



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2019

(SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 41

WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2019

- 1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE. - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.
- 3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION. – The Speaker read Prayers.
- 4 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – In accordance with Standing Order No. 43, Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 PAPERS. – The Treasurer laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Water and Sewerage Industry (Community Service Obligation) Act 2009: Water and Sewerage Industry (Community Service Obligation) Regulations 2019 (Statutory Rules 2019, No. 59).
- 6 PAPERS. – The Minister for Primary Industries and Water laid upon the Table of the House the following Papers:-
 - (1) Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995:
 - (a) Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Amendment Rules 2019 (Statutory Rules 2019, No. 62);
 - (b) Fisheries (Abalone) Amendment Rules 2019 (Statutory Rules 2019, No. 63).
 - (2) Land Acquisition Act 1993: Section 18:
 - (i) Notice of Acquisition dated 5 December 2018, land situate in the City of Launceston, Municipal Area of Launceston, Plan of Survey SP146080, registered in the names of Gregory Thomas Matuszek and Kerrie Elizabeth Matuszek for public reserve;
 - (ii) Notice of Acquisition dated 8 August 2018, land situate in Carlton River, Municipal Area of Sorell, Plan of Survey P170141, registered in the name of LA Arnold Pty Ltd. for road purposes; and
 - (iii) Notice of Acquisition dated 11 July, land situate in the Parish of Ormaig, Land District of Monmouth, Municipal Area of Southern Midlands, Lots 2 and 3 on Plan of Survey P175223, registered in the name of Ramarosi Investments Pty Ltd. for road purposes.
- 7 PAPERS. – The Minister for Human Services laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Youth Justice Act 1997: Youth Justice Regulations 2019 (Statutory Rules 2019, No.58).

8 BILL NO. 55. – The Minister for Primary Industries and Water presented -

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Cat Management Act 2009”.

And Mr *Barnett* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

9 BILL NO. 53. – The Minister for Building and Construction presented -

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2016”.

And Ms *Archer* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

10 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS. – Ms *Butler*, in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

Bushfire Preparedness.

And the Question being proposed;

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

11 BILL NO. 49. - The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Question proposed on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 - That the Police Offences Amendment (Repeal of Begging) Bill 2019 be now read the Second time;

And the Question being again proposed;
The House resumed the said adjourned Debate.

And the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management was addressing the Chair.

12 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. - At One o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.
At half-past Two o'clock the Speaker resumed the Chair.

13 IMPLEMENTATION OF AUSTRALASIAN FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE AUTHORITIES COUNCIL REVIEW. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

- (1) Acknowledges the bushfire season has started early and ferociously in eastern Australia, with homes having already been threatened in Tasmania, and massive fires causing widespread devastation in New South Wales and Queensland.
- (2) Understands the likelihood of ongoing bushfire emergencies in mainland Australia, meaning Tasmania may not be able to depend on the assistance of resources from interstate if we face a large event of our own.
- (3) Recognises the Government was provided with nine important recommendations by an independent review conducted by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) after the 2018 bushfires.
- (4) Calls on the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Hon. *Mark Shelton* MP, to lay before the House, by 14 November, 2019:—
 - (a) all information related to the completed implementation of Recommendations 4 and 6 of the AFAC review; and
 - (b) all information related to the progress of implementing Recommendations 1,5, and 8 of the AFAC review, along with a timeline for completion of these recommendations.

- (5) Calls on the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Hon *Mark Shelton* MP, to lay before the House detailed strategies outlining the plan and resourcing for implementing Recommendations 2, 3, 7, and 9 of the AFAC review, no later than the first sitting week of the 2020 Parliamentary session. (*Dr Woodruff*)

A debate arose thereupon.

An Amendment was proposed by The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management to leave out paragraph (2) to (5) and insert instead:

- (2) Confirms the strong support of the Tasmanian people for those affected by the fires and praises the efforts of Tasmanian firefighters in New South Wales and Queensland who are helping their mainland colleagues to defend life and property.
- (3) Again recognises the Government has accepted in principle the recommendations by an independent review conducted by AFAC after last season's bushfires.
- (4) Notes that no Greens Member of Parliament attended a briefing on the season outlook and preparation as provided by the Chief Fire Officer for Members of Parliament.
- (5) Acknowledges the advice provided to the House that AFAC short term recommendations 4 and 6 are completed and that the remaining short-term recommendations being 1, 5 and 8 will be completed by the end of November 2019. Further that medium and long-term recommendations being 2, 3, 7 and 9 are being progressed by a dedicated project manager in the Tasmanian Fire Service.

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put – That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

AYES 12

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Ms Courtney
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Mr Hodgman
Mr Jaensch
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Shelton
Mr Tucker
Mrs Rylah (Teller)

NOES 10

Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Haddad
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms O'Connor
Ms Standen
Ms White
Dr Woodruff
Ms Dow (Teller)

PAIRS

Mr Rockliff

Ms Houston

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Main Question, as amended, being put;

The House divided.

AYES 12

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Ms Courtney
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Mr Hodgman
Mr Jaensch
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Shelton
Mr Tucker
Mrs Rylah (Teller)

NOES 10

Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Haddad
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms O'Connor
Ms Standen
Ms White
Dr Woodruff
Ms Dow (Teller)

PAIRS

Mr Rockliff

Ms Houston

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved, That the House:—

- (1) Acknowledges the bushfire season has started early and ferociously in eastern Australia, with homes having already been threatened in Tasmania, and massive fires causing widespread devastation in New South Wales and Queensland.
- (2) Confirms the strong support of the Tasmanian people for those affected by the fires and praises the efforts of Tasmanian firefighters in New South Wales and Queensland who are helping their mainland colleagues to defend life and property.
- (3) Again recognises the Government has accepted in principle the recommendations by an independent review conducted by AFAC after last season's bushfires.
- (4) Notes that no Greens Member of Parliament attended a briefing on the season outlook and preparation as provided by the Chief Fire Officer for Members of Parliament.
- (5) Acknowledges the advice provided to the House that AFAC short term recommendations 4 and 6 are completed and that the remaining short-term recommendations being 1, 5 and 8 will be completed by the end of November 2019. Further that medium and long-term recommendations being 2, 3, 7 and 9 are being progressed by a dedicated project manager in the Tasmanian Fire Service.

14 LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

- (1) Notes with concern reports that over the third weekend in October 2019, 12 admitted patients at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) were waiting in the Emergency Department for longer than 24 hours, with four of those patients waiting longer than two days, and one patient forced to wait 16 hours in an ambulance.
- (2) Further notes that the Tasmanian Health Service Annual Report shows that only 56.6% of patients at the LGH experienced an Emergency Department stay of less than four hours, drastically short of the Service Plan target of not less than 90% of patients.
- (3) Further notes with concern the Auditor-General's finding that the rate of adverse events in the Emergency Department at the LGH increased significantly between 2015 and 2018.
- (4) Further notes that the Auditor-General's Report into the performance of Tasmania's four major hospitals in the delivery of Emergency Department services found that LGH

- spent 70% of the time between 29 June 2018 and 24 January 2019 at the highest possible level of escalation and in a state of almost constant gridlock.
- (5) Heeds the calls of nurses and doctors, through the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF), the Health and Community Services Union (HACSU), and the LGH Staff Association for the introduction of a fourth level in the LGH escalation policy, a response that was implemented at the Royal Hobart Hospital.
 - (6) Calls on the Minister for Health, Hon *Sarah Courtney* MP, to commit to a review of the LGH escalation policy, including the manner in which a fourth escalation level will be introduced, in consultation with the ANMF, HACSU and the LGH Staff Association. (Ms *O'Byrne*)

A debate arose thereupon.

15 MEMBER SUSPENDED. – In accordance with Standing Order 149, the Speaker directed the Honourable Member for Lyons, Mr *Tucker*, to withdraw from the House for the remainder of the debate on the Motion owing to repeated interjections.

16 LAUNCESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT. – And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the Debate.

An Amendment was proposed by the Minister for Health by leaving out paragraphs (5) and (6) and inserting instead:

(5) Acknowledges that the Minister has already confirmed that an audit of escalation levels is presently underway, and recognises that it is the medical, nursing, allied health and other staff across our hospitals who are best placed to make decisions around internal patient flow processes.

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put – That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

AYES 12

Ms *Archer*
Mr *Barnett*
Ms *Courtney*
Mr *Ferguson*
Mr *Gutwein*
Mr *Hodgman*
Ms *Ogilvie*
Mrs *Petrusma*
Mr *Rockliff*
Mr *Shelton*
Mr *Tucker*
Mrs *Rylah* (Teller)

NOES 10

Dr *Broad*
Ms *Butler*
Ms *Haddad*
Mr *O'Byrne*
Ms *O'Byrne*
Ms *O'Connor*
Ms *Standen*
Ms *White*
Dr *Woodruff*
Ms *Dow* (Teller)

PAIRS

Mr *Jaensch*

Ms *Houston*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Main Question, as amended, being put;

The House divided.

AYES 12

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Ms Courtney
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Mr Hodgman
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Tucker
Mrs Rylah (Teller)

NOES 10

Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Dow
Ms Haddad
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms O'Connor
Ms Standen
Ms White
Dr Woodruff (Teller)

PAIRS

Mr Jaensch

Ms Houston

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved, That the House:—

- (1) Notes with concern reports that over the third weekend in October 2019, 12 admitted patients at the Launceston General Hospital (LGH) were waiting in the Emergency Department for longer than 24 hours, with four of those patients waiting longer than two days, and one patient forced to wait 16 hours in an ambulance.
- (2) Further notes that the Tasmanian Health Service Annual Report shows that only 56.6% of patients at the LGH experienced an Emergency Department stay of less than four hours, drastically short of the Service Plan target of not less than 90% of patients.
- (3) Further notes with concern the Auditor-General's finding that the rate of adverse events in the Emergency Department at the LGH increased significantly between 2015 and 2018.
- (4) Further notes that the Auditor-General's Report into the performance of Tasmania's four major hospitals in the delivery of Emergency Department services found that LGH spent 70% of the time between 29 June 2018 and 24 January 2019 at the highest possible level of escalation and in a state of almost constant gridlock.
- (5) Acknowledges that the Minister for Health has already confirmed that an audit of escalation levels is presently underway, and recognises that it is the medical, nursing, allied health and other staff across our hospitals who are best placed to make decisions around internal patient flow processes.

17 INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—
That the House:—

- (1) Acknowledges that the Hodgman majority Liberal Government has a long-term plan to keep our economy strong and this includes investing in infrastructure at record levels in the 2019-20 State Budget.
- (2) Notes that, Government infrastructure spending as a proportion of total expenditure has almost doubled from around 7 per cent in 2014 to almost 12 per cent in the 2018-19 financial year.

- (3) Recognises that that actual infrastructure spending by the Hodgman Liberal Government was a massive 230 per cent higher in 2018-19, than it was just six years earlier in the last full year of the previous Government.
- (4) Further acknowledges that the Government is getting on with the job of delivering this strong infrastructure investment plan. (Mr *Tucker*)

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

18 ADJOURNMENT. - The time being Six o'clock, the Speaker proposed - That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

The House adjourned at thirty-five minutes past Six o'clock.

SHANE DONNELLY, *Clerk of the House*.

MEMBERS. - All present during the day.