



TASMANIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2019 - 2020

(SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 60

WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2020

- 1 **COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon
- 2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said:
“We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise them as the traditional and original owners and the continuing custodians of this land.”
- 3 **PRAYERS.**— The President read Prayers.
- 4 **PREMIERS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK AND MANAGEMENT OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**— Ms *Webb* asked the Honourable Leader of the Government —
With regard to the Premier’s Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) announced on 30 April 2020, and noting that the National COVID-19 Coordination Commission (NCCC) Chair, Mr Neville Power, stepped aside as Deputy Chairman of the gas company Strike Energy due to perceived conflict of interest concerns:—
 - (1) (a) Does the Government have in place a transparent accountability framework for the identification, management and public disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest issues which may arise for both PESRAC members and any advisory staff; and
(b) if so, are the details of this accountability framework publicly available?
 - (2) Are there any instances since 30 April this year where PESRAC members have:
 - (a) Stepped aside from corporate or other roles due to their PESRAC membership;
 - (b) declared any potential or perceived conflicts of interest in light of any matters arising during PESRAC related activities; and
 - (c) if so, please provide details.
 - (3) Are mechanisms in place to protect the commercial interests and intellectual property of submissions received, recognising that PESRAC members may be connected to direct competitors of businesses and individuals making representations to PESRAC?
 - (4) What are the remuneration, financial and resourcing package arrangements for each PESRAC member?
 - (5) What are the estimates of operating costs for PESRAC’s support secretariat, including salaries of any seconded departmental or political appointment staffers to the secretariat or to PESRAC members?

The Leader answered,

Question (1)

In relation to the staff made available to form the Secretariat for the Council, these are public sector employees, and as such are subject to all of the usual governance arrangements, including the State Service Act and the Code of Conduct, which provide a framework for managing conflicts of interest.

In relation to the members of PESRAC, procedures for managing conflicts of interest framework have been agreed by the Council at its first meeting on 5 May 2020 and implemented with effect from that date. These include:

Declarations of interests

A register of interests has been prepared and completed by each member, which requires members to register:

- entities of which members are a director;
- entities of which members are an employee;
- entities of which members have a major shareholding interest;
- if members operate a consulting business, the nature of the client base and work undertaken; and
- entities to which members owe a non-remunerated interest that may be relevant to the Council's work program.

Conflicts arising from the work Program

The Council has agreed that prior to the circulation of papers for each meeting, the Chair will communicate the Agenda to Council members, with a brief outline of the content of each item. Any member identifying a potential conflict with the agenda item is to raise the nature of the conflict with the Chair, and consideration will then be given to the nature of any involvement of the member in that agenda item.

Depending on the nature of the matters being considered, managing that conflict might require that the member not be provided relevant papers, and will absent themselves from that agenda item during the meeting. Alternatively, the appropriate treatment might require the member to have a modified/redacted form of a relevant paper provided to the full Council (eg. if there was sensitive information contained within it).

Identified conflicts, and the strategies to deal with them, will be recorded by the Secretariat and form part of the records of the Council.

Given the work program of the Council to date, the matters covered in Agenda discussions have been very broad and have not been of a nature that conflicts will arise. There is a standing item in the Agenda of each meeting for Management of Conflicts.

Question (2)

- (a) No members have stepped aside from other roles as a result of PESRAC membership.
- (b) All members have completed their declarations of interest, and no conflict have thus-far arisen.

Question (3)

The conflicts arrangements implemented by the Council are considered sufficient to deal with this issue. There have been no intellectual property or similar issues arising from the consultation process to-date. The identity of Council members is well known and publicised, and if a participant in the process had concerns about making information available to the process, this can be dealt with by the Secretariat in a way that meets the concerns of the participant, or that material is simply not provided by the participant.

Question (4)

The PESRAC members are fulfilling their roles on a community-service basis, and are not being remunerated. Costs of meeting participation will be reimbursed at the request of the member. No such requests have been made to-date.

Question (5)

There are no political appointments to the Secretariat. The Secretariat is effectively a medium-term interoperability model. The team comprises staff made available from the following departments:

- Treasury (3 staff);
- Premier and Cabinet (2 staff);
- State Growth (2 staff); and
- Primary Industries, Water and Environment (1 staff)

All staff have retained their pre-existing remuneration levels and arrangements.

No additional funding has been made available to any agency to support the work of the Council/Secretariat - costs are met from existing Agency appropriations.

5 PREMIERS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND POLITICAL DONATIONS AND LOBBYIST INTEREST.

—Ms *Webb* asked the Honourable Leader of the Government — Recognising the need to maintain public confidence in Tasmania's transparency and accountability mechanisms during the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, will the Government please confirm whether any member of the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council, as announced on 30 April 2020, has:

- (1) (a) Made a personal financial or in kind donation to a registered political party and/or candidate for each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2019-20; and
(b) if so, please provide the names of any identified recipients?
- (2) (a) Represented, or held membership of, or was an employee of, any organisation or entity which made a financial or in kind donation to a registered political party and/or candidate for each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2019-20; and
(b) if so, please provide the details of both donor entity and recipients?
- (3) (a) Ever been a registered lobbyist, member and/or employee of a registered lobbyist organisation, on either the Australian Government Register of Lobbyists or the Tasmanian Register of Lobbyists; and
(b) if so please provide details?
- (4) (a) Been involved in any business and/or corporate interests which have successfully tendered for any Tasmanian state tenders, grants, commissions, and/or received any other public funding for each of the financial years from 2016-17 to 2019-20; and
(b) if so, please provide the contract and funding amount details?

The Leader answered,

The personal affairs of the Council members in relation to their support or otherwise for registered political parties or candidates is not known to the Government, and is a private matter for the members.

Council members were invited by the Premier to participate in the Council as a community service, and they are not being remunerated for their service. There is no context of any of the members being appointed as a reward for supporting the Government.

The members were approached because of their highly appropriate and wide-ranging backgrounds in business and in the social sectors. They are prominent and well-known Tasmanians. They have been appointed in their personal capacity, not in any representative capacity, because of the experiences and networks they bring to the challenge of identifying potential recovery mechanisms.

In the context of Tasmania and the reach of Government, most if not all members of the Council will have had some form of financial linkage with Government over the period nominated - either directly through salary, through the organisation that they have worked for having financial relationships with the Government, other remunerated positions linked to Government, their business having contracts with Government agencies, or entities with which they are otherwise associated having financial linkages to Government.

The Council is providing recommendations to the Premier for his and Cabinet's consideration. They are not making any decisions in relation to recovery mechanisms or initiatives - the Council's task is purely advisory.

Finally, the Council has implemented measures to deal with conflicts that are fit-for-purpose in the context of the Council's advisory role.

6 PREMIERS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECOVERY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP TASMANIAN CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER.—Ms Webb asked the Honourable Leader of the Government — With regard to the Tasmanian Children's Commissioner serving on the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC), as announced on 30 April 2020:—

- (1) (a) Has the Government received advice regarding the capacity for the Tasmanian Children's Commissioner to meet all responsibilities, obligations and terms of appointment, as an independent statutory officer under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* while also serving as a PESRAC member; and
(b) if so, what are the details?
- (2) What are the details of the intended full-time equivalent (FTE) schedule the Children's Commissioner will be expected to fulfil as a PESRAC member?
- (3) (a) Have amendments been made to the Children's Commissioner's contractual arrangements in light of additional membership on PESRAC; and
(b) if so, what are the details?

The Leader answered,

Question (1)

(a) Yes.

(b) Leanne McLean is appointed in her personal capacity to the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC). There were no legal concerns identified regarding her capacity to meet her responsibilities as the Children's Commissioner and her terms of appointment as an independent statutory officer under the *Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016* while also serving as a PESRAC member, noting that no member on PESRAC receives payment for their role on PESRAC.

Question (2)

It is not possible to identify the time commitment in the context of a full-time equivalent schedule, however the current commitment is as follows:

For the first phase of the Council's work (leading up to end June), the Council is meeting weekly, typically for 2 hour blocks during business hours. The current arrangements see PESRAC considering meeting papers over weekends, rather than in 'business hours'.

The meeting schedule post the first report has yet to be agreed, but it is expected to be weekly through July and August, leading to the interim report at the end of August.

Arrangements in September and through to the final report (date to be determined) have not been contemplated yet.

Question (3)

(a) No.

(b) Not applicable.

7 LEAVE TO TABLE ANSWER TO QUESTION AND INCORPORATE ANSWER INTO HANSARD.—*Ordered*, That Mrs Hiscutt have leave to Table answer to Question No. 40 and have the answer incorporated into the Hansard record.

8 COVID-19 AND SPECIAL MEASURES IN MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES.—Ms Webb asked the Honourable Leader of the Government — With regard to the COVID-19 Disease Emergency:

- (1) What additional or adapted measures have been implemented for providing health care to, and ensuring the physical and mental wellbeing of, voluntary and involuntary clients in Tasmania's mental health facilities?
- (2) What special measures have been implemented in Tasmania's mental health facilities to protect vulnerable patients, such as elderly individuals and those with existing health conditions?
- (3) What measures have been taken in relation to the administration of Treatment Orders under the *Mental Health Act 2013* to:
 - (a) reduce crowding in Tasmania's mental health facilities;
 - (b) ensure physical distancing can be maintained in those facilities; and
 - (c) safeguard health and wellbeing more generally?
- (4) To what extent are the rights of mental health clients under the *Corrections Act 1997* and the *Mental Health Act 2013* restricted as a result of COVID-19?
- (5) What processes and arrangements have been put in place to ensure people with mental illness have a direct voice to decision-makers about the impact of COVID-19 on:
 - (a) their mental and physical health and wellbeing; and
 - (b) the measures being adopted in relation to their treatment and care during the pandemic emergency?
- (6) What impact has COVID-19 had on staff-escorted leave and access to allied health services provided by psychologists and diversional therapists?
- (7)
 - (a) How many COVID-19 tests have been carried out in Tasmania's mental health facilities; and
 - (b) what have been the results for staff and patients?
- (8)
 - (a) What sanitation and social distancing measures have been implemented in Tasmania's mental health facilities; and
 - (b) to which facilities do these measures apply?
- (9)
 - (a) What measures have been taken to minimise the impact of restrictions on visits to Tasmania's mental health facilities; and
 - (b) have opportunities for video communication between patients and their families and friends been provided?
- (10) What measures are in place to minimise the physical and psychological harm of any COVID-19 related isolation measures that have been in place?
- (11) What has been the impact of the COVID-19 emergency period on the Mental Health Official Visitors Program's ability to:
 - (a) check on the treatment of patients in mental health facilities; and
 - (b) receive complaints from patients?

The Leader answered,

Question (1)

All services within Statewide Mental Health Services developed COVID-19 management plans which detailed strategies to avoid or reduce the risks to patients, staff, family members, carers, visitors and the broader community. Strategies were tailored to individual service types and included measures like:

- Implementing infection control measures, complying with public health recommendations around social distancing, isolation and quarantine where required, and the provision of appropriate PPE based on clinical need to protect both patients and staff;
- Identifying options to manage patients who show symptoms of COVID-19 or contract COVID-19;
- Identifying options for managing vulnerable patients and staff;

- Supporting staff to work from home where possible to minimise potential spread;
- Supporting staff to work from home who identified as vulnerable;
- Reduced face to face contact with patients and increased contact via telephone or telehealth;
- Screening of patients and staff; and ○ Reduced access to services, such as visitors. 2 As part of the COVID-19 plans that were developed, services undertook a review of each site and the patients to determine those who had additional vulnerabilities which placed them at greater risk. Measures were implemented that helped manage the risks specific to individual needs. Plans were developed on how to provide care to a COVID-19 positive patient. Inpatient units reviewed their patients with a view of discharging patients where appropriate to support them within the community, which would enable the creation of hot and cold zones in the inpatient units in preparation for any patients who tested positive to COVID-19.

Question (2)

The Roy Fagan Centre (RFC) is a specialised centre to assess and treat older persons with mental illness and dementia. The management plan for the RFC recognises the extreme vulnerabilities of its older patients, and the anticipated complexities of medical and nursing care. The RFC implemented visitor restrictions very early on to protect its patients from the risk of COVID-19. Visitor restrictions for other service sites were also implemented.

Question (3)

As part of the service management plans, a range of decisions were made which was guided by advice from Public Health in relation to measures that should be implemented within health facilities.

- (a) This included the management of visitors, and reducing face to face contact with contact by telephone and telehealth where appropriate. The Mental Health Tribunal met its requirements under the Mental Health Act 2013 to review persons detailed under the Act via the use of Polycom Healthcare. Each inpatient unit reviewed all patients to ensure that those who could be cared for appropriately in the community were discharged from hospital.
- (b) All services within Statewide Mental Health Services implemented a range of measures within its facilities to ensure physical distancing occurred. For example, there was a shift to phone consultations where appropriate. For patients and patients who needed to be seen face to face, staff ensured they followed advice from Public Health Services and utilised PPE when required. Inpatient units modified their layouts to ensure there were separate hot and cold zones, and that all rooms in the facility were able to meet the physical distancing requirements wherever possible.
- (c) Mental Health Services established the COVID-19 support line to provide assistance to people requesting support relating to COVID-19, such as people who were in isolation. This was part of the Mental Health Helpline and was staffed by appropriately qualified mental health clinicians.

Question (4)

To protect patients and staff, the Government made the difficult decision to not allow visitors to all Tasmanian Health Service hospitals as a temporary measure, which included the mental health acute inpatient facilities. Additionally, patient leave was ceased temporarily to further reduce the risk of COVID-19 to patients and staff. This measure meant that patients receiving inpatient mental health treatment were unable to leave the unit and strategies were implemented to ensure patients could remain in contact with families, carers and other support networks. Restrictions have recently been eased and treating teams are now working with their patients in relation to leave options where appropriate.

Question (5)

Mental Health Services implemented a range of strategies to manage patient's physical health and wellbeing. Generally, this was undertaken at an individual service unit level where patients are able to discuss any issues, including those arising from COVID-19, with their treating team or the service manager, who would then work with patients to identify and implement a solution.

Information was provided to patients in relation to additional services they could access such as Mental Health Families and Friends Tasmania and Flourish.

Question (6)

Where a patient is required to access treatment or a medical appointment that is essential to their health, this has still been facilitated through the period of restrictions. Staff escorted leave for patients has now been reintroduced with the easing of leave restrictions and where a plan for leave has been developed with the treating team. Referrals continued to be made to ensure health related services were accessible for patients. Access to Allied Health staff has not been affected by COVID-19, though the delivery of these services may have been via telehealth rather than face to face.

Question (7)

- (a) Anyone requiring a test has been taken to the testing centres, whenever possible. Some staff have been trained to carry out tests on those people who are unable to attend the testing centres, but the numbers are extremely low.
- (b) All tests conducted returned a negative result.

Question (8)

All facilities within Statewide Mental Health Services have implemented the measures recommended by the Public Health Service.

- Staff must complete a staff screening prior to commencing at work. ○ Staff adhere to the requirement to stay home if they are unwell and contact the Public Health Service for advice.
- Staff and visitors must sanitise prior to entering any of our facilities. ○ Visitors to Inpatient Units are required to complete a screening tool.
- Visitors to community services are required to complete a screening tool at reception.
- Staff and visitors must maintain appropriate social distancing and hand hygiene, and there are posters clearly displayed throughout all services.
- Cleaning regimes have been reviewed and enhanced utilising government cleaning guidelines.
- PPE including hand hygiene facilities are available throughout units. ○ Education to staff and patients has occurred and is ongoing. 9 Staff have encouraged and helped patients to remain connected with their support networks via telephone or video communication while the restrictions on visitors were in place. Mental Health Services have also reviewed and enhanced ward-based activities in consultation with patients. Where services have outdoor areas, patients have been encouraged to utilise these.

Question (9) (a) and (b)

For patients who do not have a mobile phone, staff worked with patients individually to help them to connect with their family and friends. Inpatient Units worked closely with the Visitors program to implement tablets and mobile phones in areas for patients to use social media platforms to maintain contact during the restriction period.

Question (10)

Treating teams are supporting patients, providing education about COVID-19 and responding to their individual needs during this time. Services have also kept support networks informed and ensured patients have had contact with family and friends. Peer Carer and Peer Support Workers have also engaged with patients and their families during this time.

Question (11)

There was a suspension of visits by the Official Visitors to all approved hospitals. This was a decision that was not made lightly, but essential to safeguard the health and safety of patients, staff and the Official Visitors. Principal Official Visitor Mr Richard Connock was supportive of this decision and mechanisms were put in place to ensure that patients were still able to contact the Official Visitors program if they wanted support or to raise issues. The Official Visitors will be recommencing their visits to facilities in the North and North West from 1 July 2020.

9 PAPERS.— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) Mental Health Act 2013: Review of the Act's Operation. Outcomes Report.

- (2) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation: Scrutiny of Notices Issued under the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 – Report 2 (No. 7). Addendum. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 11 June 2020.
- (3) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation: Scrutiny of Notices Issued under the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 – Report 3 (No. 9). Addendum. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 11 June 2020.
- (4) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation: Scrutiny of Notices Issued under the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 – Report 4 (No. 10). Addendum. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 11 June 2020.
- (5) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation: Scrutiny of Notices Issued under the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 – Report 5. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 11 June 2020.
- (6) Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation: Scrutiny of Notices Issued under Section 19 of the COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993) – Report 6. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 11 June 2020.
- (7) Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation in relation to the scrutiny of notice issued under Section 23 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Waive Taxi Administration Fees in 2020)*; scrutiny of notice issued under Section 19 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Water Management Act 1999)*; scrutiny of notice issued under Section 19 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993)*; scrutiny of notice issued under Section 13 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993)*; and scrutiny of notice issued under Section 16 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (State Service Act 2000)* – Report 7. Presented to the President of the Legislative Council on 19 June 2020.
- (8) Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation in relation to the scrutiny of notice issued under Section 22 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Residential Tenancies)*; scrutiny of notice issued under Section 16 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Poisons Act 1971)*; and scrutiny of notice issued under Section 16 of the *Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020 (Food Act 1993 and Public Health Act 1997)* – Report 8. Presented to the President on 19 June 2020.
- (9) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Sections 14 and 16 - Extension of Property Agent Licences.
- (10) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Sections 14 and 16 - Extension of Building and Construction Related Permits.
- (11) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 16.
- (12) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 16 - Notice to extend authorities under Section 59E of the Poisons Act 1971.
- (13) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 17 – Magistrates Court – Electronic Service and Witnessing.
- (14) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 22 – Prohibition of Lease Termination.

- (15) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 22 – Commercial Tenancies.
- (16) Covid-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020: Notice Under Section 22 – Residential Tenancies.
- (17) Major infrastructure development approvals (North West Transmission Upgrades Project) Order 2020.

10 REPORT OF THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION IN RELATION TO AN INQUIRY INTO THE STATE SERVICE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2020.— *Ms Rattray* presented a Report of the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation in relation to an inquiry into the State Service Amendment Regulations 2020 (Statutory Rules No 24 of 2020).

Ordered, That the Report be received. (*Ms Rattray*)

Ordered, That the Report be printed. (*Ms Rattray*)

11 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

12 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER.— *Ordered*, That so much of Standing Order No. 41 be suspended to allow for Special Interest Matters to be called on today's Sitting. (*Mrs Hiscutt*)

13 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.— The President advised the Chamber of six Members who had indicated their desire to speak and of the order in which they were to speak as follows —

- (1) Mr *Finch* – Men's Health Week;
- (2) Ms *Armitage* – Launceston Basketball Association;
- (3) Ms *Webb* – Nelson community support during COVID-19;
- (4) Mr *Valentine* – John Leedham Condolence;
- (5) Ms *Forrest* – Circular Head Business; and
- (6) Ms *Lovell* – International Cleaners Day.

At the conclusion of Special Interest Matters the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.

14 BILL NO. 21.— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendments) Bill 2020.

A Motion was made (*Mrs Hiscutt*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

15 SITTING SUSPENDED.— It being 1.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

16 QUESTION TIME.— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were 16 Questions asked.

17 LEAVE TO TABLE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND INCORPORATE ANSWERS INTO HANSARD.— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to Table answers to the following Questions and have the answers incorporated into the Hansard record.

Member for Elwick (Mr *Willie*) regarding the reissuing Tasmanian student results.

Member for Launceston (Ms *Armitage*) regarding wombat mange.

Member for McIntyre (Ms *Rattray*) regarding the racing stakes point of consumption revenue tax and election commitment for increased funding.

Member for Murchison (Ms *Forrest*) regarding the care of pregnant and post-natal women.

Member for McIntyre (Ms *Rattray*) regarding the Northern Correctional Facility and questions raised by the members of the Westbury community.

Member for Nelson (Ms *Webb*) regarding the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council workplan and its stage 1 consultation phase.

Member for Murchison (Ms *Forrest*) regarding the Economic Fiscal Update Report dated May 2020 and the estimates of the decrease in dividend tax and rate equivalent income for government businesses.

18 LEAVE TO TABLE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS AND INCORPORATE ANSWERS INTO HANSARD.— *Ordered*, That Ms *Howlett* have leave to Table answers to the following Questions and have the answers incorporated into the Hansard record.

Member for McIntyre (Ms *Rattray*) regarding the racing stakes point of consumption revenue tax and election commitment for increased funding.

Member for Windemere (Mr *Dean*) in relation to contracts for Hawthorn and North Melbourne Football Clubs.

19 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

20 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER: QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That so much of Standing Order No. 49 be further suspended for this day's sitting to allow for Questions without Notice until 3.10pm. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

21 QUESTION TIME.— The President called for further Questions without Notice. There were a further 4 Questions asked.

22 BILL NO. 21.— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendments) Bill 2020 be now read the Second time.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Clause 6 read.

Ms *Rattray* in the Chair.

Clause 6 as read agreed to.

Clause 7 postponed.

Clause 8 read.

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clause 8 as read agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 14 agreed to.

Postponed Clause 7 as read further considered.

Amendment made. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

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Leave out “5”.

Insert instead “8”.

Question put, That the Clause as amended be agreed to,

Committee divided.

AYES 8

NOES 4

Ms *Armitage*

Ms *Forrest* (Teller)

Mr *Armstrong*

Mr *Gaffney*

Mr *Dean*

Mr *Valentine*

Mrs *Hiscutt*

Ms *Webb*

Ms *Howlett*

Ms *Lovell* (Teller)

Ms *Ratray*

Mr *Willie*

Pair:

Pair:

Ms *Siejka*

Mr *Finch*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with Amendment.

The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council with Amendment.

Ordered, That the consideration of the Bill as amended in Committee be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

23 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Ms *Ratray* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

24 ESTABLISHMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO TASWATER.— A Motion was made (Ms *Ratray*) and the Question was proposed,

That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of the Council, and with leave to adjourn from place to place, to inquire into and report upon the operations of TasWater with particular reference to:—

- (1) the impact of compliance with regulated bodies;
- (2) operations in regard to the impact on business required to comply with Trade Waste regulations;
- (3) the opportunity for re-use water expansion for irrigation;

- (4) the management of sewage treatment including the disposal of the treated waste biosolids;
- (5) the effect of TasWater's dividend policy on Local Government revenue;
- (6) the delivery and timeliness of water services to Tasmanian communities;
- (7) the effectiveness of business operations since the State Government became a shareholder in early 2019;
- (8) the impact of COVID-19 on business operations; and
- (9) any other matters incidental thereto.

And that —

Mr Armstrong;
Mr Dean;
Ms Lovell; and
The Mover be of the Committee.

A Debate arose thereupon.

Ordered, That Mr *Valentine*, have leave to Table a copy of a letter to the Hon Member for Mersey (Mr *Gaffney*) from TasWater dated 22 June 2020 about the proposed Legislative Council Select Committee Inquiry and have the letter incorporated into the Hansard record.

And the Question being put, That the Motion be agreed to.

The Council divided.

AYES 11

NOES 2

Ms *Armitage*

Mr *Gaffney* (Teller)

Mr *Armstrong*

Mr *Valentine*

Mr *Dean*

Mr *Finch*

Ms *Forrest* (Teller)

Mrs *Hiscutt*

Ms *Howlett*

Ms *Lovell*

Ms *Ratray*

Ms *Webb*

Mr *Willie*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

25 BILL NO. 23.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to encourage and assist in supporting the building industry by providing for the payments of grants to home owners to facilitate the building of new homes and the substantial renovation of existing homes in certain circumstances’,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 24 June 2020

S. HICKEY, Speaker

The Bill was read the First time.

26 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

27 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.— A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*), and the Question was proposed, That so much of Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Bill to pass through its remaining stages at such time as the Council may appoint. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

28 BILL NO. 23.— A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*), and the Question was proposed, That the Homebuilder Grants Bill 2020 be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 13 agreed to.

Ms *Rattray* in the Chair.

Clause 14 Amendment made. (Ms *Forrest*)

Page 25, after subclause (2).

Insert the following subclauses:

- (1) If the Minister makes an order under subsection (1), the Minister is to send to the Committee, within the meaning of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969*, a copy of the order within 14 days after the making of the order is notified in the *Gazette*.
- (2) Sections 7(4), 8 and 9 of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969* apply to a copy of an order sent to the Committee, within the meaning of that Act, under subsection (X) as if the order were regulations.

Clause as amended agreed to.

Clauses 15 and 16 agreed to.

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair

Clauses 17 to 55 agreed to.

Schedule 1 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported with Amendment.

The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council with Amendment.

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended in the Committee, be now taken into consideration.

The Council, accordingly, proceeded to take the same into consideration.

The Amendment was read the First time.

The said Amendment, being read the Second time, was agreed to.

Ordered, That the Bill as amended in the Committee, be now read the Third time. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

The Bill was read the Third time and passed.

29 BILL NO. 23.— A Message to the House of Assembly:—

MADAM SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having this day agreed, with Amendment, to a Bill intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to encourage and assist in supporting the building industry by providing for the payments of grants to home owners to facilitate the building of new homes and the substantial renovation of existing homes in certain circumstances’,

now returns the same to the House of Assembly, and requests its concurrence therein.

Legislative Council, 24 June 2020

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

30 INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO NORTH WEST COVID-19 OUTBREAK.

— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council supports the establishment of a comprehensive inquiry conducted by suitably qualified and independent experts into the contributing factors which led to the recent Covid-19 outbreak in North West Tasmania

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

31 BILL NO. 22.— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the Land Tax Act 2000’,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 24 June 2020

S. HICKEY, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

32 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.— A Motion was made (Ms *Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed, That so much of Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Bill to pass through its remaining stages at such time as the Council may appoint.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

33 BILL NO. 22.— A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*), and the Question was proposed, That the Land Tax Amendment Bill 2020 be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 5 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council without Amendment.

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the Third time (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

The Bill was read the Third time and passed.

34 BILL NO. 22.— A Message to the House of Assembly:—

MADAM SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill intituled, ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Land Tax Act 2000*’.

Legislative Council, 24 June 2020

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

35 ADJOURNMENT.— *Ordered*, That the Council will at its rising adjourn until 10.00 o’clock am on Thursday, 25 June 2020.

A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed, That the Council do now adjourn.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Council adjourned at 9.44 o'clock p.m.

D.T. PEARCE, *Clerk of the Council*.

Briefings - Tuesday 23 June 2020:

- *Building and Construction (Regulatory Reform Amendments) Bill 2020*
- *Home Builder Grants Bill 2020*
- *Land Tax Amendment Bill 2020*