms WEBB - Yes. Credit where credit's due on that.

Mr HISCUTT - You've segued perfectly into my next question, Premier. Thank you for that. There is a drop across the forwards, especially a decrease in 2027-28. They do an amazing job and with the increase of more Independents in the upper House - sorry, in the lower House - I would expect their services to be used more.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Mr HISCUTT - So, where do you expect to find the efficiencies in that department, if that is what those drops reflect?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ms Morgan-Wicks.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. There is a decrease, so I think what we've got in that output - there are budget increases in relation to \$194,000 due to indexation, and there are operational efficiencies totalling \$132,000 for this output.

Mr HISCUTT - The next financial year it goes down by about \$200,000 to the 2027-28 year.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - And just while I'm finding that information, through the Premier, I'd comment that it is a very highly skilled workforce in the OPC. They will often have vacancies that they are seeking to recruit to, and they manage their salary savings to meet

operational efficiencies also, whilst they're training and looking for OPC-skilled people to join them.

Mr HISCUTT - And you've segued once again nicely into my next question. Last time we were here six months ago in Estimates there were three vacancies noted. I'm just wondering if we can have an update. Have they been filled or how many vacancies are currently with OPC?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question. So, OPC is, as I'm advised, 10.21 FTE - funded FTE - currently. OPC has six legislative drafters and four administrative officers, which is 9.16 FTE. It actually takes approximately seven years to train a legislative drafter to be able to work on moderately complex legislation with minimal supervision.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - National shortage.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And there's a national shortage, the secretary informs me, again. OPC currently has four vacancies for legislative drafters, from entry level drafters to more experienced drafters. Later this year, OPC will be attempting to recruit to fill these vacancies. However, as the secretary has stated, it is incredibly difficult to attract experienced drafters to this jurisdiction and the shortage across - a national shortage.

All legislative drafters must be admitted or eligible for admission to the legal profession to be able to work as legislative drafters. Each year, OPC works on approximately 40 to 100 bills per year and 100 to 250 subordinate instruments, as well as preparing parliamentary members for both houses of parliament. So they are very busy and do a great job.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes, so four vacancies, understanding the challenges with that, and that's an increase from last year. Is there any, I guess, governmental ability you can use to help assist that or is that just within that department? What are we doing to address, obviously, a declining - you know, an increasing number of vacancies in that area?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. Good question. And I'm informed that later this year OPC will be attempting to recruit to fill these vacancies.

Mr HISCUTT - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And your question, though, is how could perhaps our central agency assist with that, potentially, of which - Kath.

Mr HISCUTT - Is there any extra support?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. I have regular catch-ups with Kate, our OPC. I'm aware that there is also quite a collegiate community of OPCs around Australia in terms of the recruitment and training. It is, from my experience as being a previous secretary of Justice in terms of the development of lawyers and admitted lawyers, I originally come in and think, 'Well, why can't we put a junior lawyer, just pop them in and see if we can convince them to be a legislative drafter?' It is quite an art and a very dedicated and specialist area. I do probably defer to the expertise of the OPC in working out how she can increase and fill those vacancies - but very happy to provide support as needed.

PUBLIC

Mr HISCUTT - Yes. Just so you can understand the concern that next year it would be unfortunate if it was five and then the year after six vacancies, that's just what I'm concerned about. But that's all right. You've taken that concern on board.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, and a fair enough concern as well.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you.

CHAIR - Thank you, Mr Hiscutt.

Output Group 2.3

State Service Employment and Management

CHAIR - If we could now move on to 2.3, State service employment management. And just a quick question with regard to this one. The document 'Managing Positions in the State Sector' from April 2026 requires agencies to report on implementation of workforce reductions. So, will those reports be made public with personal identifying information redacted, and will the government commit to a comprehensive update on savings delivery in the 2026-27 Revised Estimates Report?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. The government currently provides a regular report in relation to the level of FTEs and the establishment for agencies in the Tasmanian State Service. We're currently having a look at that reporting, noting earlier questions today in relation to composition of the cohort, in relation to the particular type of termination or separation, so certainly that's something that we can consider in terms of the increased number of TNVRs that are going to be contemplated for the 2026 calendar year. And, sorry, if I could just go to the second part, Chair, of your question.

CHAIR - Yes. Will the government commit to a comprehensive update on savings delivery in the 2026-27 Revised Estimates Report?

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through the Premier. I note that managing positions in the State Service does commit to a monthly report, which we will provide, so we'll be working with our State Service Management Office in relation to that. The matter of the Revised Estimates Report is one for the Treasurer, but certainly I'd be very happy to provide information to the Treasurer or release for the Premier as the employer in relation to that update at that time.

CHAIR - Yes.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - But, yes, it's a matter for the Treasurer to consider for the revised estimates.

CHAIR - Thank you very much. No further questions?

Ms WEBB - A quick suggestion in terms of the reporting on the separations as well as age and gender. I think regionality would be interesting to people.

CHAIR - Thank you, Ms Webb.

Output Group 3.2

Management and Ongoing Development of Service Tasmania

CHAIR - If we could move to 4.3, Management of Ongoing Development of Service Tasmania. And I just have a couple of quick questions here. Just wondering, Premier, how are operational efficiencies at Service Tasmania being approached? Is there a plan to eliminate any positions? Are these backroom staff or people who are at service counters assisting people accessing their services? And have there been any voluntary redundancies put in place?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question, and as you, I know, would appreciate, Service Tasmania provides the Tasmanian community convenient access to a wide range of government services face-to-face at Service Tasmania's 27 service centres by phone, through the government contact centre, and indeed online through www.service.tas.gov.au and the myServiceTas digital portal.

Customers can access more than 500 services over the counter and over the phone and pay bills electronically online or by phone. Service Tasmania has a growing range of digital options, such as myServiceTas, allowing Tasmanians to access a personalised online account for selected government services in one place any time, anywhere. And, of course, we're committed to maintaining choice in how to access services, with the phone and face-to-face options remaining available.

Now, in 2026-27, to your question, funding is provided for one year to support the transition of Service Tasmania to a sustainable future funding model from 2027-28. Paid FTEs have decreased by 8.4 from 171.6 as at 31 March 2025 to 165.2 as at 31 March 26, and that relates to normal fluctuations in establishment between frontline staff recruitment intakes.

Additionally, Service Tasmania experiences regular and expected fluctuations in paid staffing due to the reporting method, meaning, in fact, that year-on-year comparisons are not necessarily indicative of staffing consistency. I do have some myServiceTas information.

CHAIR - Did you want to table those, Premier?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I'd really like to. And that's from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Some key highlights and the myServiceTas transaction: 171,319 vehicle renewals; 23,422 licence renewals; 89,355 unique accounts created; 6500 burn registrations; 6721 plates plus sign-ups; 794 fire permits. I will table that.

CHAIR - If you wanted to pass those, if you want to table those.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I commend all the people who work at Service Tas. I see them both in a personal capacity and visited at a Service Tas not too far away more recently in an official capacity with respect to their service delivery, which was -

CHAIR - Okay. Thank you. So, you can guarantee that there'll always be a real person there, particularly with digitalisation of services? You know, there are some people with lower

digital literacy that do need to actually have a person to go and speak to, so you can guarantee that Service Tasmania will always actually have people there?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, because we're committed to choice in terms of how to access services with phone and face-to-face options remaining available, given some of the digital inclusion barriers that may well present people.

CHAIR - Yes. Thank you.

Output Group 1.1

Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders

CHAIR - If we have no further questions from members on Service Tasmania, we'll move to 1.1, Premier. It's Ministerial and Parliamentary Support, and the first one is Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders. The question I'll just start with and then move to the member for Nelson: how many parliamentary cars are available now? I'm looking at 147; that's the Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders, and I believe it -

Mr ROCKLIFF - You're talking about ministerial cars?

CHAIR - Ministerial cars. Ministerial cars and FTE of drivers. I've often found that's an interesting question. I haven't asked it for many years, but I can remember last time asking it of - I think it was Will Hodgman - and discovering that the leader at the time didn't have a car, which was an interesting announcement.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Right.

CHAIR - No, so just wondering how many cars we have in the ministerial fleet.

Mr ROCKLIFF - He's always had a car. I'll seek that information for you in terms of number of cars and ministerial -

CHAIR - And FTEs of drivers. I'd just be interested.

Mr ROCKLIFF - FTEs and pay tribute to the recent retirements in the -

CHAIR - Yes. The drivers do a wonderful job.

Mr ROCKLIFF - ministerial drivers. I was texting my good friend and former ministerial driver Rex Bramich just last night and seeking an update on his welfare.

CHAIR - Yes. Rex had been there a very long time.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, since 2002. He started his job and I started my job.

Ms WEBB - He's retired, has he, Premier?

Mr ROCKLIFF - He's retired.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Mr HISCUTT - I came across him door-knocking, actually.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Did you?

Mr HISCUTT - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Very good. I'm sure he would've been very supportive, Casey. And others more recently as well. They do a very, very good job, all of them.

My advice is that driver FTEs are disclosed six-monthly.

CHAIR - Are you able to give me the figure? That's all right. Although, while you're finding that, I'll just ask on page 147, budget paper - I've lost the back page here - budget paper no. 2, bill no. 1, 2025-26, the budget, 24.473 million, I just notice the estimated outcome in 2025-26 is 28.187 million. I understand the next item you've mentioned earlier about the increase in the House. But I'm just wondering the increase here from \$24 million to \$28 million of \$4 million.

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is, that's election-related costs.

CHAIR - Obviously only for House of Assembly.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Yes, and people moving offices and the like, as I understand it, yes, I'm advised, and also -

CHAIR - When you say 'election', you mean the -

Mr ROCKLIFF - House of Assembly.

CHAIR - Well, yes, but where they can actually claim back. Is that part of that or would that be under a different - ? No. So, this is purely offices, \$4 million?

Mr ROCKLIFF - And I understand also, to your previous question, that we have as of 31 March 14 FTE ministerial drivers.

CHAIR - Thank you. Thank you. To just continue on the \$4 million, because the support for ministers and certain - it's just the Premier, the ministers, the Speaker of the House and the Leader of Government.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And I believe electorate office staff as well.

Ms WEBB - Ministerial.

CHAIR - It's only ministerial.

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's part of MPS, isn't it?

PUBLIC

CHAIR - It states in here, 'Support for Ministers ... This Output provides ... Premier; Ministers (including the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer); Speaker of the House of Assembly; and Leader of the Government ...'.

Mr HISCUTT - If I may just add to that question as well that the 2025-26 Budget we're reflecting was produced in November after the elections, and so therefore this is a change of \$4 million after that predicted amount. We knew what the election results were at the time this Budget was produced, so how are we out by \$4 million?

CHAIR - \$4 million just seems an awful lot. Didn't know we had that many new members or new ministers.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Explanation of major variations, output 1.1, Support for Ministers and certain Parliamentary Office Holders: 'The increase in appropriation revenue and associated expenses in the 2025-26 Estimated Outcome reflects estimated additional appropriation for salary and superannuation costs and payments for the settlement of employee entitlements following the 2025 State election.'

CHAIR - But it doesn't list employees here. It just says 'ministers'. You're telling me it actually includes the ministers' staff as well.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Support for ministers.

Ms WEBB - Could you provide a breakdown, obviously not identifying people by name or anything like that, but by position that accounts for that amount?

CHAIR - It's a large amount, \$4 million extra, in a budget and estimated outcome. That's all, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Ms Webb's asked us to provide a breakdown in that without naming names, et cetera, which is appropriate.

CHAIR - We certainly don't want any of that information, but just money-wise, when you actually read it, I think it's -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Best endeavours, we'll break it down.

CHAIR - Thank you very much, Premier. Appreciate that. Do we have any other questions in this area? You do, Ms Webb.

Ms WEBB - I think it belongs in this area, Support for Ministers. Premier, I note that the most recent Code of Conduct for Ministers was dated October 2025, so October last year. Just a couple of questions around that: what's the process by which new members to Cabinet are made aware of the code of conduct?

Is there a form of ministerial induction where they're actually taken through it, or are they given it and left to their own devices to read it and become familiar with it? Following on from that, is there a formal follow-up to check that they have familiarised themselves with it and understand it?

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, as new ministers come in, there is a full induction program, if I can put it that way, for new ministers.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Then in terms of when a new version of the code of conduct is published, like this one is dated October last year, is there a set process by which existing Cabinet ministers are advised of the update and any revised elements of it, and a formal process by which they're required to advise that they've familiarised themselves with it and are up to date?

Mr ROCKLIFF - To the best of my knowledge, yes, it goes through Cabinet, and any changes are highlighted where those changes are, and ministers are informed.

Ms WEBB - Okay, and it's taken at that stage they are familiarised with it?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. Are senior ministerial staff required to be familiar with the code and then any updates to the code?

Mr ROCKLIFF - That's my understanding, yes.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. When I look at the code and look at section 9 of the current code, and it deals with misleading statements, which is pages 30 to 31, it's clause 9.7. It says, 'It's a Minister's personal responsibility to ensure that any inadvertent error is corrected or clarified, as soon as practicable and in a manner appropriate to the nature of the misinformation and the issues and interests involved.'

On that, Premier, given former minister Ogilvie's 20 November 2025 clarification that she provided still did not fully correct the record to the earlier statement she made on 17 November, in your role of custodian of the ministerial code of conduct, do you think those statements of Ms Ogilvie's complied with the spirit and intent of clause 9.7 of the ministerial code?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you for the question, and I'll refer you to Ms Ogilvie's statement and my statement following that.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier.

Ms WEBB - Just to be clear, Premier, though, in your formal capacity as head of Cabinet and government, do you consider that former minister Ogilvie breached the ministerial code when it comes to not misleading parliament as per part 9 of the ministerial code in relation to that clarification, which didn't arguably comply with the code in terms of sufficient clarification of misleading statements?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ms Ogilvie is no longer a minister and is now on the back bench and taking responsibility, and I refer you to Ms Ogilvie's statement.

Ms WEBB - I'm asking for your position -

Output Group 1.2

Support for Members of the House of Assembly

CHAIR - If we could now move, if there are no further questions in this output, to 1.2 Support for Members of the House of Assembly. Mr Hiscutt.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you. I asked this question last year and revealed some interesting information, but could I ask what the total number of staff allocated to all members of parliament is in each area of parliament, i.e. minor parties, micro-parties, including members of the Legislative Council, and Independents? Secondly, what is the total number of staff they are entitled to? Happy for that to be taken on notice.

Mr ROCKLIFF - If you're happy for that to be taken on notice, I'm more than happy to provide it to you.

Mr HISCUTT - Thank you very much for that. Just wanted to get an understanding, and this relates to the last output group as well, but between the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Budget Estimates, there seems to be only about a 3.7 per cent drop in the forwards for ministers or certain parliamentary office holders, and yet a full 12 per cent drop in support for members of the House of Assembly. Can you explain why there's such a difference in that drop, why one area is more or less affected than others?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Sorry, could you repeat that, please, Mr Hiscutt?

Mr HISCUTT - Yes, certainly. This is in budget paper 2, page 147. Have you got the advice there? You're happy to answer?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. My understanding is, and I'll seek further advice, and if I need to update the answer I will, but in the 2025 election, there would've been a better turnover of individual members of the House of Assembly, in which case - apparently I said 'better' turnover.

CHAIR - No, bigger.

Mr HISCUTT - No comment.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll say bigger turnover, just to clarify that, of members of the House of Assembly; therefore, the costs would be more when we've got new members of parliament, Prof. Razay and Mr George and Mr Di Falco and other members, whereas the ministerial changes were less.

Mr HISCUTT - So, it's due to the election outcome is why there's such a drop. Yes, okay. The timing of the election. That makes sense. Thank you. I just wanted to understand, in budget paper 3 on page 5, it just shows the reserved-by-law parliamentary salaries and allowances, and these continue to grow year on year.

However, as I understand last year, the report into parliamentary salaries, it actually only accounted for two years of growth, and then another report was going to be required and passed

PUBLIC

through parliament. Is there an understanding of why that continues? Is there a policy direction for why that continues to grow?

Ms WEBB - Are you going to sort this out finally is the gist of the question.

Mr HISCUTT - That's the simple way of saying it. I was trying to say it slightly more sophisticatedly.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, and I didn't envisage that the TIC would take seven years to sort this out, frankly, but in terms of the answer to your question, do we need to sort it out? Yes, we do. That's your question, Ms Webb. My understanding is that the increases across the forward Estimates would just reflect the increases in -

Mr HISCUTT - I'm asking, is it a conscious decision that you expect that to happen, or is this just -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. The way it's budgeted out is just the process of budgeting out over the forward Estimates and recognising that we do need to sort this out.

CHAIR - Thank you. Thank you, Premier.

Mr HISCUTT - I'll just, if I may, one more just on that same line item.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr HISCUTT - I note that committee fees and travel allowances don't have any escalation on them. Is there any reason for them not including that, considering, for example, travel allowances, fuel's still going to increase, and if they don't take into account inflation, that will reflect a lessening allowance for work to be done in that space? Is there any reason for that not to include escalation?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I'll have to seek advice and get back to you for the reason for that one. Thank you.

CHAIR - Take that question on notice? Thank you, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you.

CHAIR - It needs to be a very short question and a very short answer, Premier, if we could, because we have two line items to go.

Ms WEBB - This is one you can take on notice, anyway. There's a bit of detail. Are all ministerial electorate offices and government member and other electorate offices disability-compliant, or can you give us a breakdown of which are and which aren't disability-compliant? Any that have done change of use to be refitted out in recent years, have they complied with disability requirements?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I would hope and expect so in terms of refurbishments, although I couldn't guarantee that.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - You would take that on notice, Premier, because it sounds like something you won't possibly be able to answer now about every electorate office.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, except they should be.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Well and truly. And also they should be, occupational health and safety-wise, safe for employees. And so, when we speak about these matters publicly - and often, individual MPs are in the limelight or the gun in terms of office expenses and the like, but from my point of view, the people at the front line of electoral offices are the ones who bear the brunt of people and constituents coming in. Most are very respectful, as you well realise, and others can be more heightened in their anxiety around certain matters.

CHAIR - Upset.

Mr ROCKLIFF - So, safety is absolutely paramount, but also disability - safety for staff is absolutely paramount, but also accessibility is paramount for constituents who come through the doors of every electorate office.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. So, you'll take the question on notice for the member for Nelson with regard to offices being disability friendly?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I will.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Happy to do so. It's very important.

CHAIR - Thank you.

DIVISION 6

Office of the Governor

Output Group 1.1

Support for the Governor

CHAIR - If we could move to 1.1, Support for the Governor. Mr Gaffney.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you. I won't take very long with this. I'd like to thank Her Excellency Barbara Baker for her hard work and congratulate Caroline Wells, who will be our next governor, and also the government for selecting a capable person from a health background. I think that's really good.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Very proud of the appointment.

Mr GAFFNEY - Yes. It was interesting, the support. Noting the previous year's description of the budget initiative, additional support for the Governor's program said, 'Additional funding is provided for staffing, insurance, travel and transport costs to support the

PUBLIC

Governor's program and costs associated with the development and introduction of an appropriate governance structure and policies. Has the development and introduction of an appropriate governance structure and policy been successful and how is this measured?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. And I welcome Mr David Hughes to the table and I'm happy and encourage your dialogue with Mr Hughes. Thank you.

CHAIR - Yes.

Mr HUGHES - Through you, Premier. Mr Gaffney, that governance work has been ongoing. We are not fully across and are not fully completed with the governance work. That is largely a result of the fact that the governance procedures and policies that were in place about two years ago were completely out of date or were non-existent, and so we prioritised a series of those policies. The first one that was put into place was the child and youth safe framework that was required as an outcome from the commission of inquiry.

We've implemented work health and safety as another significant piece of policy work. The work is now progressing on to performance management and other human resources policies that will bring us into compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements over time, but that body of work is ongoing and will take us a number of years.

Mr GAFFNEY - Thank you. It looks as though the funding for that finishes in 2026-27. So, you're expected to have that work completed by the end of this financial year, or will you have to go back asking for more funding?

Mr HUGHES - That work will continue. We will simply be looking at attempting to roll that into other work as we go along.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. Thank you. And while you're at the table, quite a significant amount of money has been put through to the roof construction for Government House, and that was supposed to be started in May this year. I'm just wondering, is that on track? And it's started?

Mr HUGHES - Through you, Premier. The work has started. There was work that was initially done on two pieces. The big towers had lead work put onto those. There was a significant risk that had been identified due to leakage; that was on the internal component of the roof. And as a result of our risk assessment, we decided to re-sequence some of the work so that we would prioritise that internal lead component over the slate component.

That decision was validated recently during a rain event where a piece of ceiling fell down. And so the work that has been done on that lead roof has already started on the interior components as well.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay.

Mr HUGHES - We're about a month into that, and we have about another two months until that component is completed.

Mr GAFFNEY - And the total budget for the roof?

Mr HUGHES - It's just on \$7 million.

Mr GAFFNEY - Okay. So it's on time, on budget, final cost, and not one red cent more?

Mr HUGHES - Not on time as it currently stands because of the fact that it's a 170-year-old building and there were no building specifications. When we opened up various areas, we found that some of the underlying structure was not what we expected, and so engineering reports needed to be completed for that. We also had assurances from the Hobart City Council that that internal lead roof component would be fine if it was replaced like for like.

But we found that the sumps in that area were nowhere near sufficient for the types of intensity of rain that we're seeing now. So, before we could start this lead component, we had to get an engineering solution which was compliant. And so we are behind time, but for everything that we've completed to date and for the works that are currently underway, we remain on budget.

Mr GAFFNEY - And I congratulate the government because it's one of our most significant buildings that should be protected forever. So, well done.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Thank you. Enormous heritage value. And Mr Hughes, of course, is the official Secretary to Her Excellency.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, David.

CHAIR - Thank you, Mr Hughes.

DIVISION 1

Brand Tasmania

Output Group 1.1

Brand Tasmania

CHAIR - If we now move on, Premier, to 1.1, Brand Tasmania.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Excellent.

CHAIR - Do you want to bring anyone to the table?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I would like to request that Jess Radford come to the table, please.

CHAIR - Yes. I can see Jess on her way. Welcome, Jess.

Mr ROCKLIFF - And I'm very proud of Brand Tasmania and all they achieve and continue to achieve. And, of course, I can table about Brand Tasmania 2025-26 for your interest, Chair.

CHAIR - That would be great. Thank you very much.

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - They do wonderful work, continue to do wonderful work, capably led by Ms Radford. And if there are any questions, I'm more than happy for Ms Radford to take them.

CHAIR - Yes. Thank you. Premier, in April 2026, the government announced that Brand Tasmania would be brought together with Tourism, Events and Creative Industries under the Building Tasmania reforms. So, what will Brand Tasmania's governance and reporting arrangements be under the new structure? And how will you ensure its specialist brand stewardship role is not diluted?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Well, thank you for the question. And of course, the 2026-27 budget allocation is \$2.106 million. And in 2026-27 Brand Tasmania will be looking carefully at where it directs its efforts to ensure its core assets and projects are sustainably resourced and aligned with broader goals and opportunities now and into the future. The corporate plan of 2026-27 will be finalised later this month, I'm advised. I'm expecting to set out a very clear turning point in Brand Tasmania's evolution.

What we will see, though, is that through Brand Tasmania, the Tasmanian government is proactively delivering outcomes for Tasmanians by supporting business growth, contributing to a stronger economy and fostering connected, resilient and caring communities, and that's why Brand Tasmania is so very important, Chair. And it's why it will be a key component of the proposed new and enhanced Tourism, Events and Creative Tasmania. And I know the Brand Tasmania team are ready to contribute the expertise and insights to making this upcoming change as seamless and positive as possible.

I also know that Brand Tas's focus remains firmly on unlocking greater value from the foundations it has built over the past seven years. And it's fair to say, of course, the organisation has a very clear understanding of where its work creates the greatest impact and where the next stage of growth is.

And so I look forward to seeing how Brand Tas contributes to the collective efforts underway to meet Tasmania's challenges head on, and indeed the important work it does to evaluate the industries and opportunities that represent our future and reinforce the different ways the Tasmanian brand acts as what is critical social and economic infrastructure for the state.

On machinery of government change in terms of operational matters, I can hand to secretary Ms Morgan-Wicks, or indeed for matters pertaining to Brand Tasmania directly, Ms Radford would be more than enthusiastically willing to contribute to the discussion.

CHAIR - Thank you, Premier. The budget papers state that Brand Tasmania's operational efficiencies will be achieved through vacancy control management measures and efficiencies arising from restructuring project funding. So, what specific staffing, project or program changes sit behind those efficiencies, and will they affect Brand Tasmania's capacity to deliver its core work?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes, I'm not anticipating that, but like all agencies, it is required to find operational efficiencies. In 2026-27, these efficiencies will total \$136,000. In 2027-28 the total is \$148,000. 2028-29 and 2029-30 the total is \$152,000 per annum. As you have correctly

stated, these efficiencies will be achieved through combination of vacancy control management measures and efficiencies arising from restructuring project funding.

But I do want to commend Brand Tasmania for what they have achieved and what they continue to achieve, which is significant. I'm mindful of the fact that Brand Tasmania currently has 5.9 FTE. This will decrease to 4.9 FTE on 1 July, and so this reduction in FTE headcount is part of the Brand Tasmania savings strategy.

You know, in terms of punching above its scale, Brand Tasmania does a fantastic job with a limited number of FTE, which is why the machinery of government changes can provide, if you like, additional resources through an overarching entity, if I can call it that, and Ms Morgan-Wicks would perhaps like to explain that.

Ms MORGAN-WICKS - Through you, Premier. The Brand Tasmania amalgamation into the new Tourism, Events and Creative Tasmania entity is currently scheduled for December of this year, so noting again my comments about the budget papers reflecting today's events.

We obviously have a Brand Tasmania chapter, but that will change in the next budget by moving what is a small but mighty entity in terms of the Tasmanian government's decision to bring together and to try and achieve the synergies between people who are working across both brand, our destination economy, our significant events pipeline, but housing this specialty so that it can focus on the specialisation but not also have to provide its own audited financial statements, all of its own administrative support, et cetera, that can be provided within a larger entity, and probably, also from an organisational structure perspective, that greater support and collaboration amongst a larger number of staff. It's not to interrupt.

And certainly in all of my conversation with, for example, the chair of Brand Tasmania, Kath McCann, the work that they are doing - and I only reflect on the excellent work that I was just speaking to Jess about, actually, in the break, the work that they've done on the new Jobs Tasmania, website which has just been launched, so meaningful work in a meaningful place.

It's been some excellent work that's built on what Brand Tas has done with the Department of Health. But Jess is the one to probably speak more to that. But it's trying to shift a small and powerful unit into something part of even bigger and greater, but to get that support around it so that it can focus on its specialist work in brand.

CHAIR - Through you, Premier, did Jess have some comment to make?

Ms RADFORD - Only to reflect that, as the impact of the machinery of government change will come to us later in the year, there's a sequence to these conversations. We're, like, in the early stages at this point of understanding what that exactly looks like for us.

But we have extremely close relationships with all of the colleagues who are going to be part of our bigger family, and in fact, just last week we ran a Reconciliation Week event for teams across Brand Tasmania and Tourism Tasmania because we're really keen to start building the culture that will continue in our new entity. So we're looking for all of those opportunities to partner right now to start to create the atmosphere that we want to continue into the future.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - How many do we have on the board of Brand Tasmania? You mentioned the chair. Just wondering how many on the board and just trying to -

Mr ROCKLIFF - We have on the board currently one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine -

Ms RADFORD - Premier, if I may, through you -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Ten, eleven.

Ms RADFORD - Eleven.

CHAIR - Eleven.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Got there in the end. One has stepped down, I understand.

CHAIR - Can you just give me a reasonable breakdown? Are they Tasmanian, from interstate?

Ms RADFORD - I'm happy to do that through you, Premier, if you like.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you.

CHAIR - Thank you.

Ms RADFORD - We have 11 members appointed to the board at the moment. We have one from the north-west and we have two from the north and the remainder are from the south, and that proportionally kind of represents the breakdown of applications received when we advertised these positions, which must have been towards the end of 2024.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

CHAIR - I would assume, Premier, that you would try to have equal representation across the state.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Well, it's -

CHAIR - I know. I understand geographical, or taking a -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Geographical distribution is important. Skills-based is important as well.

CHAIR - One from the north-west, two from the north, eight from the south. I shouldn't be parochial here, but I know that often southern Tasmania tends to think that it is superior to the rest of the state but, you know, I believe that we should have equal -

Mr GAFFNEY - Coming from the north-west, they don't have that same point of view. I think it's the people who should be able to do the job, wherever they're from.

PUBLIC

CHAIR - Well, maybe they should, but I still believe that, you know, eight from the south - I would ask, I guess, when board appointments are made, that there is extra effort in trying to get more representation from other parts of the state.

Mr GAFFNEY - Six have probably driven down from north-west and live down here now.

CHAIR - Perhaps that's the case, but I make no apology for being parochial, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I take your point - as much as I detest parochialism, which has held this state back for a hundred more years, at least.

CHAIR - And that's a matter of opinion.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I take your point.

CHAIR - Thank you. Look, I do appreciate it, but it is always an issue that I'm often concerned about, the fact that, you know, representation across the state and all the boards tends to be not equal representation, and I think in something that represents Tasmania and the brand, it would be really good to make a real endeavour to actually try to have a little more equal representation. I do accept that, Jeremy, you might have more in the south, but I think eight, two and one is a very unbalanced representation.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. The skills matrix is the most important, but -

CHAIR - And, look, I appreciate that, but we do have good people in the north and north-west.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We do need to consider in these things geographical spread.

CHAIR - But I do appreciate that there are good people in other parts of the state, so thank you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. I feel relieved about that, being from the north-west coast.

CHAIR - Well, being from the north-west yourself, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR - Look, thank you very much. There are no burning questions, and it is almost 1.15 p.m. We really appreciate you being here today answering questions as candidly as possible.

Ms WEBB - Hold on, we don't know that yet. [inaudible] we'll find out.

CHAIR - Well, I appreciate the effort by the Premier and his team, so thank you very much.

PUBLIC

Mr ROCKLIFF - And I appreciate your efforts, Chair, and that of the committee, and I very much appreciate the efforts of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and all associated people and infrastructure and my team.

CHAIR - Thank you. We will return at 2.15 p.m. If we could stop broadcast, please.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you very much.

The committee suspended from 1.14 p.m. to 2.15 p.m.