



Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

Media Advisory

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Inquiry into the Establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office

A Long-Term Investment in Democracy

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts has tabled its report on the establishment of a permanent, independent Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for Tasmania, describing it as a significant step toward strengthening transparency, accountability and fiscal integrity in the State.

The Committee found that a Tasmanian PBO would substantially enhance Parliament's ability to scrutinise government finances, improve the quality of policy development, and provide Tasmanians with credible, independent information on the cost of election commitments.

Evidence gathered during the inquiry demonstrated strong support for such a body across the political spectrum, particularly from non-government parties and independent Members of Parliament, who currently have limited access to detailed fiscal analysis.

The Committee recommends that Tasmania adopt a permanent, full-time PBO, operating across the entire parliamentary cycle.

Under the Committee's recommendations, the PBO would:

- provide confidential policy costings and fiscal advice to Members of Parliament
- cost and monitor election commitments
- deliver post-election budget impact reports, and
- contribute to more informed public and parliamentary debate on fiscal policy.

The Committee emphasised that independence is critical to the success of any PBO. It recommends that the Parliamentary Budget Officer be:

- an independent officer of Parliament
- free from political direction
- supported by strong legislative protections for confidentiality
- empowered to publicly correct misrepresentations of its analysis

The Office would be expressly prohibited from commenting on the merits of policies, focusing solely on their financial and fiscal impacts.

The Committee concluded that establishing a PBO would deliver clear benefits for the community by:

- ensuring independent scrutiny of election promises
- improving transparency and accountability in government finances
- encouraging more responsible, evidence-based policymaking, and



- strengthening public trust and confidence in fiscal decision-making.

The Committee described the creation of a Tasmanian PBO as a ‘significant and lasting investment’ in the State’s democratic framework, ensuring that future policy decisions are better informed and more transparent.

The Members of the Committee are:

Legislative Council

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Bec Thomas MLC (Deputy Chair)

House of Assembly

Mr Roger Jaensch MP

Mr Marcus Vermey MP

Mr Dean Winter MP

Information regarding the inquiry is posted on the [Committee webpage](#).

ends

Further information: Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair) – 0419 879 524