

FACT SHEET

Aboriginal Lands Amendment (2024 Council Election) Bill 2023

This simple, single-purpose Bill provides for the postponement of the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania elections scheduled in 2024. Postponement of the election allows the Government appropriate time to debate and pass the full *Aboriginal Lands Amendment Bill 2024* (the ALA Bill) when Parliament returns in 2024. This short Bill delivers the following:

- **Postponement of the election will avoid wasted resources and public confusion.** Under the current statutory timelines, the Electoral Commissioner will be obliged to commence public-facing election processes in January 2024. Unless this Postponement Bill passes, these election processes will occur and then have to be nullified when the ALA Bill passes (anticipated in the Autumn session of 2024), which will introduce new regulatory settings for entry to the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania Electors Roll.
- **Postponement of the election ensures that the next Land Council elections proceed under the new regulatory settings,** which are expected to take about 18 months to implement fully. As the ALA Bill is expected to pass in the Autumn session of 2024, this requires provision for the elections to be deferred up to late 2025. The Postponement Bill allows for elections between March and December 2025.

The Postponement Bill is not a change of policy. It has simply brought forward in a separate single-purpose Bill the postponement of the next election – an intent that was already publicly foreshadowed in the draft ALA Bill released for consultation in early August 2023. No specific objections to postponing the election were raised during extensive consultation.

It has become clear that there is not time to finalise and debate the ALA Bill in 2023, so the election postponement element needs to be brought forward separately. If this Bill passes, the election postponement provisions in the ALA Bill will no longer be needed.