

Tuesday 1 May 2018

FIRST SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT

The Council met at 11 a.m. pursuant to the Proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Professor Kate Warner, AM.

The Clerk read the Proclamation.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners appointed by the Governor, the Honourable James Scott Wilkinson, the Honourable Leonie Anne Hiscutt and the Honourable Kerry Finch, sent a message to the House of Assembly requesting members to attend to hear the Governor's Commission for the opening of Parliament.

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members of the Legislative Council, members of the House of Assembly:

Her Excellency the Governor, not thinking fit to be here at this time, has been pleased to cause a Commission under the Seal of the State to be prepared in order for the opening and holding of this Parliament. This will more fully appear by the Letters Patent themselves, which the Clerk of the Council will now read.

The Clerk read the Commission.

Mr PRESIDENT - Usher of the Black Rod, I command you to let the members of the House of Assembly know that Her Excellency's Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in this Chamber to hear the Commission read.

The members of the House of Assembly attended.

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members of the Legislative Council, members of the House of Assembly:

We have it in command from Her Excellency the Governor to let you know that as soon as the new members of the House of Assembly shall be sworn and the House of Assembly has elected its Speaker in accordance with the Constitution Act Her Excellency will in person at three o'clock this afternoon in this place declare the causes of her calling this Parliament together.

The members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

Sitting suspended from 11.09 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

The Usher of the Black Rod announced Her Excellency the Governor.

Her Excellency commanded the Usher of the Black Rod to summon members of the House of Assembly.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council, Madam Speaker and members of the House of Assembly,

As the 28th Governor of this State, I welcome you to the first session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament of Tasmania, 162 years since responsible government began in Tasmania, with the first sitting of the bicameral Parliament in 1856.

Much like that momentous occasion, the State election on 3 March this year has delivered an historic outcome. In delivering a second term for the majority Liberal Government, it was the first time since the 1970s that any political party surpassed 50 per cent of the primary vote in consecutive elections, and indeed, the first time in over 100 years, that a conservative party achieved that result.

In another first for Tasmania, the new make-up of the House of Assembly has more women than men. In fact, Tasmania has become the first Australian State Parliament ever to achieve this, and it is a milestone of national significance and worthy of celebration.

The election also resulted in five brand new members for the House of Assembly.

The Honourable Will Hodgman, Premier of Tasmania, received an unprecedented personal endorsement, and is determined to lead my Government responsibly, in the best interests of Tasmanians. Moreover, in a fast-paced and changing world, the people of Tasmania put their trust in the Liberal Government to provide certainty and stability for their future - a duty my Government takes very seriously.

Tasmania is a vastly different place than it was just a few years ago. In many cases, the State is leading the nation in business confidence, export growth, building approvals, international and domestic tourism to name a few. Economic conditions and employment growth are the strongest they have been in many years. There is no doubt that Tasmania as a whole is a more confident, more vibrant and positive place.

My Government has a strong resolve to see the State continue to move forward, to ensure that Tasmania's chance for prolonged and permanent growth is not squandered, and the State does not go backwards.

Rapid growth, however, brings its own set of challenges. It was Abraham Lincoln who said, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today'.

My Government does not resile from the challenges brought by strong economic growth; indeed, it welcomes the opportunities. It is acutely aware of the task ahead, with a long-term plan and policies to address Tasmania's growth and ensure that all Tasmanians, no matter where they

live, can share in the benefits. Despite the perceptible change in Tasmania, the issues that the majority of Tasmanians care about have remained comparatively constant.

Tasmanians want to see a strong economy that delivers jobs and secures opportunities for their children and future generations. They want a government that will deliver quality health and education services, keep their families safe, and keep cost of living pressures down. They want a government that will provide a vital safety net for those most in need. They want a government that invests in the infrastructure that our growing State needs; and they want to protect our precious way of life.

Tasmanians have entrusted my Government with a duty to deliver on these core responsibilities, to govern Tasmanians with a steady hand and a sense of purpose, and to lead the State with resolve, compassion and integrity.

In this term, my Government remains committed to further strengthen our economy and create more full-time, secure jobs for Tasmanians. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has recently confirmed that Tasmania's economy is one of the best performing in Australia, the third strongest in the country. Today, we enjoy record employment levels. There are 11 800 more Tasmanians in work than just four years ago, and Tasmanian businesses are the most confident in the country.

My Government will continue to work to strengthen the Tasmanian economy, and ensure all regions of the State benefit from economic growth and new jobs, by reducing payroll tax rates for businesses and providing one of the most competitive tax regimes in the country for small and medium-sized businesses.

Investment in flagship industry sectors, like tourism, agriculture and fisheries and resources, will continue in order to harness and solidify recent growth, creating more jobs and building a strong foundation for those sectors for years to come.

Growth in the economy and an increasing population brings its own set of challenges, with demand for skilled labour and an increased need and competition for housing, as more people move to Tasmania for jobs and lifestyle reasons. To meet the demand for skilled labour, my Government will give priority to ensuring more young people have the opportunity to undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship, through payroll tax rebates and targeted small business grants focused on growth sectors of the economy, such as building and construction, tourism and hospitality, and advanced manufacturing. New Centres of Excellence in Agriculture, Trades and Water, and Hospitality will ensure Tasmanians have the right skills for jobs in these important growth areas.

To meet the demand for housing, my Government will build on the first stage of its Affordable Housing Strategy, with an additional investment of \$125 million to increase supply, as well as a suite of incentives to help boost the supply of housing in Tasmania. Already, my Government has convened a Housing Summit and legislation to support a number of the outcomes will be introduced shortly. The market is also responding to demand for extra supply: the trend for dwelling commencements is up 29 per cent compared to just one year ago.

My Government is a firm believer in the power of education, and the opportunity it provides, not just for quality of life, but choice in life. Nothing is more important. During this term, Tasmania will see record levels of funding invested into the education system. That includes new teachers and other vital school staff. There will be more support for the early years, which are so critical to a child's development, and greater mental health support in our schools.

For the first time, we will progressively remove school principals from staffing formulas, enabling principals to focus more on school leadership, with extra teachers in the classroom to allow this to happen, starting in schools with the greatest need.

New schools will be built, and other schools significantly redeveloped, in key regions of growth and demand. My Government will also continue its plan to extend all high schools to year 12, ending once and for all the notion that school ends at year 10, and giving students and families' choice and the best chance to get ahead in life, no matter where they live. The plan for education builds on improvements made in the past few years including increased retention to year 12, engaging families in education, and improvements in literacy and numeracy.

Over the past four years, there has been much work done to rebuild the health system, including record funding, additional hospital beds, more staff, and a real focus on addressing elective surgery backlogs.

However, there remains more to do. Increasing demand on the health system is an issue affecting the entire country. For Tasmania, this is another challenge of a growing population, coupled with an ageing demographic.

My Government has listened to the concerns of Tasmanians and responded with an even greater investment in health funding over the next six years. To meet increasing demand, the focus will be on increasing capacity on the frontline, in our hospitals, with additional beds and health staff including paramedics, combined with a suite of new out-of-hospital services. These include new community mental health beds and support, alcohol and drug rehabilitation beds, and in-home or in-community management of chronic disease.

Keeping Tasmanians safe is a key priority of my Government. During this term in office, my Government will recruit an additional 125 frontline police officers, to meet the need for higher levels of policing due to a larger population and a higher number of public events. A suite of legislative changes will be introduced, including stronger bail laws for individuals accused of serious crimes, or who are deemed to be at high risk of reoffending while on bail, placing the onus of proof on serious and repeat offenders to justify why they should be granted bail.

My Government will also reform Tasmania's dangerous criminal declaration laws to ensure dangerous criminals are not released when the courts and prosecutors believe they are too dangerous to re-enter society. Legislation will be introduced to abolish the outdated practice of releasing prisoners early via remission and to tackle family violence with a new offence of persistent family violence, and new one-punch laws will also be introduced.

My Government is investing in the infrastructure our growing State needs for the 21st century and beyond, with around a billion dollars in new capital funding.

Two new projects - one in the south and one in the north - will increase prisoner capacity at the Tasmanian Prison Service, including a new remand facility on the Risdon Prison site and a new prison in the north of the State, providing a safer environment for both prisoners and correctional officers. Alone, these multi-million dollar investments will see the creation of more than 4000 direct and indirect jobs during construction.

Perhaps for the first time in the State's history, traffic congestion has become a regular problem. To address it, millions of dollars will go towards new roads and road upgrades, addressing traffic

hotspots and improving the safety of our roads, for Tasmanians and visitors alike, in all regions. My Government has also committed to more frequent public transport options to outer urban areas.

The next term of Government will see almost 1500 more affordable homes built over five years, new and upgraded hospital facilities around the State including in regional areas like St Helens and King Island, and investment in a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities and community amenities. The redevelopment of the Flinders Island Sports and RSL Club is just as important to that local community, as investment in Tranche 3 irrigation schemes is to farmers around Tasmania. It is important every Tasmanian shares in the billion-dollar infrastructure spend.

One of the most important jobs for any government is to ensure protection of Tasmania's lifestyle. Not many places are able to boast World Heritage wilderness at their backdoor, the cleanest air in the world, easy access to some of the world's best beaches and fishing and camping spots - not to mention our fantastic mountain-bike trails and walking tracks, our historic architecture and low-rise cities, and the freshest and internationally- renowned produce. Tasmania's way of life is unparalleled.

My Government recognises that the Tasmanian way of life is precious, and is determined to protect what makes our State unique; but also to ensure quality of life and affordable living, and keeping the cost of living pressures down. Over the next four years, my Government has targets and plans to:

- invest in and future-proof our beautiful National Parks and reserves, protect our pest and disease-free status that gives our State a competitive advantage, and safeguard our natural environment; and
- ensure zero net emissions, make Tasmania 100 per cent energy self-sufficient and break links with the National Electricity Market to ensure Tasmania has the lowest regulated electricity prices in the country.

During this term of office, there will be no new taxes imposed on Tasmanians, and cost of living increases for Government services, on average, will be at or below the rate of inflation for the next four years.

Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council, Madam Speaker and members of the House of Assembly,

I mentioned at the outset that it has been 162 years since Tasmania achieved responsible government, having changed its name from Van Diemen's Land. The year was 1856, and the newly elected bicameral parliament sat together for the first time. On the auspicious opening of the first session of the Parliament of Tasmania, Governor Sir Henry Fox Young reflected on the issues of importance to elected members and Tasmanians. He spoke about public education and the establishment of new schools; infrastructure, including the construction of electric telegraphs and public roads and bridges; law reform and policing; and the sale of public land as rapidly as possible to Tasmanians wishing to become - and I quote - 'bona fide occupiers and cultivators'.

It seems that some matters, especially those naturally associated with growth of an economy, or a colony in this case, are enduring. However importantly, our first Governor also spoke about the fact that Tasmanian freedom had passed from name into a reality, guaranteed not by positive

laws, but by what he called the enduring 'bulwarks of Free popular Institutions' - or in other words, a free democratic system of government fortified by the system of voting by ballot in an election.

Democracy is essentially the freedom to express views, and elections have been a fundamental tenet of democracy for the past 162 years in Tasmania, and will remain so. On 3 March 2018, all Tasmanians were given the freedom to democratically decide on their government.

My Government received the endorsement of the people of Tasmania at that election, and has been given the honour and privilege of governing Tasmania with a common sense of purpose, and a plan and a vision for the State.

I leave you now to the discharge of your important duties, and I trust that divine providence will guide your deliberations and further the true welfare of the people of Tasmania. Thank you.

The Governor withdrew.

The members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

Sitting suspended from 3.26 p.m. to 5.10 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE

Mr PRESIDENT - We acknowledge the traditional people of the land upon which we meet today, the Mouheneener people.

PARTITION BILL (pro forma)

First Reading

Bill presented by **Mrs Hiscutt** and read the first time.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH - ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, I have the honour to report the speech of Her Excellency the Governor delivered in the Chamber upon the occasion of the opening of the first session of the Forty-Ninth Parliament.

[5.11 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I have the honour to move -

That the following address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor in reply to Her Excellency's speech.

To Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the members of the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Excellency for the speech which you have been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.

We desire to record our continued loyalty to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and at the same time assure Your Excellency that the measures which will be laid before us during the session will receive our careful consideration.

We will deliberate more on the speech Her Excellency delivered at a later date.

I move -

That the debate stand adjourned.

Debate adjourned.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

[5.17 p.m.

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I wish to inform the Council that as a result of the general election for the House of Assembly held on 3 March 2018, Her Excellency the Governor made the following ministerial appointments at Government House on 21 March 2018:

The Honourable William Hodgman, MP as Premier, Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events, Minister for Trade, Minister for Parks, and Minister for Heritage;

The Honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP as Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Infrastructure and Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries;

The Honourable Elise Archer MP as Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Environment, and Minister for the Arts;

The Honourable Guy Barnett MP as Minister for Resources, Minister for Energy, Minister for Building and Construction, and Minister for Veterans' Affairs;

The Honourable Sarah Courtney MP as Minister for Primary Industries and Water, and Minister for Racing;

The Honourable Michael Ferguson MP as Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Minister for Health, Minister for Science and Technology, and Leader of the House;

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP as Treasurer, Minister for State Growth, and Minister for Local Government;

The Honourable Roger Jaensch MP as Minister for Human Services, Minister for Housing, and Minister for Planning;

The Honourable Jacqueline Petrusma MP as Minister for Disability Services and Community Development, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Women, and Minister for Sport and Recreation.

I formally advise the Council that on the same day the honourable Premier appointed me Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

I also announce the appointment of Mark Shelton MP as Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development.

MOTIONS

Sessional Order - E-Petitions

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That the sessional orders relating to e-petitions which were in place in the last session of the Forty-Eighth Parliament be again approved for this session.

Motion agreed to.

Sessional Order - Adjournment for want of a quorum when notice taken by Member After division called - How Division taken

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That the following sessional orders apply in lieu of standing orders 29(2), 138(2) and (4).

29. Adjournment for want of a Quorum when notice taken by Member

- (2) At any time after the Council has proceeded to business, if a Member notices that seven Members including the President or Deputy President are not present, and so states, the Bells shall be rung as for a Division, and if a quorum is not present at the expiration of four minutes the President shall adjourn the Council without a Question first put, until the next ordinary sitting time.

138. After division called -

How Division taken

(2) The President will order the division bells to be rung for four minutes.

Locking of Doors

(4) After the four minutes have expired, or such lesser time at the discretion of the President, he or she will order the doors to be locked and no Member will enter or leave the Chamber until after the division.

Motion agreed to.

Standing Order 200

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) -
Mr President, I move -

That the following sessional orders apply in lieu of standing order 200.

200:

- (1) The evidence taken by any Select Committee of the Council, and documents presented to such Committee, which have not been reported to the Council shall not, unless authorised by the Committee, be referred to in the Council by any Member or published or disclosed by any Member or by any other person.
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to -
 - (a) any proceedings of the Committee that are open to the public and the news media;
 - (b) press releases or statements made by a Member of the Committee on the authority of the Committee; and
 - (c) written submissions presented to a Select Committee and authorised to be published by the Committee.

Motion agreed to.

Standing Order 39

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) -
Mr President, I move -

That so much of standing order 39 be suspended for the duration to enable Special Interest Matters to be called on each sitting Tuesday before Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day are proceeded with.

Motion agreed to.

PRAYERS

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) -
Mr President, I move -

That upon the President taking the Chair at the commencement of each day's sitting the following prayers shall be read:

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Tasmania.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Motion agreed to.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE Member for Murchison

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council)(by leave) - Mr President, I move -

That the honourable member for Murchison, Ms Forrest, be granted leave of absence from the service of the Council for this day's sitting.

Motion agreed to.

PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY Presence of Advisers on Floor of Chamber

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, by my authority I have determined that advisers to the honourable Leader of the Government be authorised to go onto the Floor of this Chamber for the duration of the session in order to advise and support that honourable member.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT Appoint of Staff of Legislative Council

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, I am very pleased to advise the Council that on 7 December 2017 I appointed Mr Griffin Blizzard to the position of electorate officer, supporting

the honourable member for Pembroke in her eastern shore electorate office, which is now located in Bayfield Street, Rosny Park.

The appointment followed our usual selection process with a recommendation made to me. Griffin has a background in administration, having spent the last four years at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, supporting over 300 academic, professional and higher research degree staff and students, with a focus on human resource coordination.

I have met Griffin, and he is an impressive young man who brings with him a range of skills which will be of great value to the honourable member for Pembroke and her constituents. Griffin will be spending further time in the parliament when our sittings resume later this month. On behalf of all members I wish Griffin well in his new role.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That at its rising the Council adjourn until 9 a.m. on Friday 4 May 2018.

Motion agreed to.

Election - Electorate of Hobart

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - I remind everyone that there are a couple of elections coming up this weekend. The member for Hobart Mr Rob Valentine's seat will be up for election. We wish you well in your election as it is never an easy time.

I move -

That the Council do now adjourn.

The Council adjourned at 5.25 p.m.