

**Wednesday 13 June 2018**

The President, **Mr Wilkinson**, took the Chair at 11 a.m. and read Prayers.

**CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY  
APPROPRIATION FOR 2017-18) BILL 2018 (No. 11)**

**Second Reading**

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council - 2R) -  
Mr President, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

The Government is committed to strong financial management and to improving the services provided to the Tasmanian community. As a result of the improvement in the budget position that has been achieved by the Government, it has been able to deliver significant additional funding to improve the services provided to Tasmanians, particularly in the areas of health, community, education and support for jobs. The Government remains committed to ensuring that the budget remains in a surplus position. A budget surplus has been achieved in the last two years and will be achieved again in 2017-18. The 2018-19 Budget and forward Estimates that will be tabled in parliament on 14 June 2018 will have, as its cornerstone, the continuation of strong and responsible financial management over the Budget and forward Estimates period.

A supplementary appropriation bill is standard budgetary legislation that facilitates the provision of additional funding to meet the operational costs of government in the current budget year. This approach provides early transparency in relation to the additional expenditures that have been incurred by the government. It is also noted that, in many cases, the additional expenditures being incurred by the government and included in bills of this nature are offset by increased revenues or savings compared to those expenditures already included in the existing Budget and forward Estimates.

The Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2017-18) Bill 2018 seeks to appropriate \$168.7 million.

It is important to note that, of this total amount, \$136.7 million was reflected in the 2017-18 Revised Estimates Report that was published in January 2018. Furthermore, at least \$55 million is offset by additional Australian Government funding, agency savings from previous years or reduced expenditure currently included in the budget in future years.

There are a number of important additional expenditure items included in this bill.

**Health**

As a government, improving Tasmania's health system is one of our highest priorities. In order to continue this important task, additional funding has been committed in 2017-18 including:

- \$33.9 million to improve services and meet increased demand for services across the state, including the unprecedented flu outbreak over the 2017 winter;

- \$14.3 million to increase the delivery of elective surgery; and
- \$4 million to Ambulance Tasmania.

This bill also includes the administrative transfer of funding provided in the 2017-18 Budget for health services of \$20 million and health infrastructure of \$6.7 million, from Finance-General to the Department of Health and Human Services. This transfer of funding has no net impact on the budget position.

## **Education**

The bill includes approximately \$15 million in additional education-related funding. The vast majority of the related additional expenditure is offset by funding received from the Australian Government and savings in allocated funding in future years due to the bringing forward of infrastructure expenditure to 2017-18.

## **Regional and Community Election Commitments**

The Government is committed to supporting community and sporting groups across Tasmania. As part of the 2018 election process, the Government consulted with community and sporting groups across Tasmania and made regional and community election commitments totalling \$21.4 million. The supplementary appropriation bill provides funding of \$10 million to enable almost 50 per cent of these commitments to flow to community and sporting groups in the current budget year.

## **Fruit Fly Response**

This bill includes \$8 million to meet the costs associated with the Government's comprehensive response to the detection of fruit fly on Flinders Island and sites near Spreyton and George Town in northern Tasmania. Ongoing surveillance and control actions are being undertaken at and around these areas, with the aim of eradication. The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment has established an emergency response task force to manage this significant incursion. This funding reflects the agency's expenditure for the fruit fly response and growers assistance package across the state.

This funding commitment will now be met from the recently announced \$20 million Biosecurity Emergency Response and Research Fund provided by the Commonwealth Government.

## **Police, Fire and Emergency Costs**

The bill also includes additional funding of \$5.1 million to meet the cost of the Police enterprise agreement 2018 and \$4.8 million in funding for the Emergency Services Computer-Aided Dispatch system project. This latter funding reflects a change in project cash flows and is offset by an equivalent saving that was recognised in 2016-17.

As has been the case in recent years, the Government has also been faced with additional fire and emergency-related costs in 2017-18. These include \$1.7 million for bushfire costs in the first half of the budget year, \$1.7 million for fire suppression activities undertaken by the Parks and

Wildlife Service and \$4.2 million in payments to local government in relation to the 2016 flood and bushfire events.

### **Supporting Jobs**

The 2017-18 Revised Estimates Report and this bill also include significant additional funding to support industry and the growth of jobs in Tasmania. This includes \$2.3 million to support the BioMar Group to construct a new aqua feed processing facility, \$2 million to support the Hermal Group establish a new timber processing facility in Tasmania and \$700 000 to support Houston's Farm develop and expand its Dodge Farm at Forcett.

The additional funding that is included in this bill is delivering increased and better services to the Tasmanian community and, importantly, this is being done within the vital framework of an expected budget surplus. As I noted earlier, the vast majority of this expenditure has already been reflected in the 2017-18 Revised Estimates Report.

The Government is looking forward to the tabling of the 2018-19 Budget that will see the continuation of the implementation of the Government's important Fiscal Strategy and the outlining of funding for the new commitments that were detailed by the Government as part of the 2018 state election process.

I commend the bill to the House.

[11.10 a.m.]

**Ms RATTRAY** (McIntyre) - Mr President, I have a couple of questions about this significant allocation of additional funds. We have departments that do not live within their means. When talking about flood and bushfire events, you cannot predict them and that is entirely acceptable. With the allocation of \$5.1 million to meet the cost of the Police enterprise agreement, there is some expectation additional funds in that area would be needed.

Why was there no provision in the budget for additional funding? If there was, is this an overrun of the allocation? The department would have known the enterprise agreement was underway and that work was being done on the agreement and what it might cost the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management.

My next question is around regional and community election commitments. In the Leader's second reading speech, this is providing about half, \$10 million of community election commitments totalling \$21.4 million. Why is it necessary to put that into this year's Budget as a supplementary approach or appropriation? Why not wait until the new budget is allocated, given the election was in March? It is not a long time to wait if you know the commitment has been given. I am sure due diligence was needed for organisations to take up those grants. Why was this needed? The fruit fly response is no issue because it was not foreseen.

Premier and Cabinet is \$11.481 million: could I have a breakdown of that? I expect that probably \$10 million of the \$11.481 million is for the regional and community election commitments, but what does the other \$1.481 million relate to? Obviously this money has been spent. It is too late to say we cannot have the money - it has already gone out and we are here just to sign off. Again you cannot foresee some issues, and even in our own household budgets there may be something you are not expecting. Hopefully you have enough money put away for a rainy day, or the capacity to fund what you need. I have raised some issues and queries around these

allocations, and I would be interested to hear what other members have to say about this significant supplementary appropriation.

[11.14 a.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, we generally see a supplementary appropriation bill each year around this time, in some years for a single purchase such as the purchase of the Tamar Valley Power Station. This is quite comprehensive.

As the member for McIntyre alluded to, this is quite comprehensive and covers a number of portfolios. Normally we receive more information about the breakdown. Not this time. The member for Derwent will remember we fought with the previous government to obtain details and, finally, we were given a decent breakdown of where the money went. We do not this time and we should.

I am happy to pose some questions and propose we have a briefing to obtain the information if it cannot be provided during the debate. It is a significant amount of money - \$169 million additional funding before the end of the financial year.

It is not dealing with a one-off purchase of a power station. We are dealing with a whole range of things, so I will raise the questions that need to be answered. I may test the Floor on whether we should have a briefing to actually obtain this information unless the Leader is confident she can provide it in her reply.

Looking at each individual section of the bill, but focusing on the second reading speech the Leader has provided for us: under the Education area, she talks about \$15 million in additional education-related funding. Some of this is offset by the Australian Government. The Department of Education has \$14 million in recurrent services such as staff costs. I assume this relates to additional staff, but then there is also \$841 000 in works and services. This is additional to what was already budgeted for last year for works and services and education. We are interested to know where that extra money is needed and why.

**Mr Valentine** - Maybe the kindergartens?

**Ms FORREST** - Well, let us have the information. We previously forced the other government to give it to us.

**Mr Willie** - The staffing one could have been low in relief budgets.

**Ms FORREST** - Surely we have the right to know what has been happening. In the section dealing with regional and community election commitments, it says that this supplementary appropriation bill provides \$10 million to enable almost 50 per cent of these commitments to flow to community and sporting groups in the current budget year. I have created a spreadsheet which has three long pages of the Government's commitments. When you get a bit of time off, you do these things. I know which I have and maybe I do not have them all. It was hard to find them all but I did my best from March through February - there were three pages of commitments and I worked out how much was committed to each financial year.

For this financial year and the next three financial years, there is a lot of red. Not large amounts, only small sporting types of things and such like.

I ascertained that election commitments seem to be referred to here. There was no actual allocation for Howrah Men's Shed so I was unable to determine that when I did this spreadsheet, but I am sure it is not several million dollars. The total of the election promises for this financial year that needs to be paid before the end of the financial year is just short of \$6 million.

It says \$10 million has been appropriated to cover 50 per cent, so we need more detail.

Look at the Department of Health and Human Services mentioned by the Leader - there was just short of \$34 million allocated to improve services and meet increased demand for services across the state with the unprecedented flu outbreak last winter, so the recurrent appropriation for this is effectively \$75 million.

There is also \$14.3 million for elective surgery and \$4 million to Ambulance Tasmania. This does not add up to the \$75 million for recurrent services in health; then we have a works and services supplementary appropriation of \$11.463 million, to be precise. I am not sure what the works and services were. Was that ambulance infrastructure? Works and services is not the same as recurrent. Was it an additional upgrade at the Royal Hobart Hospital? There was a debacle with the acute mental health unit, which was scrapped at the last minute and turned into something else. That was a good decision, but it should not have come to that.

We need more information about the recurrent expenditure. Is it simply a big overspend in this financial year? It cannot be explained by what the Leader provided in the second reading speech.

There is almost \$1.8 million of extra works and services appropriation for the Department of Justice. What is that for? I cannot find it in the works and services area.

There is \$360 000 for works and services in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. That is not a huge amount, but why do we need an extra \$360 000 for works and services in DPAC? This is infrastructure, not people's salaries.

You would assume that the Department of State Growth would have more works and services, yet there is only \$625 000. What is the recurrent services appropriation in State Growth to the extent of more than \$12.5 million?

The figures we have been given are not reflected in the second reading speech, and we do not have additional information.

We need to be able explain to our communities why this extra money is needed. The Government may be able to afford it, but we need to know why. Is it budget overruns? Is it related to service delivery like in health with the flu outbreak and sick leave?

The member for McIntyre mentioned the fruit fly infestation. That is unfortunately something you cannot predict, but you must invest in it. There is no criticism of that. We just need more information.

Mr President, I move -

That the debate stand adjourned for the purposes of a briefing to get that information.

When debating the motion, can the Leader provide the information in her reply?

[11.23 a.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, speaking on the adjournment, unless the member is insistent upon a briefing, we can table a document that will give you that information without an adjournment.

**Ms Forrest** - It would have to be before we enter this debate.

[11.23 a.m.]

**Mr GAFFNEY** (Mersey) - Mr President, it would be good to have a briefing, but I would like to hear from other members before we seek an adjournment. An adjournment now would cut short opportunities for members to put forward their views. The last member who speaks could ask for an adjournment for a briefing -

**Ms Forrest** - Maybe the Leader can move an adjournment when she replies?

**Mr GAFFNEY** - Others have done work in this area and would like to put that on notice, which may help with the briefing. If we go for a briefing, they are fully forewarned. I would not support an adjournment, but I am not against a briefing.

[11.24 a.m.]

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Mr President, we will need a briefing. The different questions this second reading speech raises cannot be answered properly without a briefing. It need not be huge but some basic questions need to be answered. I am happy to support an adjournment.

**Ms Forrest** - A briefing may assist other members who wish to speak to the bill because it might inform their comments.

**Mr VALENTINE** - It certainly may, otherwise we are speaking to things of which we do not know the full intent. I am happy to support the briefing.

[11.25 a.m.]

**Mr DEAN** (Windermere) - Mr President, I am not opposed to an adjournment for a briefing. It would be proper and best to do it now to get the information we need. I have prepared some information as well, but the briefing might provide some answers to issues I was going to raise. It would put me in a better position to respond to this bill. I support the briefing now. We are not over-pressed with work for the rest of the week, so I do not think that should create any problems for the Government. Clearly, the Government wants to get through these bills this week. I support the motion.

[11.26 a.m.]

**Mr FARRELL** (Derwent) - Mr President, I support an adjournment. It is a good way to work methodically if we have the information before us. I agree with the member for Windermere. Questions may come up and it will make the debate much cleaner if we have the information we require.

[11.26 a.m.]

**Ms RATTRAY** (McIntyre) - Mr President, I am not opposed to a briefing, but I would like to understand why that comprehensive list was not made available. It has been in the past and we

were able to go through it line by line with our highlighter pen, similar to the budget session in the past, and tick off to have something made more specific. My questions may well be answered, but I am not opposed to an adjournment. If that document is available, it might be useful to take it with us to the briefing.

**Motion agreed.**

**Debate adjourned.**

## **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

[11.27 a.m.]

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

That the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the division bells.

This is for the purpose of a briefing.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Sitting suspended from 11.27 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.**

## **QUESTIONS**

### **Out-of-Home Care - Young People**

**Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.31 p.m.]

During the election campaign, the Government followed Labor's lead and committed to extending out-of-home care for young people to 21 years.

As part of that commitment, the Government announced it would begin extending out-of-home care in the first 100 days. That deadline is 26 June.

- (1) How many young people have been given this opportunity?
- (2) If the extension of out-of-home care has not started yet, when will it start?
- (3) How many young people have indicated they would like to remain in care for the remainder of 2018 and potentially the years beyond?
- (4) How many young people each year does the Government expect will choose to remain in care beyond 18 and up to the age of 21?

## **ANSWER**

Mr President, I thank the member for Elwick for his question.

The Hodgman Liberal Government committed \$3 million over three years to extend the support available for young people transitioning to independence up to 21 years.

This provides an opportunity to improve the immediate and long-term outcomes for young people across a range of areas, including education, training and employment, based on the national Home Stretch campaign.

Since the election, the Department of Health and Human Services - DHHS - has worked on an extension of support to young people in out-of-home care up to 21 years of age.

Priority attention is being given to ensuring young people are supported to complete their education and transition into independent living. The department will then work with the Child Safety Service, the After Care Support Program, carers and young people to identify individuals who wish to remain in care after 18 years of age and assess the level of support required.

As young people reach adulthood from 18 onwards, participation in ongoing support will be on a voluntary basis.

We are committed to begin extending care in our 100 Day Plan.

### **Bell Bay Industries - Pollution**

**Mr FINCH question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.33 p.m.]

On 22 May, I asked a question about noise pollution and a black residue affecting residents in my electorate across the Tamar from the two big Bell Bay industries, Bell Bay Aluminium and TEMCO, and suggested monitoring was inadequate.

Since then, an Environment Protection Authority - EPA - officer has taken samples in the Clarence Point area that show pollution well above allowable limits.

- (1) What steps is the Government taking to rectify this situation?
- (2) Has the Government anything to say about the health impact of this pollution?

## **ANSWER**

Mr President, I thank the member for Rosevears for his question.

- (1) The EPA Tasmania officer took samples of the black residue and the results are currently being interpreted by EPA Tasmania to inform a decision as to whether any action is required.



- (2) As per the previous answer, the results have not yet been interpreted. Therefore it is not possible to reflect on any outcomes related to human or environmental health.

### **Taxi and Hire Car Industries - Consultation**

**Mr DEAN question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,  
Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.35 p.m.]

During the debate on the Taxi and Hire Vehicle Industries Amendment Bill 2016, it was stated that the state Government - it says 'could' here but my question said 'would' - would continue to closely consult with the taxi and luxury hire car industries to look at opportunities to address cost and regulatory pressures on the industry. Will the Leader please advise -

- (1) What consultation has taken place with these industries on reducing costs and regulatory pressures?
- (2) Will any costs and regulatory pressures be cut?
- (3) If so, what changes will be made in these areas?
- (4) If applicable, what is the value of any cost cutting?
- (5) If nothing has occurred in this area, why not?
- (6) If applicable, when will these two areas be addressed? I hope they have already been addressed.

### **ANSWER**

Mr President, I thank the member for Windermere for his question.

- (1) Since the review of the taxi and hire vehicle industries commenced, I am advised the following consultation has occurred with the taxi and hire vehicle industries -
  - (a) In December 2016 a stakeholder round table was held to launch and set the context for a review.
  - (b) A formal consultation process based on the consultation paper began in December 2016 and concluded in March 2017. The consultation paper was publicly available on the Department of State Growth website and was sent to 343 taxi and hire vehicle operators across the state. This consultation resulted in 18 written submissions along with face-to-face meetings with six stakeholders. The submissions and summary of the submissions received are available on State Growth's website.
  - (c) In September and October 2017 market research was carried out by Enterprise Marketing and Research Services - EMRS - on the habits and preferences of consumers relating to taxi and ride-sourcing services.

- (d) In November 2017, State Growth invited representatives from the taxi and luxury hire car industries to engage in targeted consultation.
  - (e) State Growth has provided regular updates to the taxi industry on the review through State Growth's taxi newsletter. An email address was also established to enable stakeholders to communicate concerns or ask questions of the taxi and hire vehicle industries review team. The email address is promoted on the State Growth web page related to the review.
  - (f) State Growth has had regular informal communications with representatives from the taxi industry. Further stakeholder consultation is planned for the near future.
- (2) to (6) As well as protecting safety, providing for accessible services and positioning for emergency technologies, the review aims to establish a new framework for on-demand passenger transport that is efficient and appropriately regulated. As such, cost and regulatory pressures are being considered as part of that review. A number of options are being considered and will be the subject of consultation in the near future.

### **Education Facility Attendants - Agreement Negotiations**

**Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT**

[2.38 p.m.]

- (1) Can the Government indicate when it will commence negotiations with education facility attendants before their agreement expires in September 2018?
- (2) Can the Government indicate whether it will continue to endorse the fully enclosed covered area - FECA - model as the appropriate procedure to determine a school/college's cleaning entitlement?
- (3) Can the Government rule out outsourcing responsibilities for education facility attendants to the private sector?

**ANSWER**

Mr President, I thank the member for Elwick for his question. The answers are -

- (1) Negotiations with United Voice will commence prior to the expiry of the current agreement on 30 September 2018.
- (2) All provisions of agreement are reviewed as part of the process leading up to the commencement of negotiations when agreements are about to expire. It is inappropriate to indicate endorsement of any provisions before negotiations have commenced.
- (3) Consistent with the answer to question (2), the job security provision will be reviewed prior to the commencement of negotiations. Again, it is premature to indicate an outcome before such review has occurred and negotiations commence.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**  
**Briefing**

[2.41 p.m.]

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

That the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the division bells.

for a further briefing on the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bill.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Sitting suspended from 2.40 p.m. to 3.11 p.m.**

**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - PRESENTATION**

**Mr PRESIDENT** (Statement) - Honourable members, I have to report to the Council that, accompanied by the member for Montgomery as the mover and the member for Pembroke as the seconder and other members, I presented to Her Excellency the Governor the Address-in-Reply to Her Excellency's Speech, to which the Council agreed on 24 May 2018 and that Her Excellency has been pleased to make the following acknowledgement.

Mr President, and honourable members of the Legislative Council, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, I thank you for your Address.

Kate Warner, Governor

**MESSAGE FROM HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
**Budget Speech 2018-19 - Legislative Assembly - Attendance of Legislative Council Members**

**Mr PRESIDENT** - Honourable members, I have received the following message from the House of Assembly -

Mr President

The House of Assembly, having passed the following resolution, begs now to transmit the same to the Legislative Council and to request its concurrence therein.

Resolved

- (1) The House of Assembly requests the members of the Legislative Council to attend in the House of Assembly Chamber following the first reading of the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) 2018, for the

purpose of listening to the speech by the Treasurer in relation to the Tasmanian Budget 2018-19.

Signed S Hickey  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
13 June 2018

**CONSOLIDATED FUND APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY  
APPROPRIATION FOR 2017-18) BILL 2018 (No. 11)**

**Second Reading**

**Resumed from above.**

[3.13 p.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, I thank members for their support in adjourning the debate for the purpose of the briefing. The briefing answered a number of members' questions, but also clarified information. It is important for us and members of the public to know, if they wish, why we are spending an extra \$168 million this year than previously budgeted.

I acknowledge that some expenditure was already identified in the Revised Estimates Report 2017-18 while some relates to additional Australian Government funding. I would like to put a few things on the record following the briefing. Will the Leader table the documents we were provided with in the briefing during her reply? It would be tedious and unnecessary to read all into *Hansard*, but it is important information.

While it gave a broadbrush overview, the second reading speech is important. This is not a small amount of money being additionally appropriated for this financial year - it is a large amount of money.

Of particular interest are a number of the items not included in the Revised Estimates Report as new issues. Election promises fit into this category, of which there are three or four pages of listings in small font just for this year. Others will occur next year and the year after, and that is a matter for budget scrutiny and other opportunities later. This provides a breakdown and explanation for that particular line item, which is close to \$10 million.

One new aspect is the Fruit Fly Assistance Package. We can understand why that is necessary. We hope it will not be necessary in the future, but we always need to remain vigilant because fruit fly infestations can do enormous harm to our fruit industry, which would have huge economic implications for the state. We need to be sure there is adequate investment in that. I guess members of Government Administration Committee B will chase that up in Estimates with the minister to ensure ongoing adequate funding for biosecurity in this area. Fruit fly were found in the member for Mersey's electorate.

I will raise some issues later with the Minister for Education and possibly the minister for disability around students with disabilities. One line item - non-government state general election grants of \$818 million - is not in the Revised Estimates Report. Those grants are not offset and are not backed by Australian Government funding as a couple of other line items are. According to the

explanation provided in the briefing, this relates to children with a disability and the Early Childhood Intervention Service assessment for economic indicators that determine the level of support some of these children need. I will be interested to know more about whether the number of children with disability coming into our education system has increased, whether the economic circumstances of more of these families are changing so that they are now falling into a higher ECIS category, or whether something else is going on. Some schools in my electorate are really struggling to support some of these students, particularly those with severe disability. The assessment is made when the children are quite young, but as they grow and become young adults, the package remains the same. I am sure all of us recognise these young people's needs change as they move through the system. I am not sure what has driven this change in needing another \$800 000-plus, but I will follow it up at another opportunity.

The Mersey Community Hospital upgrade was money brought forward from next year's forward Estimates from last year, so I expect to see a \$600 000 reduction in the amount allocated for this output group in the Budget because it has already been spent this year.

The comment was made in the briefing, and briefly in the second reading speech, that many of the amounts reflected in the supplementary appropriation bill are also reflected in the Revised Estimates Report. That is true, but when we are dealing with the supplementary appropriation at a point in time, it is important for us to look at all these things. You can cross-reference them with the Revised Estimates Report, but it is not clearly articulated what some of them are.

There is a broadbrush approach to some of the commentary around this. If you look at the breakdown of all of it, say, for the Department of Justice or the Police department, it is not clear from the Revised Estimates Report exactly how much is allocated for what. You have to add them up and look at the policy and parameter changes and their implications - which I am happy to do, but for anyone in the public who is interested in this, it is not a simple case of picking up the document and understanding it straightaway in terms of the bill before us.

I appreciate the more detailed information provided. In the past I have requested this information to be provided with the bill package, and that has happened sometimes. The adviser probably has the message that I think it is beneficial. It saves us having a briefing. If we see things we are not sure about, we can initiate questions before we get to this point in the debate. It is hard when we do not know what we are asking. Can the Leader work with her advisers to achieve that? It is usually an annual event. I support the bill, mainly because there is no other option.

[3.20 p.m.]

**Ms LOVELL** (Rumney) - Mr President, Labor will be supporting this bill, as we did in the other place, but we have more questions we would like answers to. I thank the Leader and department staff for the briefing today. It was very helpful. As the member for Murchison pointed out, it has enabled us to better make decisions and scrutinise this bill, which is not an insignificant amount of money.

The list of regional and community election commitments was particularly interesting. The member for Murchison has asked for that to be tabled. Longford did particularly well out of the election commitments, so I am sure the people of Longford are very happy. One of the commitments was for \$20 000 for urgent repairs to the historic Christ Church. I did some research during the break and it appears that church is also in Longford, but it also appears that church is on the list of Anglican properties for sale. Will that commitment be honoured, despite the money spent

on urgent repairs to a church that is actually up for sale as part of the Anglican Church's redress scheme obligations?

Last year's appropriation bill was for \$41 million. This year it is \$168 million. That is a significant difference, and it seems to be getting worse. Hopefully, we will not see this continue.

Labor will always support more investment in health. I understand that \$86 million of this money is going to health. More funding is desperately needed in that area, so we are happy to support that, but it is concerning to see that in the past year the Health budget has been overspent by \$86 million. We heard that in next year's Budget only an extra \$21 million has been allocated to health. Although there is increasing demand and a requirement for more funding in health, I am concerned we will again see an overspend and more money will need to be drawn upon.

There are a large number of regional and community election commitments. As the member for Murchison pointed out, it is five pages in very small type - almost \$10 million-worth of commitments.

I have heard, as have other members, from groups in our communities that many of these commitments were offered unasked to community groups. Some people told us that they did not even ask for this money; they just got a letter saying -

We would like to give you some money. By the way, it is contingent on a Liberal majority government, so if you are undecided as to who to vote for perhaps you might like to vote for this candidate.

How many of these commitments were offered rather than sought by community groups? How many commitments and what dollar amounts are not included in this bill and are not yet on this list? How many more are to come? When are they likely to be fulfilled? What budget will they come out of?

We also have questions about statements made during the GBE process last year in relation to Motor Accidents Insurance Board - MAIB. The Government has spoken about the need to draw on MAIB dividends to 90 per cent. They said there will be no impact on MAIB premiums, but they will be seeking 90 per cent.

During the government business enterprise process, MAIB chair Don Challen said he understood this was not an ongoing proposition and that the Government would revert to a 50 per cent dividend. He suggested there was an agreement with the Government regarding this. What conversations and negotiations have been held? This may be explored more through the GBE process later in the year. It would be good to know why there seems to be such a discrepancy between what the MAIB chair was expecting and what we are now seeing from the Treasurer.

Why is no additional money being brought forward in the area of housing? We are coming into winter and significant numbers of Tasmanians are living in unsafe environments, particularly in what is a very cold winter. A trip up the Midland Highway on the Labor bus made it evident it is icy cold early in the morning. Why is no additional funding being brought forward for housing considering money is desperately needed as we now head into winter to give many Tasmanians secure, safe and warm accommodation?

Those are our concerns and questions relating to the bill. I appreciate the extra information provided. This appropriation is not an insignificant amount of money, and it is important we have a process to scrutinise its expenditure properly. As the member for Murchison pointed out, many of the people we have been elected to represent would not be able to access and/or decipher these documents. I thank the Leader and the department for the information. We will be supporting the bill.

[3.27 p.m.]

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Mr President, I thank the officers for the information provided and the Leader for arranging the briefing. Certainly the information provided will add to our understanding of the second reading speech, which is important. It would be equally important as if an explanation were provided for some of these line items, especially the larger ones, and if they were linked to both strategic and or business.

A strategic plan item and the corresponding business plan item would show this is not vote buying. You look at the list, and see this is going out, and if they are offered and not requested by different community groups, clearly it can be seen as spraying the confetti around so people can get a bit of benefit. That is important because the community expects transparency. I would have appreciated a small statement on each of these, especially the ones not included in the Revised Estimates Report, saying exactly what they were for and linking them to a strategic plan and a business plan item so we can see the Government is sticking to a plan.

This money is being spent, and is being spent for good reason. Not just this Government, any government, whether it is blue, green, red or brindle - whatever the government of the day is, it is important that members of this House, as the House of review, have the opportunity to see whether expenditure is fitting within an established strategic and business plan. You would not run an organisation any other way. Often governments are accused of building a war chest. If the business plan reflects the strategic plan, giving such information will achieve a particular end. The community is expecting that these days. When it comes to the bigger items on the list, a public benefit statement could be made.

Take number 68, the industry assistance grants to the Hermal Group, which is not included in the Revised Estimates Report. It is not offset and there is no corresponding federal money. What is that for? One would expect a public benefit statement saying, for example, that for this reason \$2 million was being given for a particular purpose. Again, point it back to the associated strategic and business plan so it is not convenient money to somehow buy support. I am not being precious here. A House of review is expected to see whether a government is reaching its planned targets.

I will not be going through this line by line. This money has already been spent. Trying to fill some of the gaps will make Estimates interesting. I thank the Leader for the extra information. It provides a benefit from my perspective, but there should be an extra column saying, 'Strategic plan X, business plan Y', along with a public benefit statement about significant moneys.

[3.32 p.m.]

**Mr DEAN** (Windermere) - Mr President, I thank the Leader for the briefing, as requested by the Deputy President, the member for Murchison. The briefing cleared up some of the issues I had with this. We can hardly expect Treasury officers to cover all our queries about individual appropriated amounts, as to exactly why and what has happened. This is being tough on them. They did a good job answering a number of these questions. They obviously have good knowledge of what is happening in that regard.

We need the opportunity to have these questions answered some time before they are debated in this place. We obviously could not get to all the ministers. This is money already spent and it is difficult in the Estimates process to really obtain much information unless we put our questions in writing to the ministers before the debate and receive answers back. Many questions we ask are important and need an answer.

I did not look at what happens in the other place in relation to these bills, but it seems we are a little more careful in looking at where and why some of this expenditure has occurred. We might take a different approach.

I am not quite sure what would happen if we said we do not support this. The money is spent. It would create a problem. Maybe the Leader could tell us what could happen if we said no. Do we get all the money back? I do not know.

**Mr Valentine** - Basically you give the reasons you do not support it, and send it back again. If it is sent back up and it is not changed, we are bound to pass it, unless we force the Government to another election as a result of blocking Supply, which has happened only once in this Chamber, when my great uncle happened to be involved.

**Ms Forrest** - So you have set a precedent for the Valentine family?

**Mr Valentine** - No, it wasn't Valentine, it was Brooker.

**Mr DEAN** - I guess that is what would happen, albeit in this instance the money has already been spent or is about to be spent.

Some issues need to be addressed. For example, quite a large amount of money has been made available through this appropriation bill to improve elective surgery. Has it improved elective surgery? What is happening now in elective surgery as a result of this extra money? Has it improved the system?

**Mr Gaffney** - The numbers show a lot more elective surgeries have been done in the last 12 months. Whether they can sustain that over the next period of government will be interesting.

**Mr DEAN** - That is a matter we can pursue in Estimates committees. It would good to follow that up.

Part of this money is to cover the regional and community election commitments. It is important for any government to make good on promises it made during an election campaign. If it does not do that, it does its credibility immense damage. We have seen that previously. Sadly, people now have the attitude that it does not matter much what parties promise during an election campaign because they think it is not likely to occur. That is not a good position to be in for anybody, but things like this will change if it can be said at some later stage that all promises made by a government have been met, no matter who forms the government.

**Mrs Hiscutt** - That is our intention.

**Mr DEAN** - It is a great way to move forward. It will give greater credibility to politicians as well. It would certainly help our status.



**Mr Valentine** - Wouldn't it add much greater integrity to the system if it were linked back to the strategic plan and the business plan to show that the government may well have met its commitments, but is meeting it within its strategic plan?

**Mr DEAN** - I do not disagree with that comment. If you look at this, we see promises being made by all parties. In this case the opposition party made many promises, saying it would fund this and fund that. Sometimes it is many of the same issues, with the quantum changing a bit in between - that is really all that changes. It is right, the regions require this money and they say they need it to make their services better - in sport in particular, as well as in other areas. The George Town RSL Sub Branch is a good example. It was located in small, cramped premises and needed to expand to provide the services it is required to provide in a regional community like that. The money, \$190 000 or thereabouts, has helped the RSL move into new premises where it will now be able to provide services needed by the community. That is wonderful. That sub-branch has gone through a lot of trauma over the past years, having to give up its original old premises, which were probably one of the best premises in the state. Sadly, the RSL could not continue with it in its financial position. I support this bill.

[3.40 p.m.]

**Mrs ARMITAGE** (Launceston) - Mr President, I support the motion. I thank the member for Murchison for organising the briefing. It was something that should have been done previously.

**Mrs Hiscutt** - Organising the adjournment for the briefing.

**Ms Forrest** - The Leader organised the briefing.

**Mrs ARMITAGE** - I appreciate that. A briefing was appreciated to see where the money went as opposed to just being given an amount in the second reading speech. It is important to know, and I appreciate you organised the briefing and the fact that it came via the member for Murchison. I appreciate the fact that she raised the issue and it happened.

I am pleased to see the Launceston General Hospital is having its cladding upgraded. After what happened in the United Kingdom, it is hard to imagine that Launceston General Hospital was built with flammable cladding. It was unfortunate we lost a couple of trees when they had to replace the cladding. It was good to see the upgrades for Ward 4K, as the member for Windermere mentioned. It would be hard to say no to the appropriations.

The briefing made it a lot easier to pass the bill. The \$500 000 for Silverdome was essential. How could we not fund the fruit fly response and assistance package? It is one of those things I appreciate. How could you not put money into preserving the Tasmanian devil?

The briefing was informative. Hopefully next year we will get the line items that come with the Consolidated Fund appropriation bills. Perhaps, as the member for Windermere mentioned, we could put some questions to the Leader prior to the briefing, if we had them a week or two before we debate the bill. It would be good to ask some questions to find out whether the amounts provided are actual quotes, whether they are a guess from the organisations, whether they need more money or less and whether they are to do with the audits.

[3.43 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I have answers to questions. The member for Rumney's questions were about policy

issues. The question about there being no money in this area for housing is one for the minister. This is only between 2017 and 2018; it is not the coming budget. Most of the questions posed by the member for Rumney were questions for the minister. The one about Motor Accidents Insurance Board could be tackled during the government business enterprise hearings. It is not for Treasury to comment on those things.

**Ms Forrest** - It will be in the budget papers.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - The member for Windermere talked about the clawback of unused funds granted to community groups. Funding arrangements have a clause that provides the recipient must repay to the grantor on demand in writing any part of the grant that is not required by the recipient for the approved purpose. Different funding agreements will have different specific wording but the intent is the same. On the matter of audits, all recipients must provide a report showing expenditure of the funds. For smaller grants, up to \$50 000, this would not usually require audited financials. For larger grants of over \$100 000, the reporting is more thorough and will require a detailed itemised expenditure of funds and the organisation's audited financial statement.

The Christ Church at Low Head was mentioned. The commitment to assisting funding for urgent repairs to the Christ Church in Low Head was made to the parish during the election campaign. Since that time, the Anglican Church has announced the sale of properties to fund its commitments to victims of abuse. The Christ Church was not in the original list of properties to be considered for sale, but was recently added. The Government is aware no sale decision has been yet made regarding Christ Church at this time and that it will not be made until November. The diocese was provided with the funding consistent with the election commitment and we do not know if it will be sold. If it is not sold, the funds may still be required.

**Ms Armitage** - You say the funds may not be required. If the work is done and it goes up for sale, will the money be returned to the government?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I will seek some more information, but I think it would depend -

**Ms Armitage** - If the government gives money and then they sell it -

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I appreciate what you are asking; I hear it regarding many other funds going to the community. If it is not sold, they will need it, and we do not know.

**Ms Armitage** - But if it is sold, should there not be something that says that if it is sold, the money comes out of the sale and back to the government purse?

**Mr Gaffney** - I guess you will find that is part and parcel of the deed grant.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - That is a hypothetical question because it may not be sold, but at the moment it is not sold and the grant is there. It is a bridge that will need to be crossed later.

**Ms Armitage** - With respect, it is money for this year. It is not a hypothetical question because whether it is sold or not the work will be done. Should it not be part of the contract giving them the money that if it is sold, that money will come back to the state?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I hear what the member is saying, but I cannot answer her question because we do not know whether it will be sold or not. The member might want to make that comment to the Treasurer.

**Ms Armitage** - I shall write to the Treasurer.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - Send an email as quickly as you can. Mr President, I seek leave to table some papers presented to us during the briefings.

**Leave granted.**

**Mr DEAN** - Are you able to give an explanation of the miscellaneous ex gratia payments?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - The First Home Owners Grant stamp duty, which applied from 7 February 2018.

**Motion agreed to.**

**Bill read the second time.**

**CONSOLIDATION FUND APPROPRIATION (SUPPLEMENTARY  
APPROPRIATION FOR 2017-18) BILL 2018 (No. 11)**

**In Committee**

[3.51 p.m.]

**Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.**

**Clause 3 -**

Issue and appropriation of \$168 676 000

**Mr DEAN** - The amount of \$168 676 000 is for the financial year ending on 30 June 2018. The Treasurer will issue the sum of that amount out of the Consolidated Fund. As much of this money has already been spent or is being expended, where does it come from in the meantime? The money will not be released until the Treasurer releases it from the Consolidated Fund. Where does the money come from in the meantime?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - It comes through normal appropriation bills throughout the year and is managed that way. It is only at the end of the year you have to put the bill through. There is a single appropriation bill throughout the year and the agency is able to manage its funds during that time.

**Mr DEAN** - You are saying moneys referred to here and on each line item under point 4 have already been appropriated through other appropriation bills that have come through this place through the year. Is that what you are saying?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - No, not really. The agencies manage the expenditure within their existing budget.

**Mr Dean** - But this money is outside -

**MADAM CHAIR** - If it is not a question, we should let the member take it; he has two more calls left.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - This is the way it works - the agencies manage it up to the point where it has to be accounted for.

**Mr DEAN** - This is extra money, so how can that be managed within your existing budget? The Budget released tomorrow will identify to these departments the money they have to spend over the next 12 months. How can they be appropriating more money from the Consolidated Fund to do the things they want to do or the Government requires them to do? How can they manage it within their existing budgets?

[3.58 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** - The agencies have a budget for a full 12 months. To this point they have spent eleven-twelfths of that money, which allows them to meet their obligations up to now. This money will be appropriated to enable them to get to the end of the year and to finance what they have to do. Should I have that written down to make it clearer? I will table that answer later.

**MADAM CHAIR** - I advise the member for Windermere that this clause needs to be postponed so we can deal with items under clause 4. There will be opportunities to ask similar questions on various expenditure items there. The Leader may have time to get some more detail for you by the time we come back to clause 3.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I certainly will.

**Clause 3 postponed.**

**MADAM CHAIR** - For the benefit of members, we will deal with clause 4 subclause by subclause. They relate to different areas and different amounts. I will move through them one at a time.

**Clause 4 -**

Purposes of appropriation

**Mr DEAN** - In relation to clause 4(8) - and this is probably a difficult question to answer here - what is the purpose for which some of the money was appropriated under the Emergency Services Computer-Aided Dispatch system project? I believe \$4.8 million was for that purpose. Is this for the purpose of bringing forward that project more quickly than was first identified by the department? The 2017-18 Budget would have provided funding for that purpose.

**Mrs HISCUTT** - This request for additional funds of \$4.778 million is required to obtain funding handed back in 2016-17 due to timing issues with the Emergency Services Computer-Aided Dispatch system project. This funding is critical to progressing the project.

**Mr Dean** - So it was a clawback?

**Mrs HISCUTT** - It was handed back in 2016-17 because the funding had not been spent.

**Clause 4 agreed to.**

**Clause 5 agreed to.**

**Postponed Clause 3 -**

Issue and appropriation of \$168 676 000

**Mrs HISCUTT** - I am able to provide an answer to an earlier question. Agencies are appropriated funding for the full 12 months of the year. Given that the year has not been completed and therefore all the appropriation has not been expended, they are also able to manage this expenditure within the existing full year appropriation. However, by the end of the year, the agencies will expend the full amount of the original appropriation, plus the additional funding provided by this bill. This bill therefore provides funding for the full year.

**Clause 3 agreed to.**

**Title agreed to and bill taken through the remainder of the Committee stage.**

## **CONSOLIDATED FUND SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) 2018 (No. 9)**

### **Second Reading**

[4.06 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council - 2R) - Mr President, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

As members are aware, the 2018-19 Budget will be handed down on 14 June 2018. This is later than has been the case in recent years and reflects the time required, following the 2018 state election, to finalise budget Estimates and the preparation of budget papers.

As a consequence of this timing, it is not expected royal assent for the appropriation bills will be received until late July or early August 2018. It is therefore necessary for supply bills to be passed by parliament to appropriate funding to agencies so the Government can continue to provide ongoing services from 1 July 2018 through to the eventual date of the receipt of the royal assent.

Since the introduction of a May budget in 1999, a supply bill has only been required twice, in 2006 and 2014, with both these occasions also being a result of the timing of a state election. This is because section 14A of the Public Account Act 1986 provides the Treasurer with the capacity to approve a limited level of supply funding in any financial year before the passing of an appropriation act without the need for a supply bill.

Section 14A of the Public Account Act 1986 authorises the Treasurer to issue funds to agencies for a period not extending beyond the first two months of a financial year. The amount of funding that may be issued by the Treasurer to a particular agency cannot exceed an amount equivalent to the agency's expenditure for the month of June of the immediately preceding financial year. Given this restriction and the requirement of a number of agencies to make significant additional payments in the first month of the financial year, Section 14A, in practice, can only now provide supply

funding for a maximum period of up to two to three weeks. Given the normal timing of the state budget in late May, this means royal assent to the appropriation bills is generally received either prior to the commencement of the new budget year or very shortly after the commencement of that year. As outlined above, this will not be the case in the current post-election year.

In accordance with current appropriation conventions, two supply bills have been prepared. Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) 2018 provides funding for the services of the Government and Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 2) provides funding for the services of the parliament and statutory offices.

The Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) 2018 seeks parliament's approval for the provision of funding of \$945.9 million for expenditure on recurrent services and works and services. Funding for recurrent services in the Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) is \$912.1 million. This amount has been based on consultation with agencies and reflects actual expenditure trends for the first two months of the budget year. As such, the amount does not reflect a consistent proportion of the annual funding amount for each agency.

The Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) 2018 also provides \$33.8 million for works and services. This will allow the Government's important capital investment program to continue to roll out in the new budget year. It is important to emphasise that no new capital projects have been funded in the supply bill.

I draw to the attention of members the Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) 2018 has been prepared on the basis of the new agency structure that will be in existence on 1 July 2018. This is consistent with the basis on which the 2018-19 Budget will be presented.

The Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 2) 2018 seeks parliament's approval for an amount of \$4.8 million for expenditure on recurrent services and \$100 000 on works and services.

These supply bills are administrative in nature as they provide for the continued provision of existing government services and capital expenditure pending parliament's consideration of the Budget for the 2018-19 financial year.

I commend the bill to the House.

[4.13 p.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, supply bills are not unusual in an election year to tide over the actions of government. Nurses, police, teachers and treasury officials want to be paid in the intervening period between the end of the financial year and the new budget. The appropriation associated with that is approved by the parliament. It was to be expected.

The Tasmanian Health Service - THS - has been brought back into the Department of Health and Human Services after being in a separate budget paper in the past couple of year. This makes it very difficult to track the funding. We must take it on trust that the amount being considered as necessary for the new department is a thorough assessment of what they will spend in June of this year. This has been rolled into the appropriation for this period.

It is always difficult when departments are shuffled around and changes made. It is hard to track the money, as it also is at budget time. Recently during a briefing with Treasury about another bill, we discussed this. It will make it more difficult to track the appropriations, particularly in

Health, which, being the big one, has more shuffling and changes. There is no criticism of the Government trying to streamline processes to make it more efficient. It should never have been taken out, but we are back again, full circle. It makes it more difficult and we are taking this on trust.

I hope the Leader is able to shed some light on a couple of questions and I would like to direct her attention to the fact sheet. It is broken down into recurrent services and works and services. The member for Hobart understands how that is different. The comment made about the works and services budget particularly is not to initiate new projects, just to continue what has been going on. What works and services allocation of \$4.133 million in Finance-General is under Treasury? What works and services are costing \$4 million in this month? I am sure there is a logical explanation, but it would be most helpful if the Leader were able to provide that.

Does works and services in Health include the ongoing redevelopment of the Royal Hobart Hospital? I assume it does, but there may be others. I am particularly interested in the works and services component. For example, the works and services area for the Minister for Parks currently has projects underway costing \$4 million a month. I am interested in what those projects are.

I have no issue with the Infrastructure works and services. That structure is works and services predominantly and there is always recurrent expenditure. Another \$100 000, while is not a lot of money, is in the Department of Treasury and Finance for works and services. I am interested in what that is. There is almost \$10 million for recurrent services. I understand that recurrent services fund, but what is the \$100 000? I hope the Leader can shed some light particularly on the works and services aspects of these appropriations. I am sure they will be detailed in the budget paper about what these things are. These are not areas in which you would normally expect to see a lot of works and services funding. I support the bill.

[4.18 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I thank the member for Murchison for her contribution. I can name the projects. For Finance-General, the Treasurer, there was the digital transformation priority expenditure and expenditure on Project Unify and CH Smith Building redevelopment. For the Department of Health and Human Services, there was expenditure on the LGH Ward 4K upgrade; the statewide hospital critical facilities upgrade; St Helens District Hospital; health transport infrastructure; Hobart Repatriation Hospital; priority infrastructure works with Health such as cladding; and asset management services projects as election commitments.

For the Minister for Parks, the projects works and services were the Cradle Mountain visitor experience; tourism infrastructure in parks; the June floods parks infrastructure; Maria Island Rediscovered and the Three Capes Track stage 3.

For the Department of Treasury and Finance there was the budget information management system - only one in that department -

**Ms Forrest** - I heard that was on time, on target and on budget.

**Bill read the second time.**

## **CONSOLIDATED FUND SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) 2018 (No. 9)**

### **In Committee**

**Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.**

**Clauses 3 and 4 postponed.**

**Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.**

**Postponed clauses 3 and 4 agreed to.**

**Title agreed to and bill taken through the remainder of the Committee stage.**

## **CONSOLIDATED FUND SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 2018 (No. 10)**

### **Second Reading**

[4.26.p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council - 2R) - Mr President, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

In accordance with current appropriation convention, two supply bills have been prepared: one to provide funding for the services of the Government and the other to provide funding for the services of the parliamentary and statutory offices.

I have recently provided the detailed outline of the reasons for the supply bills to be prepared this year in my second reading speech relating to the Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 1) 2018. The information provided in that speech applies equally to this bill.

The Consolidated Fund Supply Bill (No. 2) 2018 seeks parliament's approval for an amount of \$4.8 million for expenditure on recurrent services and \$100 000 for expenditure on works and services. These amounts will ensure that existing parliamentary and statutory office activities will continue for a period of up to two months in the new financial year.

Mr President, I commend this bill to the House.

[4.29 p.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, I support the second part of the appropriation and supply bills that we need to deal with while we wait for the Budget to be completed. It is always a risk to ask about ourselves, but one hopes the \$100 000 works and services funding for the Legislative Council is to upgrade this Chamber. Lighting is long overdue. Is that what the appropriation is for? If it is, I am sure there will be plenty more to follow in the Budget.

[4.30 p.m.]

**Mrs HISCUTT** (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I thank the member for Murchison for her contribution.



The works and services allocation for the Legislative Council of \$100 000 is funding to be carried forward from the existing CIP budget allocation of \$700 000 for the Legislative Council Chamber OH&S issues and disability access project.

**Bill read the second time and taken through the Committee stage.**

**CONDOLENCE MOTION**  
**Dr Vanessa Goodwin**

[4.35 p.m.]

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

That the Legislative Council expresses its deep regret at the passing on 3 March 2018 of Vanessa Goodwin, member for the Legislative Council electoral division of Pembroke from 1 August 2009 to 2 October 2017 and Leader of the Government in the upper House from 28 March 2014 to 2 October 2017, and places on record its appreciation of her service to this state, and further, that this House respectfully tenders to her family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr President, the sense of loss I and other members of this Chamber felt at the passing of our friend and colleague Vanessa was profound. It was a loss felt not just in this Council or in this parliament, but throughout the entire community. The extent and depth of the loss was evident at Vanessa's funeral, where we saw a true cross-section of people from the community in attendance, all united in grief at the passing of a very special person. I still have on my desk the funeral service program and I remember one of her friends mentioning 'WWVD'. To remind members who were there, that is an acronym for 'What would Vanessa do?' in a situation like this. I keep that on my desk to look at and think, 'What would Vanessa do?' That is very precious.

In some ways, Vanessa Goodwin transcended many of the barriers that divided us - be they political, socio-economic, gender, age or whatever. Vanessa was loved, admired and respected by virtually all she came into contact with. It is no exaggeration to say I never encountered anyone who thought ill of her. I cannot but admire her work ethic and capabilities in the way she was able to successfully perform her roles as attorney-general and minister for the arts, as well as leader of the government in this place. She was passionate, intelligent, dedicated and hardworking.

Vanessa was particularly passionate about supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. This included providing genuine rehabilitation opportunities for those who found themselves within Tasmania's criminal justice system. Work has commenced at the Risdon Prison Complex on new, contemporary facilities that will comprise two minimum security units and a mother and baby unit, including a day care facility. These important facilities will fittingly be named the Dr Vanessa Goodwin Cottages in Vanessa's honour. This mother and baby unit will provide a safe and specially designed environment for new mothers, pregnant women and newborn babies. This is the first specially designed mother and baby unit within the Tasmanian prison system, and it will provide increased opportunities for parent-child attachments in prison. We know that when an individual goes to prison, there are often hidden victims and this is particularly true of newborn children. Works are scheduled to be finished in October 2018. The new cottages and

mother and baby unit will go a long way toward Vanessa's vision to break the cycle of offending and intergenerational crime. It is sad she will not be the one opening the facility.

Since Vanessa left us, I have heard a lot of loving things said about her - words such as kind, intelligent, caring, compassionate, modest, measured, diligent and respected have all come up in spades.

Mr President, I am a Justice of the Peace. I noticed in the Tasmanian justices journal for the first quarter of 2018, that association president Geoff Cadogan-Cowper's opening line is -

No doubt you are all well aware that Vanessa Goodwin passed away in early March. On behalf of all the members of the Honorary Justices Association of Tasmania, I extend deepest condolences to her family.

Mr President, a member of the Friends of the Burnie Regional Museum commented when he was reminiscing that when Vanessa visited the museum a while ago, she was like a queen. He talked about her poise and grace, as many people do. Vanessa was all of these things, and much more, to many people. She was much loved and we will miss her dearly. Vale the honourable Dr Vanessa Goodwin.

[4.39 p.m.]

**Ms RATTRAY** (McIntyre) - Mr President, it is with considerable sadness I take this opportunity to support the condolence motion and acknowledge the contribution and achievements of the late Dr Vanessa Goodwin as the former member for Pembroke, shadow attorney-general, attorney-general, minister for corrections and the arts and, last but not least, as the leader of the government in this House for close to four years. The many and varied roles Vanessa held in her time as a member of parliament were expansive and often, one could suggest, exhausting to carry out. Never did we see Vanessa not coping with the multitude of tasks she appeared to be juggling while always seeming to make time to fit in some exercise, something we know Vanessa loved to do - especially her bike riding and those overseas trips with her boyfriends, or here at home during the diabetes-inspired Pollie Pedal.

I recall that at Vanessa's farewell service her friend Bridgette shared the fact Vanessa had three gym memberships and regularly used them all. No wonder she was so fit, and was able to battle her dreadful illness with the strength and determination she did in the months following her diagnosis.

I have previously mentioned in this place Vanessa's commitment to her electorate and her desire to fulfil her role as the member for Pembroke. She did this with the utmost dedication and enthusiasm, attending the many events that took place during her years as the local member. This commitment to Pembroke remained constant during the time the Liberal Party came to government and Vanessa's workload increased substantially in her roles as the leader of this House and as attorney-general and minister.

One of Vanessa's finest attributes was her ability to remain remarkably calm during almost all situations. We know everyone has their limit, but seldom did we ever see Vanessa reach that limit. Maybe once. Being the Leader and having responsibility for significant portfolios must have been an enormous obligation to her work life, but she genuinely made it seem effortless, albeit I recall seeing those quick strides up the tunnel on numerous occasions, but I am pretty sure that was just to meet an electorate commitment or get to the gym.

Vanessa's legacy to her profession, to her electorate, to the parliament and to the people of Tasmania will be remembered for many years to come. I offer my sincere condolences to Vanessa's family and friends on her sad passing. Our dear friend and colleague whose bright light faded far too soon will be sadly missed by many. Rest in peace, Vanessa.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - I strongly support the condolence motion before this Chamber. Many words have been said over the past now probably 15 months since we first heard Vanessa was gravely ill and had a real fight on her hands. They continued throughout the farewell at her state funeral and also throughout the motion in the House of Assembly and today and previously in this House.

What has really been a common thread throughout the tributes made to her was that each speaker endeavoured to search for the correct word to use so they could properly paint Vanessa in glowing terms. I counted in the House of Assembly debate the adjectives used in the endeavour to describe her, and without going through all of the tributes, I got to 27 quickly, so you could see each speaker was endeavouring to show how much Vanessa was respected, admired and loved.

I know she will be missed in this Chamber, I know she will be missed by her friends and family, and I know she will also be missed in the House of Assembly for the work she did. She will also be especially missed by her constituents and all members of the Tasmanian community who admired her work. We really admired the way she rolled her sleeves up to assist in many charitable events she participated in, such as the Pollie Pedal, or helping the people doing it hard on Christmas Day, serving the meals, et cetera. She will be missed, but she will be remembered.

[4.44 p.m.]

**Mr DEAN** (Windermere) - Mr President, our colleague, and previous leader of the government in the Legislative Council, the right honourable Dr Vanessa Goodwin epitomised the qualities required of a politician and leader. She was an inspiration, certainly to me, and I am able to say to all of us, including Tasmanians and those further afield who knew her.

I recall a public statement made along these lines - that Vanessa was such a great person, such a good politician she almost gave politicians a good name. Remember that comment? The comment was made publicly. It was an interesting comment. She was a true leader, a type of person who through her own qualities and the way she operated inspired others to want to follow her. That is the quality of a good leader. Not because of position, power, authority, rank, standing or anything else, but because of her example and the practised behaviour she was well known for. She inspired people to want to follow her, which is what a good leader is all about.

On 18 October 2017, following Vanessa's resignation from parliament as the member for Pembroke, I spoke briefly and mainly on the impact Vanessa had on me, the parliament and the state. I will reiterate some of the speech again today. On that occasion I used the word 'phlegmatic' to describe a characteristic of Vanessa. She was unflappable even at times of undue pressure or the intense questioning she was subjected to in this place, or when controlling briefing sessions where some of us were unruly at times, including me - even on one occasion when we were talking about the way contraband was getting to the prisoners at Risdon Vale. Older members would remember that occasion well. While unflappable, she did in fact colour up a deep shade of red. It was an extremely funny episode.

Vanessa's passing is an absolute tragedy and a huge loss to the state and this parliament. It was untimely and cut short the life of a prominent Tasmanian, one who was destined for higher office.

Whether Vanessa would have remained in this state will now never be known. I say this because Vanessa, in my opinion, could have made a significant difference to the way this country works, whether in federal politics or in some other way. We will not know that now. The world can be so cruel.

She received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tasmania, a Master of Philosophy in Criminology from the University of Cambridge and a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Tasmania. She was well credentialed and qualified. In my speech on 18 October 2017, I said I first got to know Vanessa when she was doing her doctorate studies. But on second thoughts, it was when I took over the position of executive support with Tasmania Police in Hobart. Vanessa was employed by the department and as the commander-in-charge of executive support, I became Vanessa's senior managing officer.

After this period Vanessa approached me to identify recidivist ex-inmates who would be approachable and safe to talk to about their criminal ways. There were many on my list, but she would probably have needed a military escort to talk to some of them. I was able to assist her. I like to think this action assisted Vanessa in gaining her Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Tasmania.

As her senior manager, Vanessa was an absolute pleasure to work with. Her loyalty to me and the police department was not challengeable. She was the ultimate professional who supported me as her senior officer and the department. Her work ethic, which has never changed, commitment to work and attention to detail were exemplary. She put forward changes to structures that had been in place for decades. Her work was accepted almost without question. I mentioned Vanessa's phlegmatic way previously, but I did see her arc up, nothing on the scale some of us here have demonstrated. It might be more accurate to say she attempted to raise her voice, but such was Vanessa's character she was able to handle a tense situation with control, certainly unlike me.

Vanessa was a gym junkie. Most mornings and evenings she was committed to a gym. At times of late sittings - we can go back to the earliest stages here where we were sitting to 9.00, 10.00, 11.00 or 12.00 p.m. or 1.00 a.m. - while walking home, I would meet Vanessa on her way to a gym. It did not matter what time she finished, she had to go to the gym. She said that was a way of releasing pressure, stress and strain.

I enjoyed my time and I know the rest of the crew did on our overseas bicycle trips. We were all in our 60s and 70s and Vanessa was in her mid-40s but she fitted in so well. She enjoyed her wine, seven or eight. I think she was pleased on her India trip that my son Brett was with us. He was younger than Vanessa, and she enjoyed his company.

She was fit. Two occasions stand out for me: one was in Vietnam when we were riding in 45 degrees Celsius heat. We were deciding on whether we could ride the next leg. It was up a fairly steep hill. Vanessa simply said, 'I am riding and that is it. That is what I came over here for'. I stupidly said, 'You cannot do it on your own, I will have a go at it as well'. A big mistake. Vanessa did not stop. I followed along, well behind. She made it easily. Another one of those occasions was in India when we had to climb a 20 kilometre hill. It was steep and treacherous, very windy and bendy. Did Vanessa give in? No, she did not. She left Brett far behind, even though he was much younger. As for me, I finally arrived after a long struggle. By the end, Vanessa was also getting involved in practical jokes. There are many of these when you are touring with Greg Hall.

When I joined the crew on their overseas bicycle excursions, I was referred to as 'The Vicar'. It took Vanessa several days into the tour before she started to call me 'The Vicar'

Our bike trips will not be the same again. Vanessa was a sensation to be with. As Greg Hall said, she smartened the group up. Late last year, Vanessa was talking about the next excursion with us and about where we were going this year. She said, 'I will be joining you'. That is how positive she was.

I also rode Pollie Pedal with Vanessa. Last year we rode from Hadspen to the Great Lake. Vanessa did the ride to Hobart to raise money for juvenile diabetes. She wanted to raise money. She wanted to help others. She wanted to help charities. She would not have had much time with all the other workload she had. I am not sure how she made that time.

This is when Vanessa started to notice something was not right. I had dinner with Vanessa and the rest of the group at the Great Lake Hotel on the Pollie Pedal. We were sitting around the table and Vanessa said she was not feeling right. We arranged for her to have a massage. It was very shortly thereafter that she was diagnosed and had difficulties. It is so horribly wrong.

Vanessa was loved by us all. She was an incredible person. She had a voracious appetite for work and for helping others. She attained much in her relatively short working life. It was wonderful to see Vanessa remembered and honoured by the naming of the two minimum security units at the Women's Prison at Risdon for her dedication to the Department of Justice and to Tasmania. I will be surprised if we do not see other things named in remembrance of Vanessa.

**Mr Finch** - A scholarship -

**Mr DEAN** - Yes. Vanessa was a good friend of mine and I would love to have her around. She inspired me and was a lovely person. Rest in peace Vanessa, our beloved leader, friend and colleague.

**Mrs Hiscutt** - Can I clarify something? I was under the impression you were called the old uncles not the boyfriends. Can you just clarify for me?

**Ms Rattray** - I upgraded them.

**Mr DEAN** - We were called a lot of things. We were called the uncles; we were called those boyfriends, and we were called a few other things.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - You can choose your friends, but you cannot choose your relations.

[4.55 p.m.]

**Ms ARMITAGE** (Launceston) - Mr President, Vanessa Goodwin, 1969 to 2018. In the autumn of 1969, on 22 April, Vanessa Goodwin was born in Hobart. She was the only child of Edyth and Grant Goodwin.

Vanessa spent her early years at Rose Bay and often ventured to Seven Mile Beach to swim. She also spent much of her spare time participating in pony club with her horse Honey. Her love for animals was further fuelled when her family bought a cattery and a boarding kennel at Acton. Much of her childhood was spent surrounded by horses and dogs, and she had fond memories of always being surrounded by puppies. A lovely childhood memory for anyone.

Attending the University of Tasmania Vanessa studied arts and law. After graduating she worked as an associate to a former chief justice of the Supreme Court, the honourable Sir Guy Green. When Sir Guy Green was appointed governor, Vanessa followed him to Government House to work for him as his research assistant.

Hungry for more knowledge Vanessa spent time in England where she attended the University of Cambridge. She gained a Master of Philosophy in Criminology. On returning to Tasmania, Vanessa took up a position with Tasmania Police where she worked in research and policy around the causes of crime putting her learned theory into practice.

During this time she also earned her PhD after doing a thesis on repeat burglary victimisation. It was during this thesis research that Vanessa started her long association with Risdon Prison inmates. Vanessa spent many hours with the inmates finding out why they were in there and trying to discover if there was anything that could have been done to prevent their incarceration in the first place. She was selfless in her quest to improve the world a small piece at a time and we in this House saw that on many occasions.

Vanessa was a determined person. It actually took her three attempts before she won a seat in parliament and how lucky was the Tasmanian Parliament to have her. Her mother Edyth was a Liberal Party member and her father Grant once ran as an independent.

Once the Liberal Party won government it was an obvious choice to give Vanessa the role of attorney-general and minister for justice, corrections and the arts. Vanessa took on these roles with passion enthusiasm and sensitivity. She played a key role in developing and implementing programs designed to divert Tasmanian youth from taking the wrong life path and ending up in the criminal justice systems, and her relationship with Risdon Prison continued.

Although her portfolio and attorney-general roles were incredibly busy and complex, she took it all in her stride and coped competently and with grace. It was these characteristics that enamoured Vanessa to everyone she had dealings with.

No member of the Legislative Council has anything but praise and admiration for her. She was dedicated to her family, to her parliament and to her friends and workmates. She has strengthened the State of Tasmania through her hard work, dedication and determination to make a difference.

Vanessa was a workaholic. She loved her bike riding and fitness as well as her dogs and cats, which she always referred to as her fur babies - Sophie, Lavinia, Sox and Minnie. Vanessa was very sad when in January this year Sophie had to be euthanased.

The member for McIntyre and I enjoyed our visits with Vanessa, and she always had a gin and tonic. At that stage it was lovely to see the improvement with the trial drugs she was taking. We were all hopeful the trial medication that seemed to be working for Vanessa would result in remission of her disease. She put on Facebook in December 2017 that the visit to her oncologist showed improvement in her condition and that the chemotherapy was having a positive impact. Unfortunately, only a month later in January 2018, there was the disappointing news: the latest MRI showed the cancer lesions had grown significantly and the chemotherapy was then stopped.

In an uncanny coincidence Vanessa passed away on election day in March 2018. We are all very much poorer for losing Vanessa, a beautiful, smart and humble person. She will undeniably be missed. The world is a darker place without you, Vanessa. Rest in peace, our dear friend.

[5.00 p.m.]

**Ms FORREST** (Murchison) - Mr President, we have spoken a couple of times already in this place about the honourable Dr Vanessa Goodwin. It is a tragic story. I will call her Vanessa from hereon.

She was quite an incredible woman, who was a trailblazer in many respects. She often went about her business in a very quiet way and achieved much more in her work than many of us would know, particularly in the reform of the prison services and the work she did with the Mary Hutchinson Women's Prison. It is great to see that being progressed. Unfortunately, as other members have noted, she is not here to see it.

It is true to say that we were all absolutely shocked when we first received the news about Vanessa's illness, particularly as a small group of us had been out for dinner with her on a Thursday night after a sitting week only a bit over a week or 10 days beforehand where, for all intents and purposes, she seemed perfectly healthy. Unfortunately, we cannot always know what is going on inside our bodies. When she received the diagnosis of brain cancer, which turned out to be a very aggressive cancer, we watched almost with disbelief the impact it had on her and the decline that was so rapid. Unfortunately, this is the nature of some of the brain cancers.

Mr President, I do not want to repeat what other members have talked about particularly. Saturday's *Mercury* has an insert called 'TasWeekend'; I have kept the one from 26 September 2015 which had a beautiful photo of Vanessa on the cover. I am not sure why I kept it, but I thought one day this would be helpful. She looks so beautiful and, well, it is hard to believe she is no longer with us. In here, the headline reads 'Crime fighter - Vanessa Goodwin lays down the law'. I remember reading it at the time, thinking it was an interesting story - 'Good on her, she is making some serious inroads into the thing she believes in - restorative justice and other ways of dealing with people who break the law'. The heading inside the cover story is 'Hard Cell'. I want to read a couple of sections of the article because it says a bit more about Vanessa and her background, why perhaps she had such a passion for what she did, and why it is such a loss to Tasmania and the people who find themselves on the wrong side of the law in this state. The headline starts with -

Vanessa Goodwin has long since been fascinated by Tasmania's dark past. Now the state's Attorney-General wants to cut crime rates by putting her research into criminal behaviour into action.

I will not read all of it but I want to read a couple of sections here.

Before entering the Tasmanian Parliament in 2009, Goodwin was a criminologist with Tasmania Police, researching and developing crime prevention tactics. She studied law at the University of Tasmania before securing a role as associate to then-Chief Justice Guy Green. She was later accepted into the University of Cambridge and set off soon after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre, dedicating her masters thesis to the study of mass murders.

This is an unlikely topic if you know Vanessa, and the article comments on that further on -

She returned to Tasmania where, as a softly spoken PhD candidate, she interviewed more than 50 maximum-security inmates at Risdon Prison about their burglary habits. Goodwin's regular visits to Risdon in 2001 and 2002 taught her more about the causes of crime than she could ever have hoped to achieve through

desktop research. The male prisoners' candid tales became the foundation for Goodwin's much-cited research into Tasmanian crime families.

In 2008 her report on intergenerational crime revealed an entrenched culture of welfare dependency, alcohol abuse, domestic violence and child neglect within the families of some of the state's most hardened criminals. Corrections ministers generally want to 'break the cycle' of crime, but never before has Tasmania had someone in Goodwin's position who has examined at such close range the link between parents' offending and their children's potential future criminality.

She did a very important body of work and was then able to apply that in her role. She would have continued had she only had the opportunity. During an interview at her home on Hobart's eastern shore, Goodwin told 'TasWeekend' that her parliamentary ambition had always been to act on her research and implement her recommendations -

'The opportunity to influence policy is what I've been working to do all along,' she says. It remains to be seen if she can convince her Cabinet colleagues to commit the generous funds needed to generally rehabilitate offenders and reduce the likelihood of their children entering into a life of crime.

I hope her parliamentary colleagues do not lose her passion in resourcing the work she had underway and that they do continue it. She was doing some great things. A little bit further on the article says -

Goodwin toyed for a while with the idea of joining the police force, but an officer talked her out of it, suggesting she instead pursue her interest in crime prevention in an academic capacity.

Wise advice -

Sixty prisoners, including nine from the minimum-security Hayes prison farm, volunteered to be interviewed by Goodwin for her PhD thesis on repeat burglary victimisation. She was working for Tasmania Police at the time and wanted to learn why some households and businesses were targeted more than once.

She spent most of her visiting time over the year with 49 burglars classified as 'experienced', as they had committed at least 10 break-ins. Goodwin was amazed, not only by the prisoners' willingness to share their trade secrets, but also their often-tragic life stories. 'They were incredibly frank,' Goodwin says. 'It was the best insight you could possibly get in terms of trying to understand what would get them to the point where they were in prison and had been committing crimes.

'I tried to delve into what was motivating them, why they were there. It was a fascinating insight. Sometimes they'd disclose some pretty traumatic things ... and I got the sense it was a bit therapeutic to be talking about it. I was limited in what I could do and sometimes came away from it feeling a bit overwhelmed. Perhaps if they had told someone earlier they wouldn't have ended up where they were, down a terrible pathway they deeply regret. There were times I felt quite sad the help hadn't been made available early on.'



Vanessa was really identifying that need for early intervention to keep people out of prison and putting in place those other measures. You think about some of the harrowing stories she would have heard. It must affect you. People, after any sort of traumatic event, which interviewing some of these people would have been, need counselling. I hope she looked after herself in that regard. There is another beautiful photo of her with her mum in this article, as well as a photo of her in her own home with her dog. The article is worth revisiting.

Mr President, this is another small section of the article I will quote -

One of her mother's chief complaints over the years about the political party she loves so dearly has been the relative lack of female candidates. 'It's getting better', Goodwin says. 'When I was elected there was only one woman in the PLP, Parliamentary Liberal Party, Sue Napier, so I made two.'

Two amazing women both passed away from cancer. What an absolute tragedy. She went on to say -

Now we've got quite a few female MPs in the PLP but there's always room for more to even that up.'

The challenge is there for the Liberal Party to fix it. They are doing okay in this House. She pointed that out. Sue Napier was a trailblazer. Unfortunately she passed away from breast cancer.

The closing comment in this article says -

Goodwin says every politician 'wants to leave a legacy' and her main reason for being in Parliament is to cut crime by addressing its causes. And she knows more than most how to achieve such a feat. But as Mundy says, it all depends 'how loud her voice is' at the Cabinet table.

What a tragedy to lose that voice from the Cabinet table. I am sure the Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council and her colleagues recognise that.

This article gives an insight into what drove Vanessa as a fierce fighter for justice and highlights what a loss it was for the state and the Liberal Party.

It is sad, and I acknowledge the terrible sense of loss her family must feel to lose such a loved one so young and with such potential. We can only extend them our best wishes and hope time and their beautiful memories of Vanessa will sustain them.

[5.11 p.m.]

**Mr FINCH** (Rosevears) - Mr President, I do not want to say too much, because a lot of it has been covered. I particularly appreciated the Vicar's discussion about her. How lucky he was to have had such a long association with her, and not just during the times we shared with our parliamentary duties. She was a very, very special person. I regarded her as a really good friend. It was not really about the politics of things; it was about how we get the job done. She will end up getting a good name for politicians, the way she conducted herself.

It was good to be associated with somebody of her very high calibre, with the way she conducted herself with people from all shades of politics, always with that very quiet smile she had

and always a terrific sense of humour. Even when she was under the pump in a lot of ways, you would know being a former leader, and you would know being the Leader now the pressure in that circumstance. Yet, here she was as attorney-general, minister for justice and corrections and arts and all sorts of things she was involved in, yet you did not get the sense that she hurried when she dealt with you. There was never a frown. There was never anything off-putting about her nature. The way she conducted herself shows she was a wonderful person to be around and involved with.

Socially, of course, she was always up for it. If there was an opportunity to socialise, to be part of a group, like the bike rides she was always encouraging me to come along and join in - of course, I was not in a position to do that, but she was very encouraging.

I have my own personal memories that will live on with me.

**Ms Rattray** - She actually even suggested I go on one of the bike rides. I nearly died at the thought of it.

**Mr FINCH** - Perish the thought. My terrific memory of her was when we were doing the tourism study. We went to Sydney and Melbourne and over to New Zealand. You were on the committee, but did not join us for the trip. You would have really enjoyed it. It was great fun, although we did considerable work. We presented a good report, and learnt so much from New Zealand we were able to present in the report. I am sure she prosecuted much of what we saw over there, and what ended up in the report, with the Liberal Government - I am sure she kept that information to the front of her mind.

I will never forget that we were in the city square when the Christchurch earthquake occurred. We were there three days before the second earthquake, and were going on a tram trip. The tram was about 400 metres away, and myself, Vanessa and Don Wing were there, and somebody had to stop the tram. Don took off at 100 miles an hour. You had to see him run. Don would have been, at that stage, at least 70 years of age and he took off after the tram. We collapsed into fits of laughter watching. Who would care whether we caught that tram or not? Yet Don was so insistent on that being the one. Vanessa and I would often recall it so many times - the time Don Wing chased after the tram. We shared many moments like that.

I always appreciated the way Vanessa conducted business here, always trying to be accommodating. When she was trying to bang the lectern, it just did not ring true. She was really acting a part and was trying her best to look dominant and wanting to stress her point, but it did not work. It was not in her nature to be a forceful person, but she conducted her business really well. I appreciated that she was able to take on so much responsibility and do it with such good humour.

I remember calling on her when I wanted to discuss elder abuse. She made the trip to Launceston to meet some constituents and they had a long discussion about that. She accommodated me. There was another time we had problems with the wombats in the Narawntapu. She came to investigate and the government gave a grant to the people at Kelso who were working on the issue. She was very quiet, did not say anything, but went about the business of understanding the issue and looking to resolve it. As has been mentioned before, Vanessa worked quietly on issues. She did not bang the drum and did not have to pump up her own tyres.

Just on the accolades, I have a raft of words to describe the type of person she was. We all know those qualities she had, that we wish we had in the same abundance Vanessa had. She was quite an exemplar for the work we do and the type of people we need in Tasmania, who are going

to be successful because they set such a good example for how we should behave and how we should conduct ourselves. We will not always reach the Vanessa bar, but it is a good thing to strive for.

The other memory is coffee. She had to have her two coffees a day, every day. When I first met her, I could not understand it, 'What is all this about coffee?', but thanks to her I am now addicted to coffee and have to have my two coffees a day. An exemplar in our society, a wonderful person. We have good memories to go on with.

[5.17 p.m.]

**Mr FARRELL** (Derwent) - Mr President, I support this motion. It is great we had the opportunity previously to express our gratitude to Vanessa when she was still with us. That was a great thing to do because it is on record that she was truly loved, admired and appreciated by all her colleagues here.

There are many good stories about the way Vanessa ran the parliament when she was leader. She certainly was an understanding leader. She initiated a few more refinements into the role we still use now. She thought about things and wanted to make it genuinely easier. In the early days, we often had discussions, being the only two party members in a House full of independent members. The challenges we shared in a House of independents were very similar, even though we were from different parties, including particularly the challenge of trying to explain to colleagues in the other place how things work here. We worked through that, and it was always done with a very minimum of politics. It was something Vanessa carried through in her time as leader. Certainly from the Labor Party's point of view, I can absolutely, genuinely say that I never heard any of my colleagues say anything bad, untoward or critical of her at any time. She was highly respected, particularly by her opposite number. Lara Gidding had a tremendous affection for Vanessa and being from a legal background, they had an understanding of the complexities of the role of attorney-general.

It is still difficult at times because you think sometimes she is going to come bounding in. When someone so young loses their life, it is a bit surreal. I believe that for all of us here who worked with her, and those who came later and know of her, through her role as attorney-general, her legacy certainly will live on in this parliament. I support the motion. It is good we can put on the record our appreciation of the service that Vanessa Goodwin gave to the Tasmanian Parliament.

[5.21 p.m.]

**Mr WILLIE** (Elwick) - Mr President, I support the condolence motion too, and make a short contribution echoing many of the members' sentiments expressed already. Like other members, I was deeply saddened by Vanessa's passing. It was a privilege to be able to attend her state funeral and be present to remember Vanessa. In my short time here, I learned a lot from Vanessa by observing how she conducted business, how she interacted with other members and how she operated as a minister.

I have reflected in this House before that I thought she was one of the best ministers in the government at the time because of the way she operated and the process she followed when introducing legislation to the parliament. She made sure legislation was widely consulted on, that people had an opportunity to comment and that stakeholders had an opportunity to engage. It was good to be able to observe someone of such capacity in the early stages of my own career. I thank Vanessa for that and think of her fondly as a highly intelligent and capable person.

[5.22 p.m.]

**Mr ARMSTRONG** (Huon) - Mr President, I first met Vanessa at the Port Cygnet Sailing Club. I am not too sure what year it was, but she was standing for the House of Representatives seat in the electorate of Franklin. I was talking to her and I think Vince Taskunas was with her, introducing her to everyone. I thought, 'What a wonderful person she is, but why would such a person want to get into politics?' It did not seem to sit with her. It did not look to me like she was built for politics, but I was completely wrong. Canberra's loss was Pembroke's gain, and that is history now.

Vanessa was so well respected by all sides of politics; that was quite evident when she became ill. It was quite obvious she was very popular within her own electorate and in Tasmania generally. You only had to attend her funeral to see how popular she was. When I was elected to this place, I found Vanessa was very approachable and welcoming. If I was not too sure about something, I could talk to Vanessa and ask her something, and she would tell me what was happening or which way it was going without pushing the government's position. She was not being political with it because, with my being an independent, she was trying to let me be myself as an independent without her pushing her barrow.

I know many other people in this parliament knew Vanessa much longer than I did, such as the member for Windermere and the former member for Western Tiers, and I have heard about their bike riding experiences with Vanessa. You must have had some good times and some good memories of those.

I can remember when the President rang me - it was on a Saturday morning when he told me and I was out in the garden - and said to me, 'You would have heard about Vanessa,' and I thought, 'What has she done?' He told me. I was just so shocked. On the Thursday I was leaving parliament, or was here for a meeting, and I was getting into my car. She was running over to her car, in her track gear, and said, 'I am off to the gym - see you, Robert, have a good weekend.' Then I heard what had happened. It was just devastating to hear that news. You just could not understand it.

I went to the hospital to see Vanessa with a couple of other members. The former member for Apsley, now the member for McIntyre, and the member for Launceston. I think the member for Western Tiers might have been there. We went to the hotel down the road for a meal. Vanessa had a wine. I am a sucker for lambs fry and bacon, which was on the menu. To my surprise Vanessa had the same thing - lambs fry and bacon.

**Ms Rattray** - She ate the lot too.

**Mr ARMSTRONG** - Yes, it was a big meal. She ate the lot and had a wine, another wine. I thought the medication might be starting to help. It was just good to be there that night, to see her. She was still having a joke, a couple of words. She asked about the neighbourhood dispute bill that was coming to parliament.

**Ms Armitage** - That is true.

**Mr ARMSTRONG** - It was her bill. She asked how it was going, where was it at? She was still keeping an eye on what was happening. It was good. Vanessa was always concerned with the community, with the people of Tasmania. She was just a wonderful person. It was so sad to see her pass.

**Mr VALENTINE** (Hobart) - Mr President, it has been interesting to hear individual reflections on Vanessa. She provided great value to the parliament. She was respected across the political divide. Members have said that today. I also hear it from the community. She is much respected regardless of political affiliations. People who would not generally be of a Liberal mind, or particularly of a Labor mind or a Greens mind, all had a kind word to say about Vanessa and the way she approached her role.

Everyone would agree she pursued the policy agenda of her party with real determination. I am not sure she personally supported 100 per cent of it, but you would never know because she was a loyal servant to her party and to her party's policy position. She was so dedicated to the things that mattered to her. We heard how she pursued various aspects of the justice system. She moved motions and bills in this House that she believed would make things better for the Tasmanian community.

Agreement was not always reached. However, she deserves credit for the way she tried to convince this House that there were few detriments to the legislation she was promoting. The way she applied herself to the task was great. As the leader of the House she was always open to being approached and would talk to you about any particular aspect of legislation you felt was not quite right or needed some advice.

The art sector really valued the way Vanessa approached her role as the minister for the arts. Last Friday I attended an exhibition opened by Leigh Carmichael, creative director of Dark Mofa since 2012. Considering we are in June and Vanessa passed away in March, it may have been his first opening of an exhibition since Vanessa's passing, and he paid particular attention to noting her dedication to her role as the arts minister and said she would be sadly missed. He said he really respected Vanessa for the way she would approach the role and how she wanted to know what was every aspect of what was happening in the arts scene. I noted this as a mark of the woman who would never refuse an approach. You could talk to her in a matter-of-fact way without any political angst. She would consider the points you were trying to make and provide a response you might not have wanted to hear, but it was always respectful and much appreciated.

I have known Vanessa for about 19 years and her mother for a bit longer. Her mum was such a tenacious person and suffered with cancer for a total of 23 years. Unbelievable tenacity and a fighter and those same attributes were present with Vanessa. Her mum died, lost the battle with cancer, back in July 2016 - who would have thought 20 months later her daughter would succumb as well? It is such a sad thing for a person so young. Her mum was about 78 years old, but Vanessa was about 49 years of age when she passed on, but she had the same tenacity and application her mum displayed.

**Mr Dean** - Her father passed away about two years before her mum.

**Mr VALENTINE** - Yes. I was trying to find when Grant had passed on. A terrible sequence of events in that family, and the remaining relatives and friends must have been devastated when it also took Vanessa. I certainly express my condolence to them and hope they look upon her life fondly.

I acknowledge her tenacity and sense of purpose when endeavouring to bring people together across the political divide to achieve particular outcomes. She will be sadly missed in this Chamber.

In finishing I congratulate the Leader in the way she has stepped in to fill the role since Vanessa's departure. That must have felt quite a daunting task when you saw Vanessa performing - you probably thought to yourself, 'How can I do that?' Well, you are and you are doing it well. I am sure you will continue to apply yourself. I wish you continued success in undertaking the role and of course we will all help in that regard.

Vanessa Goodwin brought a number of bills to this House that she saw were of benefit. We did not always agree with them. One of the bills she brought in was the Neighbourhood Disputes About Plants Bill. As a person coming from local government, I thought that bill would not run, but it passed this House. I supported the legislation because I thought that while it was all very well for me to think that might happen, should I vote against this bill? I did not believe it had much merit, as you were quoting the other day, but with the overall detriments of the bill, I could point to nothing that said it would not work. It is yet to be seen whether that act works, but Vanessa felt strongly enough about it to have the bill crafted and brought forward, partly with help from the university. It is evidence of her tenacity that she wanted to see something through to its conclusion. The fact that she was still asking about that bill well after she had left this House shows that she certainly had an interest, not just from her own perspective, but for the people she represented.

This will be a sadder place for her passing. I send my condolences to her family and friends.

**Mr PRESIDENT** - I ask all honourable members to rise for a minute's silence to indicate their unanimous support for the motion.

**Motion agreed to *nemine contradicente*.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

[5.38 p.m.]

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

That the Council at its rising adjourn until 11 a.m. on Thursday, 14 June 2018.

**Motion agreed to.**

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

That the Council do now adjourn.

**The Council adjourned at 5.38 p.m.**