

## DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON PETER GUTWEIN MP

### *First Home Owner Grant Amendment Bill 2019*

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Madam Speaker, the Government is a strong supporter of Tasmania's building and construction industry and wants more Tasmanians to be in a position to own their own home.

The First Home Owner Grant is one of several Government policies that support this objective.

Alongside the duty concessions for first home buyers of established properties and pensioners who downsize, the Government's land tax exemptions, the Foreign Investor Duty Surcharge, and our significant investment into enabling infrastructure such as roads and transport links and increased investment into affordable housing these policies form part of the Government's multi-pronged approach to address housing affordability in Tasmania.

Madam Speaker, the Government will extend the \$20 000 First Home Owner Grant for a further twelve months. Without the extension, the grant amount of \$20 000 would fall to \$10 000 on 1 July 2019.

This Bill therefore amends the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000* to extend the grant of \$20 000 for eligible first home buyers who enter an eligible transaction for the purchase of a newly constructed home or the construction of a new home from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 inclusive.

Madam Speaker, the extension to the \$20 000 First Home Owner Grant will mean that Tasmania continues to have one of the most competitive home owner grants offered by any jurisdiction in Australia.

This initiative will give Tasmanians a greater opportunity to build and own their own home and will add to housing supply, which will ease housing affordability pressures. This will have positive flow-on effects for Tasmania's building and construction industry, creating more work and more jobs.

Madam Speaker, I commend this Bill to the House.