

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. WILL HODGMAN MP

State Service Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015

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I move – That the Bill now be read for the second time.

Madam Speaker, under the *State Service Amendment Act 2012* amendments were made to the *State Service Act 2000* to support improved governance, role clarity and increased accountability. The amendments included abolishing the role of the State Service Commissioner.

This Bill deals with the residual references to the former office of the State Service Commissioner and its predecessor, the Commissioner for Public Employment, in seven Acts.

I will now briefly outline the reason behind each of the changes.

Madam Speaker, the office of the Commissioner for Public Employment was abolished in 2000 with the repeal of the *Tasmanian State Service Act 1984*. The last person who had held that office became the first State Service Commissioner.

The office of the State Service Commissioner was abolished in 2013 by the *State Service Amendment Act*.

At that time, the powers and functions of the former office of the Commissioner were devolved across a number of entities.

The former Commissioner's employment functions were consolidated into the role of the Minister administering the *State Service Act*, and I am now supported in that role by the new office of the Head of the State Service.

The former Commissioner's evaluation functions were given to the Tasmanian Auditor-General.

The establishment of the Integrity Commission already provided increased protections around integrity and investigations.

The former Commissioner's powers of review of the employer decisions were rolled into the Tasmanian Industrial Commission, which already had powers to review industrial relations matters and to register Awards.

As part of the Governance changes there were references to the State Service Commissioner, which were not amended and this Bill now seeks to rectify this.

In addition, the Bill also includes amendments to replace references to the Commissioner for Public Employment, an office that was replaced by the State Service Commissioner in 2000.

Madam Speaker, a residual reference to the State Service Commissioner in the *Ombudsman Act 1978* is being replaced by a reference to Tasmanian Industrial Commission.

Residual references contained in the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*, the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* and the *Right to Information Act 2009* are being removed and not being replaced.

Madam Speaker, the *Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1990* and the *Tasmanian Development Act 1983* had provided that the State Service Commissioner and the Commissioner of Public Employment would recommend to the Minister and Governor respectively, what remuneration and expenses should be received by a State Service officer or employee appointed to perform duties as an administrator.

The Minister administering the State Service Act will now fulfil that role under the same employment framework that applies to all State Service officers and employees.

Madam Speaker, the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* had provided that the Commissioner for Public Employment determine the remuneration for any State Service employee or office on the Scientific Advisory and Community Review Committees. The Minister administering the State Service Act will now make that determination and be guided by the Government Board Fee Policy.

This Bill completes consequential amendments in relation to the 2012 State Service governance changes.

I commend the Bill to the House.