



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2021 - 2022

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTIETH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 35

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022

1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE. - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.

3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION. - The Speaker read Prayers.

4 STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER. - The Speaker said: "I make a statement to the House this morning to clarify for all Members the COVID-19 safety measures that are in place.

The Parliament's COVID-19 Safety Plan was updated last Friday to bring it into line with current Public Health advice. It was sent to all Members.

The plan has been agreed to by myself and the President of the Legislative Council, on advice.

This plan strongly encourages the wearing of masks where physical distancing is not possible. This may include meeting rooms, the Chambers of both Houses and shared offices. The wearing of masks is not mandatory.

The plan will continue to be reviewed in accordance with the advice of Public Health."

5 LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - A Motion being made and the Question being proposed - That Ms *White* have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (Ms *White*)

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 9

NOES 11

Dr Broad

Ms Archer

Ms Dow

Mr Barnett

Ms Haddad

Mr Ellis

Mr O'Byrne

Mr Ferguson

Ms O'Byrne

Mr Gutwein

Ms O'Connor

Mr Jaensch

Ms White

Ms Ogilvie

Mr Winter

Mrs Petrusma

Ms Butler (Teller)

Mr Rockliff

Mr Street

Mrs Alexander (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms Finlay

Mr Tucker

So it passed in the Negative.

6 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – In accordance with Standing Order No. 43, Questions without notice commenced.

7 MEMBER SUSPENDED. – In accordance with Standing Order 149, the Speaker directed the Honourable Member for Lyons, *Ms White*, to withdraw from the House for the remainder of Question Time owing to repeated interjections.

8 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – Questions without notice continued and concluded.

9 PAPERS. – The Minister for Parks laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Answer to Question on Notice: No. 21 of 2022.

10 PAPERS. – The Attorney-General laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Supreme Court of Tasmania: Annual Report 2020-2021.

11 LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed - That *Ms White* have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (*Ms White*)

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 9

NOES 11

Dr Broad

Ms Archer

Ms Dow

Mr Barnett

Ms Haddad

Mr Ellis

Mr O'Byrne

Mr Ferguson

Ms O'Byrne

Mr Gutwein

Ms O'Connor

Mr Jaensch

Ms White

Ms Ogilvie

Mr Winter

Mrs Petrusma

Ms Butler (Teller)

Mr Rockliff

Mr Street

Mrs Alexander (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms Finlay

Mr Tucker

So it passed in the Negative.

12 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: HOSTING THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES. – *Dr Broad*, in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

Hosting the Commonwealth Games.

And the Question being proposed;

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

13 BILL NO. 6. - The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Question proposed on Tuesday, 22 March 2022 - That the Land Tax Rating Amendment Bill 2022 be now read the Second time;

And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the said adjourned Debate.

And *Mr Tucker* was addressing the Chair.

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

15 APOLOGY TO VICTIM SURVIVOR. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

- (1) Notes that the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Hon. *Michael Ferguson* MP, and the Attorney-General, Hon. *Elise Archer* MP, were groaning in Question Time on 10 March 2022 while the Leader of the Opposition, Hon *Rebecca White* MP, read the words of a victim survivor to the House, while the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, Hon. *Roger Jaensch*, MP said, “oh come on”.
- (2) Acknowledges the deep distress this caused to the victim survivor, who has suffered enough at the hands of the Tasmanian Government and its Agencies.
- (3) Understands that any victim survivor of child sexual abuse may have been distressed by the response of senior Government Ministers.
- (4) Further notes that both the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, Hon. *Roger Jaensch* MP and the Premier, Hon. *Peter Gutwein* MP, had the decency to apologise for this behaviour.
- (5) Calls on the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Hon. *Michael Ferguson* MP and the Attorney-General, Hon. *Elise Archer* MP, to sincerely and unreservedly apologise for any hurt and offence caused by their response on 10 March last. (Ms *O'Connor*)

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 8

NOES 10

Dr Broad

Ms Archer

Ms Dow

Mr Barnett

Mr O'Byrne

Mr Ellis

Ms O'Byrne

Mr Ferguson

Ms O'Connor

Mr Jaensch

Ms White

Ms Ogilvie

Mr Winter

Mrs Petrusma

Ms Butler (Teller)

Mr Rockliff

Mr Street

Mrs Alexander (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms Finlay

Mr Tucker

Ms Haddad

Mr Gutwein

So it passed in the Negative.

16 FUEL PRICES. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

- (1) Acknowledges:—
- (a) the serious financial pressure being placed on Tasmanian households by the rising cost of living;
 - (b) that the most acute pressure is currently being felt with basic, non-discretionary expenses such as fuel, housing and utility bills;
 - (c) wages are not keeping pace with the cost of living; and
 - (d) that this pressure is felt equally by business owners.
- (2) Notes that:—
- (a) in May 2020 the Premier Hon. *Peter Gutwein*, MP stated that if fuel prices in the State "continue to be out of step this Government will continue taking further action and will consider price capping";
 - (b) in November 2021 Minister for Workplace Safety and Consumer Affairs, Hon. *Elise Archer*, MP stated that the "Government has made it clear that should further action be required to support Tasmanians to access cheaper fuel prices, including the introduction of legislation, we will consider it"; and
 - (c) according to the ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission), Hobart has the highest fuel prices of any capital city, being nearly 20 cents/litre higher than other capital cities.
- (3) Calls on the Premier to outline how his Government will give effect to fuel price capping and when the fuel price legislation will be introduced. (*Dr Broad*)

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 8

NOES 10

Dr Broad

Ms Archer

Ms Dow

Mr Barnett

Ms Haddad

Mr Ellis

Mr O'Byrne

Mr Ferguson

Ms O'Connor

Mr Jaensch

Ms White

Ms Ogilvie

Mr Winter

Mrs Petrusma

Ms Butler (Teller)

Mr Rockliff

Mr Street

Mrs Alexander (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms Finlay

Mr Gutwein

Ms O'Byrne

Mr Tucker

So it passed in the Negative.

17 HOUSING POLICY. - The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Question proposed on Wednesday, 9 March 2022 by Mr *Tucker*—That the House:—

- (1) Agrees that Tasmania has experienced significant economic growth, and population growth, due to increasing demand for the Tasmanian way of life.
- (2) Acknowledges that the only way to meet growth in demand is to increase the supply of housing and land, which supports our strong economy and provides more jobs and opportunities for Tasmanians.
- (3) Notes:—
 - (a) the Tasmanian Liberal Government's recently announced housing package is the biggest housing investment in our State for decades, at more than \$1.5 billion; and
 - (b) that the Liberal Government's bold, comprehensive plan will deliver 10,000 new social and affordable homes by 2032.
- (5) Welcomes the Government's plan to increase first home ownership through the Housing Market Entry program, by doubling the State's equity contribution and reducing the deposit required, opening the door to home ownership to more Tasmanians.
- (6) Recognises that reductions in property costs, such as land tax, put downward pressure on rental price increases.
- (7) Acknowledges that other supports, such as first home owner duty concessions and grants, put more money back into the pockets of first home buyers.

- (8) Notes that incentives such as ancillary dwelling grants and help to increase the supply of land and rental homes.

And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the said adjourned Debate.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

18 ADJOURNMENT. – A Motion being made - That the House do now adjourn (The Minister for Sport and Recreation)

The Speaker proposed – That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

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

SHANE DONNELLY, *Clerk of the House.*

MEMBERS. - All present during the day except Ms *Finlay*, Ms *Johnston* and Dr *Woodruff*.