

The Government's Response to the Final Report of the
Legislative Council Select Committee on Public Sector Executive Appointments



Tabled by ✓
Hon. D. Pinkerson MLC
13/3/12
[Signature]

1 Introduction

The Select Committee on Public Sector Executive Appointments was appointed on 11 June 2008 by the Legislative Council to inquire into and report upon -

- (1) Best practice for the appointment of individuals to fill senior Tasmanian public sector executive positions and that the circumstances surrounding the appointment of a magistrate in Tasmania in 2007 be examined; and
- (2) any other matters incidental thereto.

The Final Report of the Committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 14 September 2011.

This document is the Government's response to the Final report.

Previously the Government responded to the Interim Report of the Committee that was tabled in the Legislative Council in 2009.

2 Recommendations

In its final report the Committee reaffirms the findings and recommendations made in the two Interim Reports previously presented to the Legislative Council.

In particular, the Committee draws the Government's attention to Recommendation No. 12 in its first Interim Report:

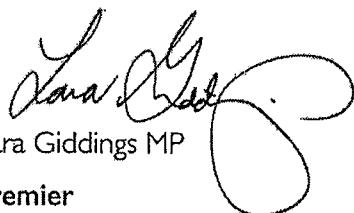
"The Committee recommends that the Legislative Council do call upon the Government as a matter of legislative priority, to replace the current State Service Act 2000 with a Public Sector Management Act along the lines of those in place in Western Australia and New Zealand. One of the central features of such a legislative model must be the appointment of a Public Sector Standards Commissioner, reporting directly to Parliament, with jurisdiction to prepare shortlists of suitable candidates to all public sector executive appointments, up-to and including Heads of Agency, for Ministerial approval. Ministers should have the power to refuse such shortlists and request replacement short-lists, on the proviso that they publish their reasons for so doing in the Gazette."

3 Response

The Government acknowledges that it is important to regularly review public sector governance arrangements, including the processes that apply senior appointments, to ensure that they are of the highest standards:

In recent years the Government has:

- Reviewed and updated *Ministerial Direction 17, Senior Executive Service and Equivalent Specialist Officers – Administrative Arrangements and Conditions of Service*;
- Established a new protocol for judicial appointments;
- Appointed several head of agency following merit based selection processes; and
- Commissioned a broad review of governance arrangements of the State Service.



Lara Giddings MP
Premier

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