



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INTEGRITY**

Annual Report 2025

*Laid upon the Tables of both Houses of Parliament
pursuant to section 26 of the Integrity Commission Act 2009*

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Legislative Council

Ms Armitage (Chair)
Ms O'Connor
Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)

House of Assembly

Mr George
Ms Haddad
Mr Jaensch

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 26(1) of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*¹ (the Act), the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity (the Committee) has the honour to report its proceedings for 2024-25 to the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly.

Joint Standing Committee on Integrity

- 1.2 The Committee is established pursuant to section 23 of the Act.
- 1.3 The Committee consists of six Members of Parliament, comprising: three appointed by the Legislative Council; and three appointed by the House of Assembly.
- 1.4 During the reporting period, the membership of the Committee changed on multiple occasions. This occurred due to resignations from the Committee and by the resignation of a Member from the House of Assembly. The Committee also ceased operations as of 11 June 2025 as a result of the prorogation of the Parliament for the General Election held on 19 July 2025.
- 1.5 Two membership changes occurred due to the aforementioned resignations. On 12 September 2024 the then Member for Lyons, Mr Jenner resigned from the Committee and was replaced on 18 September 2024 by the Member for Braddon, Mr Garland. On 12 February 2025 then Member for Lyons, Ms White, resigned from the House of Assembly. On 4 March 2025, Ms White was replaced by Member for Lyons, Ms Butler.
- 1.6 Legislative Council elections in the seat of Nelson were held in May 2025, resulting in a vacancy of Ms Webb's seat on the Committee, however Ms Webb was re-appointed to the Committee on 4 June 2025, following her successful re-election.
- 1.7 Prior to the prorogation of Parliament on 11 June 2025, Members serving on the Committee on the part of the Legislative Council were; the Honourable Member for Launceston, Ms Armitage (Chair); the Honourable Member for Nelson, Ms Webb (Deputy Chair) and the Honourable Member for Hobart, Ms O'Connor. Members serving on the Committee on the part of the House of Assembly were; the Member for Lyons, Ms Butler; the Member for Braddon, Mr Garland; and the Member for Bass, Mr Wood.

¹ *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (No. 67 of 2009).

Annual Report to Parliament

- 1.8 This report details the proceedings of the Committee for 2024-25 and is made pursuant to section 26(1) of the Act which prescribes that the Committee reports its activities to both Houses of Parliament by 30 November of each year.

2 FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

2.1 The Committee has the following functions:

- (a) monitor and review the performance of the functions of an integrity entity;
- (b) report to both Houses of Parliament, as it considers appropriate, on the following matters:
 - (i) matters relevant to an integrity entity;
 - (ii) matters relevant to the performance of an integrity entity's functions or the exercise of an integrity entity's powers;
- (c) examine the annual reports of an integrity entity and any other report of an integrity entity and report to both Houses of Parliament on any matter appearing in or arising out of such reports;
- (d) report to the Legislative Council or House of Assembly on any matter relevant to an integrity entity's functions that is referred to it by the Legislative Council or House of Assembly;
- (e) review the functions, powers, and operations of the Integrity Commission at the expiration of the period of 3 years commencing on the commencement of this section and to table in both Houses of Parliament a report regarding any action that should be taken in relation to this Act or the functions, powers, and operations of the Integrity Commission;
- (f) provide guidance and advice relating to the functions of an integrity entity under this Act;
- (g) refer any matter to the Integrity Commission for investigation or advice; and
- (h) comment on proposed appointments to be made under section 14(1)(e), (f) or (g), section 15, and section 27.²

2.2 The Committee is not authorised to: -

- (a) investigate any matter relating to a complaint that is being dealt with by the Integrity Commission; or
- (b) review a decision of the Integrity Commission to investigate, not investigate or discontinue an investigation or inquire into or not inquire into a particular complaint; or
- (c) make findings, recommendations, determinations, or decisions in relation to a particular investigation or inquiry of a complaint that is being or has been dealt with by the Integrity Commission.³

² *Integrity Commission Act 2009*, section 24(1).

³ *Ibid*, section 24(2).

3 ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Overview

- 3.1 The Committee met on 16 occasions during the reporting period.
- 3.2 During the course of the reporting period, the proceedings of the Committee focused primarily upon appropriately managing its relationships with the prescribed integrity entities and responding to issues raised by members of the public.
- 3.3 The Committee also launched an inquiry into the Establishment of a Parliamentary Privilege Protocol between the Parliament of Tasmania and the Integrity Commission Tasmania (the Inquiry). Due to the General Election in July 2025, the progress of the Inquiry was halted.

Committee Reports

- 3.4 The Committee tabled an Annual Report for the 2023-24 financial year on 28 November 2024.

Monitoring Integrity Entities

- 3.5 The Committee functions under the Act require it to monitor and review the functions of integrity entities. Ordinarily, the Committee examines the Annual Reports of each entity in its own Annual Report. Due to the timings of the parliamentary sitting calendar this year and tabling dates of integrity entity annual reports, this has not been possible in this year's Committee Annual Report.
- 3.6 The Committee intends to examine the 2024-2025 annual reports of the integrity entities it has oversight of in the beginning of 2026 by holding public hearings.

Monitoring and Reviewing the Integrity Commission

Protocol

- 3.7 Communication and coordination between the Committee and the Integrity Commission is managed pursuant to an agreed Protocol. This protocol was last updated in December 2023.
- 3.8 The Protocol provides for regular meetings between the Committee and the Integrity Commission with an agreed agenda. Whilst having regard to section 24(2) of the Act, the Protocol provides that the Commission will provide to the Committee information as to the volume and the nature of the work being undertaken by it and details of any suggested legislative amendments.
- 3.9 The Protocol also prescribes the communication process to be utilised by the Committee and the Commission in dealing with such complaints and

representations about the Commission from members of the public, and also for those circumstances when the Committee seeks information from the Commission on a specific subject.

- 3.10 The Committee met with the Integrity Commission three times in the reporting period on a number of matters, including in a public hearing to discuss the 2023-24 Annual Report. The matters raised in that meeting were included in the Committee's 2024 Annual Report.

Monitoring and Reviewing the Office of the Ombudsman

Protocol

- 3.12 Communication and coordination between the Committee and the Ombudsman is managed pursuant to an agreed Protocol.
- 3.13 The Protocol also prescribes the communication process to be utilised by the Committee and the Ombudsman in dealing with such complaints and representations concerning the Ombudsman from members of the public, and also for those circumstances when the Committee seeks information from the Ombudsman on a specific subject.
- 3.14 The Ombudsman is required under section 30 of the *Ombudsman Act 1978* to table a report to Parliament "as soon as practicable" after the 30th of June each year. This report is to detail "the exercise of his functions during the period of 12 months" before this date.

Monitoring and Reviewing the Office of the Custodial Inspector

- 3.15 The Committee is also responsible for the review and monitoring of the Custodial inspector. Under section 26(1) of the *Custodial Inspector Act 2016*, the Custodial inspector must report to the Parliament "within the period of 4 months after 30 June in each year."

Public representations to the Committee

- 3.16 The Committee has received a number of representations from citizens of Tasmania during the reporting period.
- 3.17 As reported in previous years, the Committee continues to receive representations from the public that detail their negative experiences in dealing with the Integrity Commission and the Ombudsman. These representations often wrongly assume that the Committee is able to review and independently investigate their case. The Committee is

working to assist complainants in their understanding of the Committee's role, functions and powers.

- 3.18 It is noted that section 24(2) of the Act, however, prevents the Committee from: investigating any matter before the Integrity Commission; reviewing a decision of the Commission regarding its investigatory powers; or make findings, recommendations, determinations or decisions in relation to investigations or inquiries of the Commission.
- 3.19 In relation to these representations from dissatisfied complainants, the Committee has on each occasion, referred these matters to the Commission to consider the issues raised by the complainant. Six matters were referred to the Commission for comment in 2024-25. The Committee also contacted the Commission with requests for further information on a number of matters regarding the functions of the Commission, with four pieces of such correspondence sent.

Inquiries

Inquiry into the Establishment of a Parliamentary Privilege Protocol between the Parliament of Tasmania and the Integrity Commission Tasmania

- 3.20 On 13 December 2024 the Committee resolved to launch an Inquiry into the Establishment of a Parliamentary Privilege Protocol between the Parliament of Tasmania and the Integrity Commission Tasmania.
- 3.21 The Inquiry was formally launched on 11 March 2025, with the following Terms of Reference:

That the Committee inquire into and report on the development of a protocol between the Integrity Commission, the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly to apply where the Integrity Commission is performing its functions and exercising its powers in circumstances where there are likely to be records, information, material or things that may be immune from production by reason of parliamentary privilege, with particular reference to:

- (a) a draft protocol proposed by the Integrity Commission in 2023;*
- (b) similar protocols in other Australian jurisdictions between parliaments and integrity bodies;*
- (c) the importance of upholding parliamentary privilege as an essential aspect of the Westminster parliamentary system while balancing the importance of the ability for the Integrity Commission to obtain evidence and conduct investigations; and*
- (d) any other matter incidental thereto.*

- 3.22 The Inquiry was launched in response to the ongoing matter of a Parliamentary Privilege Protocol (Protocol) between the two institutions, including the draft Protocol. The draft Protocol had been first drafted by the Commission and amended by the Clerk of the House of Assembly and Clerk of the Legislative Council. A copy of the draft Protocol was circulated to all Members of both Houses by the relevant Presiding Officers in July and August 2023.
- 3.23 Due to the prorogation of Parliament and dissolution of the House of Assembly on 11 June 2025, all committee work across the Parliament ceased, including the Inquiry.
- 3.24 Prior to the cessation, the Committee had opened submissions, receiving 12 in total. All 12 submissions had been published prior to the dissolution and are available on the Inquiry webpage.⁴
- 3.25 The Committee had scheduled public hearings in Hobart for June and July 2025 which were cancelled as a result of the prorogation of Parliament and dissolution of the House.

**Parliament House
HOBART
12 November 2025**

**Hon. Rosemary Armitage MLC
CHAIRPERSON**

⁴ <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/joint-committees/standing-committees/integrity2/inquiries/inquiry-into-privilege-protocols-between-parliaments-and-integrity-bodies/submissions/submissions>

Appendix 1 - Joint Standing Committee on Integrity Meeting Attendance 2024-2025

Meeting Date	In attendance	
	Legislative Council	House of Assembly
Tuesday 6 August 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Ms White Mr Wood
Tuesday 10 September 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Ms White Mr Wood
Tuesday 17 September 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Wood
Tuesday 18 September 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Ms White Mr Wood
Tuesday 1 November 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Garland Mr Wood
Tuesday 19 November 2024	Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Garland Ms White Mr Wood
Tuesday 26 November 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Ms White
Friday 13 December 2024	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Garland Ms White Mr Wood
Tuesday 11 March 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Garland Mr Wood

Thursday 13 March 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Wood
Tuesday 1 April 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Ms Butler Mr Garland
Tuesday 8 April 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Wood
Wednesday 30 April 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms Webb (Deputy Chair)	Mr Wood
Tuesday 27 May 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor	Mr Garland Mr Wood
Wednesday 28 May 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor	Ms Butler Mr Garland Mr Wood
Tuesday 3 June 2025	Ms Armitage (Chair) Ms O'Connor	Ms Butler Mr Garland Mr Wood