

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. MATTHEW GROOM MP

Government House Land Amendment Bill 2017

check Hansard for delivery

I move that the Bill now be read for the second time.

The Bill makes amendments to the *Government House Land Act 1964* to provide the Government House site with the capacity to undertake commercial activities.

Government House has been part of the Hobart landscape since 1857. It has been home to 29 Governors of Tasmania, and is regarded as one of the best Vice-Regal residences in the Commonwealth.

For some time Government House has been investigating ways in which it can connect with the community and make the site more accessible to more people.

This has cumulated in the development of the "Forward Plan 2015-2025" for Government House, which has been endorsed by Her Excellency.

The proposals in the Forward Plan will not in any way impede or diminish the status and proper functioning of the Office of the Governor.

The Forward Plan outlines a number of extra activities to be undertaken at Government House, including establishing a gift shop, hiring out facilities such as the croquet lawn and tennis courts, and event co-hosting partnerships.

The modest revenues raised from these activities will be kept by Government House and will go towards the ongoing maintenance of the site.

The Treasurer has provided written advice to the Premier approving revenues being retained by Government House in the existing Operating account with Special Deposits and Trust Account.

At present the Act only allows for the Government House site to be used as the residence of the Governor. This Bill amends the Act to provide Government House with the capacity to undertake commercial activities as outlined in the Forward Plan.

I commend the Bill to the House.