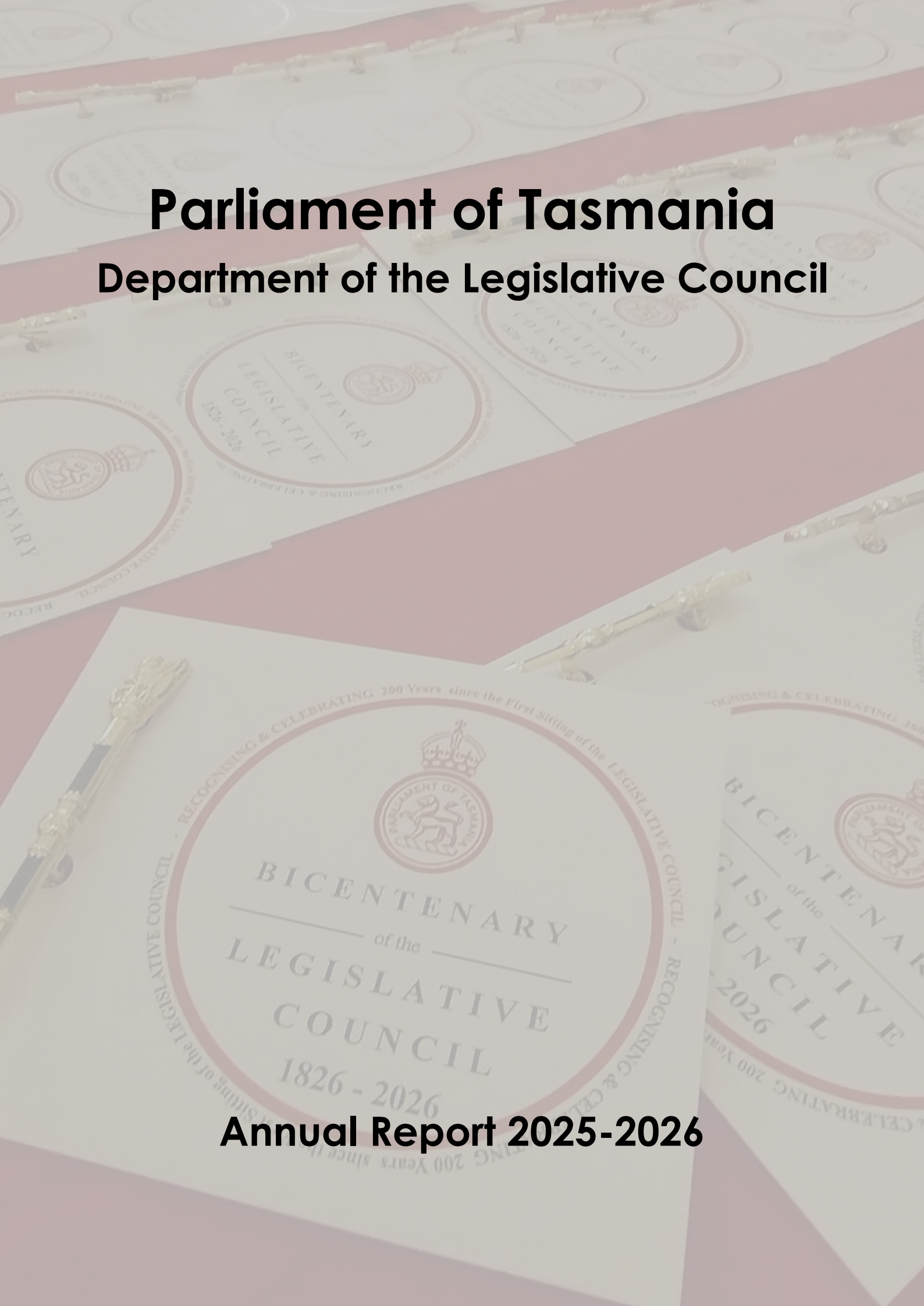
Parliament of Tasmania

Department of the Legislative Council



Annual Report 2025-2026

About this Report

This Report covers the activities of the Department of the Legislative Council of Tasmania for the reporting period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. It should be read in conjunction with the 2025-2026 Annual Report of the Department of Legislature-General, which provides corporate, risk management, compliance and other key support to the Department of the Legislative Council, as well as the Department of the House of Assembly in the operations of the Parliament.

The financial statements within this Report were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, relevant Treasurer's Instructions and other authoritative requirements.

This Report is available online at:

https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcannualreports.

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Cover image: Legislative Council Bicentenary Pins
Source: Legislative Council of Tasmania

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Message from the Clerk

It is a pleasure to present the Legislative Council's Annual Report for 2025-2026.

This reporting period began during a caretaker period following the prorogation of Parliament and the dissolution of the House of Assembly for a general election after a no confidence motion in the Premier in June 2025. The general election was held on 19 July 2025 and the 52nd Parliament was opened by Her Excellency's Commissioners, Hon Craig Farrell (President), Hon Tania Rattray and Hon Ruth Forrest on 19 August 2025. Following the formation of Government in the House of Assembly, three Liberal Members from the Council, Hon Jo Palmer, Hon Nick Duigan and Hon Kerry Vincent were appointed as Ministers and an independent Member, Hon Tania Rattray, was appointed as Leader for the Government.

Following the opening of a new parliamentary session, the end of the year was a busy period with the consideration of the Macquarie Point Stadium Order, motions in relation to members' salaries, a code of conduct for Members as well as a later than usual State budget and budget estimates for the 2025-2026 financial year. There was a second budget session in May 2026 for the 2026-2027 budget, resulting in two active parliamentary periods of debate and estimates scrutiny within the reporting period.

Member briefings, which are described in Appendix 6, continue to play a crucial role in the work of the Members of Legislative Council. Anecdotally, I would observe that the increase and engagement with briefings on sitting days has impacted on work hours. While sitting hours remain constant, adjournment times have become later. This has a direct impact on staff in the Council and across the Parliament. Late hours and fatigue management continue to be an area of risk and focus for me and the parliamentary leadership team.

In this reporting year, the Legislative Council celebrated its bicentenary, a significant event for any parliamentary democracy.

As Clerk I am also jointly responsible with the Clerk of the House of Assembly, Ms Laura Ross, for the administration of the Parliament, and we have continued our reforms across the parliament guided by shared purpose, vision and mission and values, as set out on page 13. We have been ably assisted by our Executive Director, Mr Todd Crawford, and have worked to contemporise work practices and to consolidate corporate and finance functions. As a result, this year's organisational chart looks different from last year with two key positions transferring to joint services, Ms Nicole Muller, Director of Corporate Services, and Mr Craig Thorp, Finance Officer. I would like to acknowledge their long-standing service to the Council and note their professionalism and positive attitude to the service to the whole of Parliament.

During the reporting period I also want to note the honour and privilege conferred on me by my fellow Australian Clerks who have elected me to represent the jurisdiction at the Society of Clerks at the Table in Commonwealth Parliaments.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Legislative Council staff for their behind-the-scenes work to ensure that parliamentary democracy functions as seamlessly as possible. I also wish to thank the Legislative Council Electorate staff, who are often the first

point of engagement for many Tasmanians with their local member. I thank our colleagues in the House of Assembly and Legislature-General, and recognise our reform work over the year to deliver services to support Members of Parliament in the discharge of their parliamentary duties.

C. L. Vickers
Clerk of the Legislative Council

Statistics Snapshot

Sitting Time		Bills	
189 hours across 39 days		27 Bills agreed to by both Houses	6 Bills returned to House of Assembly with Amendments
Average sitting[1] 5 hours 31 minutes	Longest sitting 13 hrs 42 mins	1 Bill not agreed to by the Council	1 Bill referred to a Committee

90 Briefings over 50 hours on 35 topics	350 documents Tabled	40 Substantive Motions	32 Divisions

Questions to Government	Petitions	
	4 conforming and 2 non-conforming	
224 without Notice 58 on Notice	Total signatures: 10,373	Largest petition: 5,096 signatures

Committees		
100 meetings	41 hearing days	32 Reports Tabled

[1] Excludes Quorum Calls and time spent in Briefings.

Overview of the Legislative Council

A Constituent part of the Parliament

The Legislative Council, together with the House of Assembly and Her Excellency the Governor, constitute the Parliament of Tasmania. Government is formed in the House of Assembly. The Legislative Council, the Upper House, is often described as a House of review with an independent character.

The Council has a number of roles including the following:

- to examine the merits of legislation and pass law;
- to authorise the raising of revenue and the expenditure of State monies; and
- inquiry, scrutiny and to provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day.

The activity of the Legislative Council is to a considerable extent demand-driven by the Government of the day, the Council itself, Committees and Members' electoral and associated responsibilities. The Department of the Legislative Council, which supports the operations of the Council, has no control over the number of Bills introduced, Committee inquiries held or any other decision or resolution as agreed by the Council.

The increase in the size of the House of Assembly following the 2024 State Election and increased Lower House crossbench influence continue to have a flow-on effect to the Legislative Council, with increased Chamber and Committee activity, and increasingly complex procedural matters arising in the course of proceedings.

Scrutiny of Executive

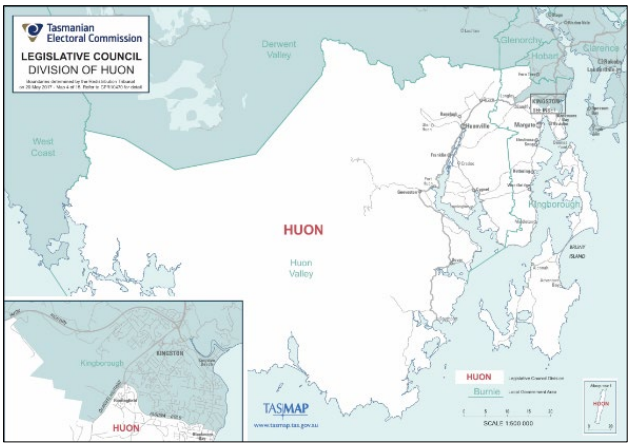
The role of the Legislative Council has expanded from being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself in the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government. This is achieved through a variety of means, both through Questions with or without Notice and Motions in the Chamber, as well as through the work of the Legislative Council's Committee system.

Council Elections

For Legislative Council elections, the State is divided into fifteen single Member electoral divisions. A full list of Members of the Legislative Council and their electorates, as of 30 June 2026, can be found in Appendix 1.

Elections are conducted in each of these electorates on a six-year periodic cycle. Elections for three Members are held in May one year, with elections for two Members held in May the following year and so on. There are never any general elections for the Council and the Council cannot be dissolved. More information on the periodic election cycle, including elections for upcoming years, can be found on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's website.

During this reporting period, periodic elections were held on Saturday 2 May 2026 for the Electorates of Huon and Rosevears.



© Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Electorate of Huon

The Electorate of Huon includes the Huon Valley municipal area and some parts of the Kingborough municipality, including Bruny Island.

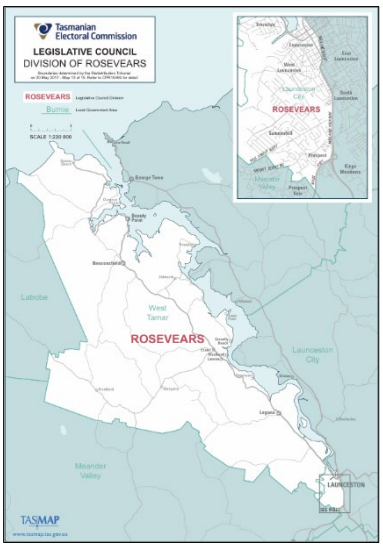
At the time the writs were issued for the holding of the periodic election, the Member for Huon was Hon Dean Harriss MLC, who was first elected on 7 May 2022.

Six candidates nominated for the 2026 periodic election for the Electorate of Huon. Following the provisional distribution of preferences Ms Clare Glade-Wright was declared as the new Member for Huon, with the declaration of the poll ceremony occurring on 11 May 2026. The new Member was sworn and subscribed to the code of conduct in the Council on 19 May 2026.

Electorate of Rosevears

The Electorate of Rosevears includes the municipal area of West Tamar and parts of the Launceston municipal area. At the time the writs were issued for the holding of the periodic election the Member for Rosevears was Hon Jo Palmer MLC, who was first elected on 1 August 2020.

Four candidates nominated for the 2026 periodic election for the Electorate of Rosevears. Following the distribution of preferences, Ms Palmer was declared as having been returned as the Member for Rosevears, with the declaration of the poll ceremony occurring on 13 May 2026.



© Tasmanian Electoral Commission

The Department of the Legislative Council

Officers of the Legislative Council

Hon Craig Farrell MLC, The President



The President is the principal office holder in the Legislative Council and is responsible for the maintenance of order in the Chamber during parliamentary sittings. The President is the representative of the Council in all matters, including dealings with the Governor and other dignitaries, and is responsible for conveying Bills which have been passed by the Parliament to the Governor for the Royal Assent.

The President is also responsible for the administration and smooth operation of the Legislative Council. He is a member of various committees which affect the running of Parliament and the maintenance of Parliament House and is responsible for the appointment of staff to the Department.

The President, Hon Craig Farrell MLC, was first elected in 2019 having represented the Electorate of Derwent since 2011. He was re-elected as President in 2021.

Catherine Vickers, Clerk of the Legislative Council



In a modern Parliament the Clerk performs a number of functions.

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the correct procedure is observed during the passage of legislation and may be called upon to advise the President on the interpretation of Standing Orders and Parliamentary practice. In addition, the Clerk is the head of the Department and ultimately responsible for both the staff of the Department as well as the overall effective, efficient and economical financial management of the Department's resources. In addition, the Clerk is responsible, together with the Clerk of the House of Assembly and supported by an Executive Director, for ensuring the effective administration and operation of the joint services of the Parliament.

Tim Mills, Deputy Clerk



The Clerk is assisted in their functions by the Deputy Clerk, who is expected to perform the functions of the Clerk of the Legislative Council in the Clerk's absence, or as directed.

Craig Muir, Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod



The Usher of the Black Rod, at the direction of the President, has responsibility for the maintenance of order and security in the Chamber and the Legislative Council Parliamentary precinct. Jointly with the Sergeant at Arms, the Usher is also responsible for the security of the broader Parliamentary precinct. As Clerk Assistant the position is responsible for leading the Council's Committee Secretariat.

Staff of the Department of the Legislative Council

Staff of the Department of the Legislative Council provide procedural, administrative and support services to assist the Members of the Legislative Council in performing their parliamentary duties in the Chamber, as members of parliamentary committees and as elected Members in their respective electorates.

The Council is also funded to provide staff and resources to support Members in their representative duties, including supporting them in their electorates. In the reporting period, an additional allocation of funds ($50,000) was provided to each Member to engage additional support to assist them in their electorate offices.

Clerk's Office



The Clerk's Office is responsible for the general management and oversight of the staff of the Department of the Legislative Council. The Office is also responsible for ensuring an accurate record of all proceedings and decisions of the Legislative Council are recorded. The Clerk, supported by staff, is also responsible for preparing the Bills that have passed both Houses of Parliament for the Royal Assent.

The Clerk's Office also provides procedural and related advice to the President, Chair of Committees and the Office of the Leader of Government Business, together with other elected Members. Advice provided focuses principally on the areas of parliamentary law, practice and procedures involving proceedings in the Chamber and, where required, the work of Committees.

Committee Secretariat

Committee Secretariat staff provide support and advice to both Legislative Council and Joint Committees regarding parliamentary law, practice and procedure, and assist the Chair and other committee members in the production of reports for tabling in Parliament.

During the conduct of Committee inquiries, staff of the Committee Secretariat spend a considerable amount of time on research, report writing and the management of ongoing inquiries. Committee Secretariat staff undertake extensive research, preparation of briefing notes, general administration, liaison with both the Executive Government, witnesses and specialist advisers.

Chamber Support Team

The Legislative Council Chamber Support Team exists to ensure the effective and efficient operational workings of the Chamber and to augment the broader administrative functions of the Legislative Council.



On sitting days this includes, but is not limited to, ensuring documentation such as Bills, Papers and amendments required by Members and Table Officers are correct and ready as needed. More broadly, the Chamber Support Team are responsible for the distribution, tracking and publication to the Parliament website of Bills, Parliamentary Papers and Tabled Papers.

Additionally, the Chamber Support Team provide administrative support to the Legislative Council Electorate Office staff as they assist Members undertaking their duties as elected representatives.

Electorate Office Staff

It is essential that Members of the Legislative Council have access to high quality administrative and personal support to enable them to discharge their responsibilities to their constituents. The Department of the Legislative Council fills this need of all Members in their electorates by providing Electorate Office staff for all Members of the Council.

The Legislative Council's Electorate Office staff are a highly skilled and professional group of parliamentary employees who not only support elected Members in the discharge of their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities but also provide important and valuable assistance to many people in the community. Electorate Office staff provide a range of supports to their Members, from assisting a Member's constituents with their enquiries, providing high level office and administrative support, to providing research support.

Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values

Purpose

To promote a fair and thriving democracy for the Tasmanian people by being custodians of an effective Parliament.

Vision

Setting the standard as an innovative and trusted Parliamentary administration.

Mission

Provide professional and impartial support to enable an effective and efficient service to the Tasmanian Parliament and the Community.

Values

Respect	We treat others with dignity and courtesy while valuing their contribution.
Integrity	We value honesty and transparency, and act ethically and impartially.
Trust	We build trust and feel confident in each other to behave in a professional manner.
Inclusivity	We embrace and value difference and diversity.
Empowerment	We enable our people to take ownership of their work, while recognising and celebrating achievement.
Collaboration	We value each other's skills and experiences, creating excellence by actively working together across the organisation.



Legislative Council Chamber

Strategic Objectives

The Department of the Legislative Council previously established a Corporate Plan for 2024-2027 that outlines the corporate objectives of the Department and sets out key actions and activities the Department will undertake in support of the Parliament of Tasmania's strategic objectives for 2024-2027.

During this reporting period the staff of the Department of the Legislative Council, often in cooperation with staff of other Departments, continued to work towards these objectives.

Parliament's Strategic Objectives	Department's Corporate Objectives
Support Members of Parliament to undertake their Parliamentary duties Ensuring that Members of the Tasmanian Parliament are supported to undertake their duties as Parliamentarians.	*Support Members of the Legislative Council* We ensure services provided to Members of the Legislative Council are of value and best support them to undertake their Parliamentary and representative roles and responsibilities.
Encourage community engagement with the Tasmanian Parliament Providing for clear and effective communication and engagement between the community and Parliament.	*Improve community engagement and information* We provide clear and accurate information for the benefit of the community and their understanding of the role of the Legislative Council, its Committees and Members.
Maintain a strong and independent Parliament Assuring institutional integrity so as to ensure Parliament can continue to play its role in Tasmania's democracy.	*Promote a strong and independent Legislative Council* We model best practice in ensuring we are accountable and responsible and make the most effective use of available resources. We promote the important review and oversight role of the Legislative Council and its Committees.
Enhance workforce capability Creating an inspiring culture, empowering the Parliament's employees and providing a safe and respectful workplace.	*Empower staff of the Department of the Legislative Council* We foster an environment that encourages motivation and provides opportunities for professional and personal growth.
Drive modernisation of the Tasmanian Parliament Adopting innovation, digitisation and modern technology and providing Members, staff and visitors with fit for purpose facilities that align with contemporary standards.	*Modernise our operations* We embrace opportunities to contemporise and update our practices and procedures.

Chamber and Related Matters

Briefings

Briefings for Members, for the most part arranged by the Leader for Government Business, have become one of the methods by which Members of the Council inform themselves of various matters being actioned by the Government or proposed Bills before the Parliament.



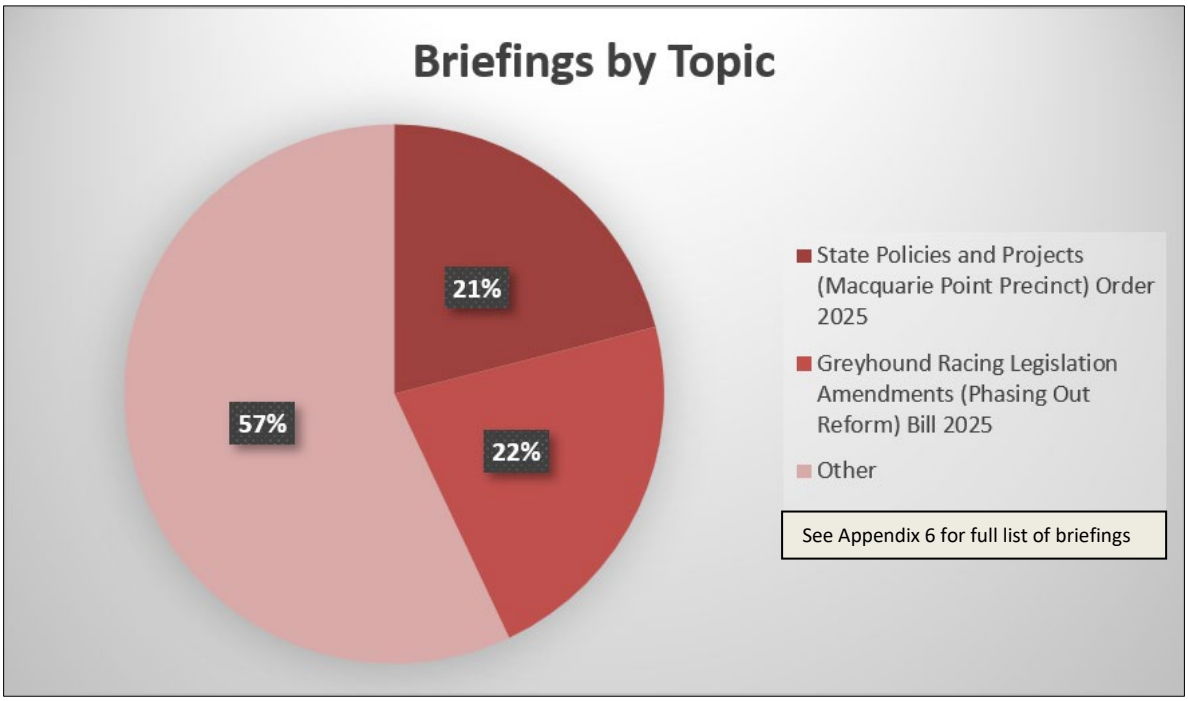
Briefings, although not formally parliamentary proceedings, have developed as a practice due to two factors: the political composition of the Legislative Council which, until recently, had a majority of independent Members; and the increased complexity of legislation. Due to the absence of any official caucusing by independent Members, there is often no consensus view developed prior to the debate in the Chamber. As a result, through the 1990s, Government briefings developed into an accepted mechanism to assist Members to inform themselves of complex or technical legal, policy and regulatory matters, in particular law reform initiatives.

Members are briefed by the various parties involved or interested in the issue; generally, this will include Ministers and their Government departments, professional associations, non-government organisations and service providers, grassroots and lobby groups and sometimes private individuals. Through these forums, Members can obtain information in an effective and efficient manner. Briefings have their advantages such as informality and the opportunity for frank discussions between Members and various presenters, expediting the passage of legislation, as well as clarifying aspects of a Bill or a proposal.

While Briefings offer these advantages, there are a number of aspects of the Briefings process which should be noted. Firstly, briefings may not be considered as part of the proceedings in Parliament and may not therefore be protected by parliamentary privilege. Secondly, they are conducted outside of the Chamber and accordingly are not formally recorded. This requires Members to be vigilant in ensuring any undertakings or explanations of the effect of clauses in legislation are noted and reaffirmed in the official debate in the Chamber.

Briefings can sometimes take up a significant portion of a sitting day. Though Briefings occur prior to the sitting of the Council commencing for the day, on occasion sittings will be suspended to allow for unfinished Briefings to be completed, or where Members have requested further information prior to or even during, consideration of a Bill or other matter. As noted in the Message from the Clerk at the beginning of this report, this has resulted in later adjournment and finishing times.

Briefings, although not compulsory, are well attended by Members. The use of Briefings is unlikely to abate and continues to provide a valuable source of information to all Members in respect of Bills and other matters that may be the subject of substantive debate or community interest. This was evident in this reporting period with two matters, the *State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025* and the *Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025,* being a significant focus of the schedule.



Legislative Council Briefing Topics

A list of Briefings attended by Members of the Legislative Council during this reporting period can be found in Appendix 6.

Chamber Operations

Matters of Interest

While all items of business before the Legislative Council are important, some items in 2025-26 drew interest from the Tasmanian community, including:

Disallowance motion in relation to Members' salaries

In September 2025, following a determination by the Tasmanian Industrial Commission in relation to Members' salaries, motions were moved by the Government in each House to disallow the 22% pay rise. The *Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012* provides that a determination, contained in a tabled report comes into effect on the day specified in the determination, unless the determination is disallowed by both Houses.

While the House of Assembly voted with the Government's disallowance motion (on Division 19–14) the Legislative Council ultimately voted against the motion. Ten Members spoke to the motion for a total of just over 75 minutes with the motion negatived (on Division 4-10). With the two Houses in disagreement, the motion failed and the pay rise came into effect.

Members' Code of Conduct, Establishment of an Independent Complaints Commissioner (ICC) and Statement on Alcohol and Other Drugs

In late November 2025, the *Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight (JSCWCO) Interim Report* was Tabled recommending the Houses adopt a new Members' Code of Conduct, agree to a statement on the use and risks of alcohol and other drugs, and establish an Independent Complaints Commissioner (ICC) to deal with complaints in relation to Members of Parliament.

The Legislative Council on 2 December 2025, and the House of Assembly on 3 December 2025, respectively Resolved to:

1. adopt a new Code of Conduct for Members which all new and returning Members will be required to subscribe to;
2. agree to a Members' Statement on Alcohol and Other Drugs; and
3. establish an Independent Complaints Commissioner (and Deputy ICC) to investigate complaints relating to an allegation that a member has breached the enforceable standards set out in the Code of Conduct.

The Resolutions are available at www.parliament.tas.gov.au and are subject to review by the Privileges Committee of each House.

Macquarie Point Stadium Order

A major matter considered by the Parliament was the *State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025* providing authority for the construction of the Australian Football League (AFL) stadium in Hobart. Under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993,* both Houses were required to approve the Order. The provisions of the Order could not be amended; the Houses could only vote for or against approval. Prior to the

substantive debate on the Order, the Council Resolved that in addition to debate on the Question that the Order be agreed, the Council would resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider clauses and items in the schedule in a forensic manner with each Member having three calls on each clause or item under consideration. This allowed Members to ask questions on specific clauses and items but not vote on the clauses or items. While there was no scope to amend or disagree with any clause in the Order, it provided a thorough means of scrutinising the Order. At the conclusion, the question was put that the Council approve the Order and the Council divided (Ayes 9 and Noes 5) and the question passed in the affirmative.

The debate was 21 hours long (13 hours on the substantive question and 8 hours in the committee stage), over 3 and 4 December 2025. It was the subject of enormous media and public interest with the proceedings on 4 December being broadcast at a local hotel (across the road from Parliament) for patrons and a live Australian Broadcasting Corporation news feed.

Suspension of Standing Orders relating to the Passage of Bills

The Council has mechanisms to suspend Standing Orders to deal with Bills without delay and the usual passage of time required for the Bill to mature i.e. in circumstances that may be extraordinary or urgent. In this reporting period there have been five suspensions of Standing Orders to progress the passage of Bills. One such suspension allowed the *Petroleum Reporting (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026,* to pass through all stages, including the first and second readings, consideration in committee, amendment and being returned to the House of Assembly for concurrence. Consideration commenced at 9.28 pm on the evening of 26 March 2026 and concluded at 1.56 am on 27 March 2026.

Questions to the Government

In the 2025-2026 financial year, 224 questions were asked without notice during Question Time. 52 questions (23%) were put to the Leader for the Government, but most questions (172 or 77%) were put directly to portfolio Ministers. In addition, there were 58 questions asked on notice, more than double the number asked in the previous year (see Appendix 5).



Legislative Council Chamber

Committee Operations

Members of the Legislative Council participate both in Legislative Council Committees, as well as in Joint Committees made up of Members from both the Council and the House of Assembly.

Legislative Council Committees are supported by staff from the Legislative Council's Committee Secretariat, with support for the Parliament's Joint Committees shared between Committee Secretariat staff of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly.

The increase in size of the House of Assembly following the 2024 State Election, together with the subsequent change in composition of the membership of that House, has seen both an increase in the activity of existing Committees, as well as support for the creation of additional Joint Committees.

This increase in activity by the Parliament's committees has an impact not just on the staff of the Committee Secretariat but also sees an increased demand on the services of Hansard, broadcasting, the Parliamentary Research Service as well as other supports provided by the Legislature-General.

Further information regarding the Legislative Council Committees and Joint Committees, including membership, terms of reference and activities undertaken during the reporting period can be found on their respective webpages on the Parliament of Tasmania's website.[2]



Parliament of Tasmania Committee Room

[2] See 'Parliamentary Committees', https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees

Legislative Council Committees

Government Administration Committees

Since 2010, at the beginning of each Parliament, the Legislative Council has established two sessional Committees of its Members across a split of Government administration portfolios. These Sessional Committees can both receive referrals from the Council as well as conduct own-motion inquiries. The Committees are empowered to inquire into and report on administration, processes, practices and conduct of any department, agency, Government Business Enterprise, State-owned Company, or other entity relating to portfolios allocated to the respective Committees.

Government Administration Committee A Inquiries

Financial and Operational Performance of the Department of Health

On 17 December 2025, the Committee resolved to commence an inquiry into the financial and operational performance of the Department of Health.

Written submissions closed on 13 March 2026 and five submissions were received. Public hearings were held on 27 March, and 17 and 23 April 2026.

The Inquiry is ongoing.

Government Administration Committee B

During the 2025-26 financial year, Government Administration Committee B did not conduct any inquiries.

Budget Estimates Committees

Since 1999, the Legislative Council has established Estimates Committees to inquire into Budget Papers and Appropriation Bills. The holding of Budget Estimates Committee hearings for the 2025-2026 financial year was delayed due to the prorogation of Parliament and dissolution of the House of Assembly for a State Election in June 2025. On 4 November 2025, the Legislative Council agreed to the establishment of two Budget Estimates Committees to report into proposed expenditures contained in the *2025-2026 Budget Papers and Appropriation Bills 2025 (No. 1 and No. 2)* and reported on 4 December 2025.

On 19 May 2026, the Legislative Council agreed to the establishment of two Budget Estimates Committees to report into proposed expenditures contained in the *2026-2027 Budget Papers and Appropriation Bills 2026 (No. 1 and No. 2)* and reported on 19 June 2026.

Budget Estimates Committee A (2025)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 17 to 20 November 2025 into the portfolios then held by Hon Eric Abetz MP, Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Hon Nick Duigan MLC, Hon Bridget Archer MP and Hon Kerry Vincent MLC.

Budget Estimates Committee B (2025)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 17 to 20 November 2025 into the portfolios then held by Hon Guy Barnett MP, Hon Gavin Pearce MP, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Hon Jane Howlett MP, Hon Felix Ellis MP and Hon Jo Palmer MLC.

Budget Estimates Committee A (2026)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 1 June to 4 June 2026 into the portfolios then held by Hon Eric Abetz MP, Hon Nick Duigan MLC, Hon Bridget Archer MP and Hon Kerry Vincent MLC. The Committee reported on 19 June 2026.

Budget Estimates Committee B (2026)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 1 June to 4 June 2026 into the portfolios then held by Hon Guy Barnett MP, Hon Gavin Pearce MP, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Hon Jane Howlett MP, Hon Felix Ellis MP and Hon Jo Palmer MLC and reported on 19 June 2026.

Government Business Scrutiny Committees

Since 1999, the Legislative Council has established Government Scrutiny Committees. Government businesses and State-owned companies appear before the Council's Government Business Scrutiny Committees on a biennial basis, with approximately half of these companies appearing in any given year. During this reporting period the Government Business Scrutiny Committees were established on 23 September 2025 and reported on 28 January 2026.

Government Business Scrutiny Committee A

On 24 November 2025, Committee A met and inquired into TT Line Company Pty Ltd, Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks Pty Ltd.

Government Business Scrutiny Committee B

On 25 November 2025, Committee B met and inquired into Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd and The Public Trustee.

Legislative Council Select Committee into Integrated Assessment Report

On 4 November 2025, the Legislative Council established a Select Committee to examine the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Integrated Assessment Report before debating the Macquarie Point Multipurpose Stadium Order on 3 December 2025.

On 27 November 2025, the eleven-member Committee held a hearing to receive evidence from the authors of the Report, the Tasmanian Planning Commission's independent expert assessment panel.

The Committee's report was tabled the following day, on 28 November 2025.

Other Legislative Council Committees

In addition to these Committees, the Legislative Council has two further Committees, which relate to Privileges and Standing Orders. The role of the Committee of Privileges is to examine and report to the Council with respect to breaches of parliamentary privilege. The Standing Orders Committee is responsible for the Standing Orders and may inquire into and make recommendations as to any changes.

The Standing Orders Committee met on two occasions, while the Privileges Committee did not meet during this reporting period.

Joint Committees

Joint Committees are made up of Members from both Houses. These Committees can either be established by statute or by the agreement of both Houses.

Secretariat support for these Committees is shared between the two Houses of Parliament.

Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts is a Joint Committee established by the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*. It comprises three Members from each House and is supported by the Secretariat from the Legislative Council.

The Committee's function is to inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances. The Committee may inquire into and report on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is established by *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. It comprises three Members from the House of Assembly and two Members from the Legislative Council. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the House of Assembly.

The functions of the Committee are set out in section 15 of the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. Its primary function is to report on proposed public works which are estimated to cost more than the statutory monetary threshold for construction works and works on roads and bridges having regard to public value and expediency of the proposed work.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation is established by the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1969*. The Committee is comprised of three Members from each House. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the Legislative Council.

The Committee's functions are to examine every regulation made to ensure it is made in accordance with power of the principal Act and that the necessary regulation-making processes have been complied with, in that certain matters such as the impact of the

regulation on personal rights and liberties and the effects on competition and the economy have been considered in the subordinate legislation making process.

Joint Standing Committee on Integrity

The *Integrity Commission Act 2009* establishes the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity consisting of three Members from each House. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the House of Assembly.

The Joint Standing Committee on Integrity monitors and reviews the performance of the Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman and the Custodial Inspector and reports to both Houses on any matters relevant to those entities. The Committee may refer matters to the Integrity Commission and provide advice and guidance, but it cannot undertake its own investigations into complaints that the Integrity Commission is investigating, review decisions about investigations or inquiries or make recommendations about investigations or inquiries.

Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality

In June 2022, both Houses agreed to the establishment of a Joint Gender and Equality Committee to inquire into and report upon a range of matters related to gender and equality. This Committee can have matters referred to it by either House, and also conduct own-motion inquiries.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the 52nd Parliament. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the House of Assembly.

Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight

In September 2022, the Houses agreed to the establishment of the Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight. This Committee is tasked with overseeing the implementation of recommendations contained in the *Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services*.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the 52nd Parliament. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the Legislative Council.

Joint Sessional Committee on Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry

In June 2024, both Houses resolved that a Joint Sessional Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon matters related to the Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the 52nd Parliament. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the Legislative Council.

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Following the 2024 State Election, both Houses agreed to the establishment of a Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. The remit of this Committee is to inquire into matters relating to Tasmania's electoral laws, as well as any aspects of the administration, operation and conduct of the 2024 General Election of the House of Assembly and periodic election of Members of the Legislative Council.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the 52nd Parliament. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the House of Assembly.

Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters

In June 2024, the Houses agreed to the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters to inquire into and report upon a range of matters related to energy in Tasmania.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the 52nd Parliament. The Committee is supported by the Secretariat from the House of Assembly.

Other Joint Committees

Two Joint Standing Sessional Committees are established under the Standing Orders of both Houses. These are the House Committee, which manages and controls the building of the Parliament, the Dining Room and the grounds of Parliament House, and the Library Committee.



Committee Room Table

Bicentenary of the Legislative Council

The Tasmanian Legislative Council marks its Bicentenary in 2026. This significant anniversary presents an opportunity to reflect on the Council's rich and complex history and the generations of Tasmanians who have contributed to its work, while also looking to the future.

While the Legislative Council has evolved from a colonial governing body, it is important to acknowledge that its origins were conceived in a time of invasion, dispossession and violence against Aboriginal peoples resulting in a profound disruption to Aboriginal law, traditions and society. The Council continues to meet on Aboriginal land and recognises the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders as first inhabitants and continuing custodians of the land on which the Council meets. This should not be forgotten and the Council administration is committed to truth telling and strengthening relationships and trust between Aboriginal people and the institution.

Bicentennial Reception at Government House

On 18 May 2026, Honourable Barbara Baker AC, former Governor of Tasmania, hosted a reception to mark the bicentenary of the Legislative Council and delivered a speech on the occasion:

> […] The Legislative Council story begins, formally, on 17 July 1825, when King George IV signed a warrant separating Van Diemen's Land from New South Wales. Governor Darling of New South Wales proclaimed this warrant in Hobart Town on 3 December that year. A single-chamber Legislative Council was created, comprising six male nominees and the Lieutenant-Governor, George Arthur. On 12 April 1826, the Council sat together for the first time, in private behind closed doors, in old Government House.
>
> Two hundred years on, may we reflect on those six men, in a room in a colonial outpost on the far edge of the British Empire. They enacted laws that were required to be consistent with the laws of England and to govern a place in which none of them had been born and over people who had no say.
>
> We know that the Council's first decades were neither democratic nor representative in any modern sense. The early Lieutenant-Governors, most famously, George Arthur, had no appetite for elected representation.
>
> Change came from a slow build of pressure from free settlers and one moment of nerve. In 1845, most of the eight non-official members of the now 15 nominee Council members walked out of the chamber rather than vote for taxes to support the convict system. The Lieutenant-Governor was denied his quorum. The MLCs who walked out, immediately became local heroes and were known as "the Patriotic Six." One of them, Richard Dry, went on to become the first Tasmanian-born Speaker of the Legislative Council, and later, the first Tasmanian-born Premier.

The Lieutenant-Governor sacked "the Patriotic Six" and appointed substitute Councillors. Two years later, on instructions from London, they were reinstated.

In 1856, with the advent of responsible government, the Legislative Council was incorporated as part of the new bicameral Parliament, and 15 members were elected. At this time, the title of the Presiding Officer changed, from Speaker to President.

The Council that emerged has developed a character of its own. It sat with longer terms than the Assembly. It retains an independent tradition. It has a history of periodic, and sometimes spectacular, disagreements with the Lower House. Most notably, that was demonstrated in the constitutional crisis of 1924. Then, Premier Joseph Lyons could not get his budget through the Council. The Administrator, Sir Herbert Nicholls, gave Royal Assent without it. This led to the formation of a Joint Select Committee, which laid down Money Bill principles.

There have been welcome changes in the Legislative Council, although it took some time to elect a woman. It was not until May 1948 that Margaret McIntyre became the first woman elected to the Tasmanian Parliament in the Legislative Council for the seat of Cornwall. Tragically, she was killed in an aeroplane crash. Her time in office was brief as she sat for only nine days.

In 2008, Sue Smith became the first woman elected President of the Council.

In May 2019, for the first time, women made up the majority of its Members. Today, nine women are Members. […]

President's Statement

On 24 June 2026, the President delivered a statement to the Legislative Council:

[…] The Council's history mirrors Tasmania's wider democratic development - from its beginnings as an appointed advisory body, through the expansion of representative government, to its present role as a fully elected and representative House of review.

The Council's strengths lie both in its traditions and continuity, and its capacity to adapt. While the challenges facing our society have changed, the fundamental purpose of the Legislative Council remains constant: to represent Tasmania's diverse communities, to robustly review and scrutinise legislation, and to safeguard the principles of responsible government.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to acknowledge the individuals who have served within it over the past 200 years - members, officers and staff - whose commitment has sustained its work over generations. Their contribution forms a

legacy of dedication, integrity and civic responsibility that continues to guide the Council today.

As we look to the future, in an increasingly complex and fast-moving world, the need for thoughtful deliberation, careful scrutiny and independent review is as important as ever. The Council will continue to uphold these principles in the service of all Tasmanians.



President's Chair

Opening of the 52nd Parliament of Tasmania

On 19 August 2025, the 52nd Parliament of Tasmania was opened by Commission, Her Excellency's Commissioners being Hon Craig Farrell MLC, Hon Tania Rattray MLC and Hon Ruth Forrest MLC, appointed by Letters Patent.

Following the reading of a Proclamation by the Clerk of the Council, the Senior Commissioner, Hon Craig Farrell MLC, commanded the Usher of the Black Rod to let the Members of the House of Assembly know "Her Excellency's Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in the Council to hear the Commission read".

With Members of the House of Assembly joining Honourable Members of the Legislative Council in the Council Chamber, the Clerk of the Council read the Letters Patent and the Senior Commissioner declared open the 1st Session of the 52nd Parliament.

Prior to formal proceedings, Mr Dewayne Everettsmith, an Aboriginal man whose cultural identity and values are from both the Palawa people of Tasmania and the Gunai/Kurnai people of Victoria, led a cultural reflection. Members were provided an opportunity to gather and reflect on the importance of leadership, gratitude and active listening. This engagement continues the recognition dialogue between the Department of the Legislative Council and the Aboriginal community.







Opening of 52nd Parliament of Tasmania

Departmental Projects, Programs and Outreach

Visits to the Chamber

Visitors to Parliament in general, and more specifically the Legislative Council, are interested in observing proceedings, viewing the Chamber and appreciating the history of the building. The Parliamentary Education Office conducts the majority of the visits, which largely consist of secondary and primary school groups. The work undertaken by the Parliamentary Education Office and its staff, as well as staff of Legislative Council is acknowledged and appreciated by Members.

The majority of other groups and visitors who visit the Parliament do so when the Houses are in session giving them a valuable insight into the debating activity that occurs on the Floor of both places.

Official Visitors to the Legislative Council

During this reporting period the President received the following official visitors:

12 August 2025	Mrs Ingrid Dahl-Madsen	Ambassador of Denmark
16 September 2025	Dr Julie Sunday	High Commissioner for Canada
16 June 2026	Mr Davaasuren Damdinsuren	Ambassador of Mongolia

Inter-Parliamentary Relations

In this reporting period, the Tasmanian and Samoan Parliaments continued their ongoing twinning relationship under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

In March 2026, the Parliament of Tasmania welcomed a Samoan Delegation that included the Speaker, Members and Parliamentary Officers from the Samoan Legislative Assembly. The delegation attended and participated in a five-day program which included ceremonial, cultural, social, and learning and development activities.

The program for delegates also included social and cultural engagements, bringing Samoan and Tasmanian cultures together. The Tasmanian Aboriginal group, Pakana Kanaplila, delivered a moving welcome to country statement, accompanied by a dance performance. A local Samoan Cultural Collective, based in Southern Tasmania, sang and danced during the welcome event. In addition, a formal Fia Fia night was held for delegates and an official visit to Government House was conducted, hosted by Her Excellency the Governor, Honourable Barbara Baker AC.

Parliamentary law, practice and procedure were examined in sessions on parliamentary committees, legislation making, and the relationship between the legislature and the courts. Delegates had opportunities to observe parliamentary processes and compare practices with those in their Parliament, and to speak to Members directly about their experiences. In addition to sessions regarding the work of the Houses, the delegation also met with the Solicitor General, Parliamentary Counsel, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, and representatives of parliamentary corporate services to discuss a range of matters including governance, Member services, parliamentary administration and digital transformation.

Professional Development

ANZACATT Professional Development Seminar

The purpose of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table (ANZACATT) is to advance the professional development of members and to enable them and other staff of Parliaments in Australia and New Zealand to expand their knowledge of the foundations and practices of parliamentary systems and parliamentary procedure, as well as the administrative practices essential to the functioning and administration of Parliament. Each year ANZACATT delivers a professional development seminar. The New South Wales Parliament hosted the professional development seminar in January 2026. The theme of this year's conference was Preserving, Strengthening and Promoting Democracy. Former High Court Justice Mr Michael Kirby AC CMG opened the conference.

Representatives from the Legislative Council joined over 90 colleagues from jurisdictions from across Australia and NZ, other Australian Parliaments, as well as a range of overseas Parliaments and legislatures, for three days of panels, presentations and discussions to share their learning and experience of serving democracy. Topics included the relationship between Parliament and the Courts, the role of Parliamentary Committees in building a resilient democracy and community engagement, modernisation and emerging technologies, particularly how modernisations and Artificial Intelligence (AI), are transforming public sector workplaces, impacting parliamentary processes, strengthening transparency, and enhancing efficiency for the future of governance.

Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG)

The Parliament of South Australia was the host for the annual conference of the Australian Study of Parliament Group for 2025. Whereas ANZACATT is an association of parliamentary staff and focusses on professional development, ASPG's membership consists of parliamentarians, parliamentary officers, academics, teachers, journalists and students, and is focused on encouraging and stimulating research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions.

The theme of this year's ASPG conference was Modern Parliaments: Changing Roles, Expectations & Challenges. Staff from the Parliament of Tasmania joined other ASPG members to hear from a range of highly qualified speakers. Of particular interest were sessions on how to harness AI and other technologies to engage with the public, manage

workload and modernise parliamentary procedures. Learnings from this conference will help inform the Parliament of Tasmania's approach to this challenge.

Electorate Office Staff Annual Conference

The Legislative Council's Electorate Office staff fulfil a crucial role in supporting their Members and play an important function as a link between the community and their elected representative. The annual Electorate Office staff conference provides an opportunity for staff based around Tasmania to gather and hear from a range of speakers.

This year the staff met at the Salamanca Inn Hotel on 24 and 25 November 2025. Among other activities, Electorate Officers participated in a Preventing Vicarious Trauma professional development seminar, delivered by Lifeline. The timing of this year's Conference also enabled Electorate Officer staff to observe Government Business Scrutiny Committee hearings in Parliament House.

Appendices



Appendix 1 – Members of the Legislative Council

Members of the Legislative Council as at 30 June 2026

Member	Electorate	Party
Armitage, Hon Rosemary Lois *First Deputy Chair of Committees*	Launceston	Independent
Duigan, Hon Nicholas (Nick) John Henry *Minister for Energy and Renewables* *Minister for Parks and Heritage* *Minister for Sport*	Windermere	Liberal Party
Edmunds, Hon Luke Matthew	Pembroke	Australian Labor Party
Farrell, Hon Craig Maxwell *President*	Derwent	Australian Labor Party
Forrest, Hon Ruth Jane *Deputy President and Chair of Committees*	Murchison	Independent
Gaffney, Hon Michael (Mike) Victor	Mersey	Independent
Hiscutt, Hon Casey Keith	Montgomery	Independent
Glade-Wright, Hon Clare	Huon	Independent
Lovell, Hon Sarah Elizabeth	Rumney	Australian Labor Party
O'Connor, Hon Cassandra (Cassy) Stanwell	Hobart	Tasmanian Greens
Palmer, Hon Joanne (Jo) Lesley *Minister for Education* *Minister for Children and Youth* *Minister for Disability Services* *Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence*	Rosevears	Liberal Party
Rattray, Hon Tania Verene *Leader for Government Business*	McIntyre	Independent
Thomas, Hon Rebecca (Bec) Jane *Second Deputy Chair of Committees*	Elwick	Independent
Vincent, Hon Kerry John *Minister for Infrastructure and Transport* *Minister for Local Government* *Minister for Housing and Planning*	Prosser	Liberal Party
Webb, Hon Megan (Meg) Therese *Third Deputy Chair of Committees*	Nelson	Independent

Appendix 2 – Disclosure of Interests

The *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996* establishes a Register of Interests of Members in each House. The Register contains information on the pecuniary, property, gifts and other interests Members may have on an annual basis. New Members are required to lodge a primary return within three months of taking an oath of allegiance or affirmation of office.

On 19 August 2025, in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996,* the Clerk tabled from the Register of Members' Interests for 2024-2025, the Primary Returns of the Member for Montgomery.

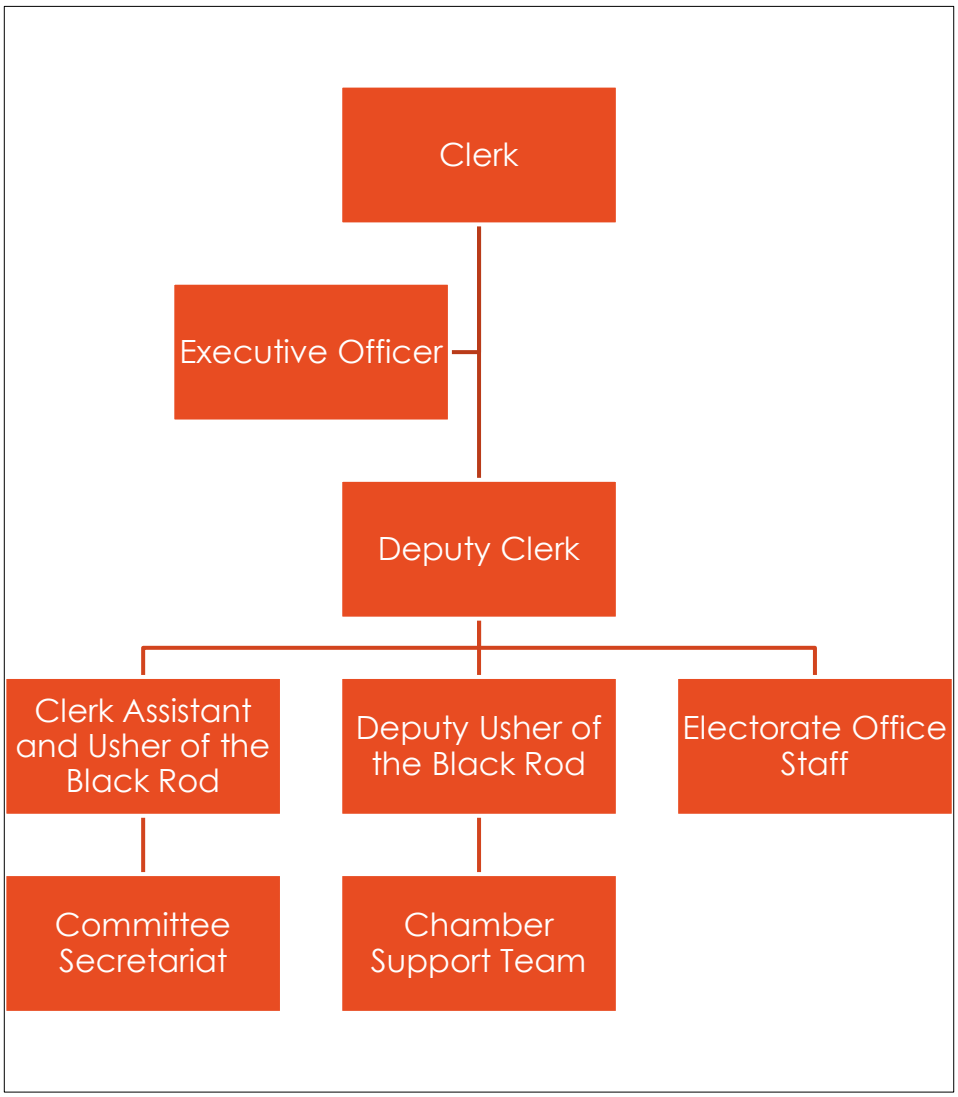
On 4 November 2025 in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996,* the Clerk tabled from the Register of Members' Interests for 2024-2025, the Annual Returns for the electorates of Derwent, Elwick, Hobart, Huon, Launceston, McIntyre, Mersey, Murchison, Nelson, Pembroke, Prosser, Rosevears, Rumney and Windermere.

All Returns once Tabled are published on the Parliament's website at:

https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcmembersinterests.

Appendix 3 – The Department's Organisational Structure, Governance and Office Roles

Organisational structure as at 30 June 2026



Appendix 4 – Compliance

Personal Information Protection Act 2004

The Department of the Legislative Council is committed to the protection of a person's privacy in the way the Department collects, uses or discloses personal information. When dealing with personal and sensitive information, the Department does so in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

No requests to access or amend personal information were received during the reporting period.

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002

It is a requirement for the Department of the Legislative Council to comply with the reporting requirements of section 86 of the above Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002.

Notwithstanding that the Legislative Council did not receive any disclosures or referred public interest disclosures or determined, referred or investigated any public interest disclosures, it is still mandatory to list the reporting categories detailed below.

The number and types of disclosures made to the relevant public body during the year and the number of disclosures determined to be a public interest disclosure.	None
The number of disclosures determined by the relevant public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate.	None
The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters that the relevant public body has declined to investigate during the year.	None
The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation.	None
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the relevant public body.	None

Right to Information Act 2009

The Legislative Council, as a constituent part of the Parliament, is excluded from the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* by section 6 of that Act, unless the information relates to the administration of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council received two requests under the *Right to Information Act 2009* during the reporting period.

Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016

Superannuation Certification

I, Catherine Vickers, Clerk of the Legislative Council, hereby certify that the Legislative Council has met its obligations under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* (Cth).



Catherine Vickers
Clerk of the Legislative Council
26 October 2026

Appendix 5 – Selected statistics relating to sittings of the Legislative Council

		2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Sitting days		39 days	44 days	40 days	44 days
Hours sat	Total	189 hours	209 hours	137 hours	192 hours
	On Government Business	114 hours	114 hours	87 hours	137 hours
	On Private Members Business	75 hours	95 hours	50 hours	55 hours
Briefings	Total hours	50 hours	43 hours	63 hours	30 hours
	Number [a]	35	49	41	30
Papers tabled		350	372	298	393
Questions	On Notice	58	24	53	39
	Without Notice [b]	224	289	170	266
Bills	Received from the House	42	45	36	47
	Introduced in the Council	2	2	0	0
	Passed without amendment	21	31	16	24
	Passed with amendment	6	11	10	7
	Defeated	1	3	0	0
	Lapsed	0	12	3	0
Divisions		32	37	26	59
Petitions presented [c]		6	4	1	4
Signatories to petitions [c]		10,373	12,565	163	6,710
Substantive General Motions		40	44	29	41
Disallowance Motions		0	1	0	0
Notices of Motion processed [d]		28	35		
Special Interest Matters collated [d]		46	49		
Pages of Bills proofread for Royal Assent [d]		664	1243		
Matters of Public Importance (MPI)[d]		1	0		

a. 2025-2026 used a different counting methodology
b. Does not include supplementary questions
c. Includes non-conforming petitions
d. Counting commenced in 2024-2025

Appendix 6 – Legislative Council Briefing Topics

What follows is a list of topics, in alphabetical order, on which Members of the Legislative Council received Briefings during the 2025-2026 reporting period. Briefings can include presentations from a variety of sources, including government representatives, community groups and other relevant stakeholders.

2026-2027 Tasmanian Budget Papers
Budget Accountability & Oversight Committee Bill 2025
Building Amendment Bill 2026
Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025
Commission of Inquiry – Susan Neill-Fraser Conviction
Commissions of Inquiry Amendment (Private Sessions Information) Bill 2025
Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Amendment Bill
Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Amendment Bill 2026
Electoral Amendment Bill 2025
Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2025
First Home Owner Grant Amendment Bill 2026
Government Business (Sale Reforms) Bill 2025
Government Business Governance Reforms Bill 2025
Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd (Alternative Application Period) Bill 2026
Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025
Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2026
Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025
Justice Miscellaneous (Explosives Offences) Bill 2025
Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026
Macquarie Point Master Plan
Mt Lyell Acid Drainage Reduction (Repeal) Bill 2025
Occupational Licensing Amendment Bill 2026
Petroleum Reporting (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2026
Poisons Amendment (Interstate Prescriptions) Bill 2025
Police Offences Amendment (Increased Penalties for Damage to Tasmanian War Memorials) Bill 2026
Public Accounts Committee Amendment Bill 2025
Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2026
Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Bill 2025
Residential Parks Bill 2026
Residential Tenancy Amendment (Pets) Bill 2025
Sentencing Amendment (Aggravating Factors) Bill 2025
State Policies and Projects (Macquarie Point Precinct) Order 2025
Taxation and Related Legislation (First Home Owner and Payroll Relief) Bill 2025
Terrorism Legislation (Extension) Bill 2025
University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2025

Appendix 7 – Committee Activity

Selected statistics for Committees supported by the Secretariat of the Legislative Council.

Committee		Deliberative meetings [a.]	Hearing days [b.]	Reports tabled
Legislative Council Committees				
	Integrated Assessment Report (Select Committee)	3	1	1
	Government Administration Committee A (Select Committee)	9	3	0
	Government Administration Committee B (Select Committee)	0	0	0
	Estimates Committee A (2025) (Select Committee)	2	4	5
	Estimates Committee B (2025) (Select Committee)	2	4	6
	Estimates Committee A (2026) (Select Committee)	2	4	4
	Estimates Committee B (2026) (Select Committee)	2	4	4
	Government Business Scrutiny Committee A (Select Committee)	4	1	1
	Government Business Scrutiny Committee B (Select Committee)	3	1	1
	Standing Orders Committee (Standing Sessional Committee)	2	0	0
Joint Committees	Public Accounts Committee (Standing Statutory Committee)	34	14	6
	Subordinate Legislation Committee (Standing Statutory Committee)	8	0 [c.]	1
	Commission of Inquiry Committee (Sessional Committee)	21	5	2
	Workplace Culture Oversight Committee (Sessional Committee)	8	0 [d.]	1

a. Includes subcommittee meetings.
b. An individual hearing day can involve multiple witnesses or groups of witnesses.
c. The Subordinate Legislation Committee received six briefings from Departmental Officers.
d. The Workplace Culture Oversight does not conduct Hearings, rather it receives briefings from relevant parties during its meetings.

Reports tabled by Committees supported by the Secretariat from the Legislative Council

Legislative Council Committees

Select Committee into Integrated Assessment Report

- Final Report

Estimates Committee A (2025)

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Eric Abetz MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Nick Duigan MLC
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Bridget Archer MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Kerry Vincent MLC

Estimates Committee B (2025)

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Guy Barnett MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Gavin Pearce MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jane Howlett MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Felix Ellis MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Estimates Committee A (2026)

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Eric Abetz MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Nick Duigan MLC
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Bridget Archer MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Kerry Vincent MLC

Estimates Committee B (2026)

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Guy Barnett MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Gavin Pearce MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jane Howlett MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Felix Ellis MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jo Palmer MLC

Government Business Scrutiny Committee A

- Inquiry into TT Line Company Pty Ltd, Hydro Tasmania and TasNetworks Pty Ltd

Government Business Scrutiny Committee B

- Inquiry into Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd and The Public Trustee

Joint Committees

Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts

- Annual Report 2024-2025
- TT-Line Spirit of Tasmania Vessel Replacement Project Interim Report
- Follow-up of the Report of the Auditor-General ICT Strategy, Critical Systems and Investment (No.4 of 2020 - 2021)
- Review of the Tasmanian Fiscal Sustainability Report 2026
- Inquiry into Establishment of Parliamentary Budget Office
- 18th Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) Conference

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation

- Annual Report 2024-2025

Joint Sessional Committee – Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry Committee

- Second Interim Report (Part One) - Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings
- Second Interim Report (Part Two) - Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings

Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight

- Interim Report No. 2 - Code of Conduct for Members, Independent Complaints Commissioner process and Alcohol and Other Drugs Members' Statement

Appendix 8 – Financial Statements

Audit Tasmania

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Parliament

Legislative Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Legislative Council (the Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement of certification signed by the Clerk of the Council (the Clerk).

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

(a) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended

(b) is in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Clerk for the Financial Statements

The Clerk is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the Section 42 (1) of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Clerk responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the (the Council) is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or the Clerk intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Clerk.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Clerk's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to

the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Clerk regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Monique Langridge
Director Financial Audit and Practice Management
Delegate of the Auditor-General

28 September 2026
Hobart

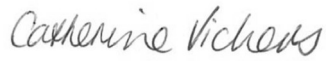
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STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

The accompanying Financial Statements of the Legislative Council are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with the Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Catherine Vickers

Clerk

Dated 28 day of September 2026

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Income from continuing operations				
Revenue from Government				
Appropriation revenue – operating		9,664	10,307	8,621
Total revenue from continuing operations		**9,664**	**10,307**	**8,621**
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	4.1	8,759	9,371	8,115
Depreciation	4.2	73	132	128
Supplies and consumables	4.3	917	928	586
Other expenses		-	18	45
Total expenses from continuing operations		**9,749**	**10,449**	**8,874**
Net result from continuing operations		**(85)**	**(142)**	**(253)**
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to net result in subsequent periods				
Changes in property plant and equipment revaluation surplus	5.3	-	-	(26)
Total other comprehensive income		**-**	**-**	**(26)**
Comprehensive Result		**(85)**	**(142)**	**(279)**

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in 2.1 of the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Assets				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		-	-	-
Receivables		80	57	45
Non-financial assets				
Other Assets		28	-	29
Plant and equipment	5.2	2,433	2,401	2,533
Total assets		**2,541**	**2,458**	**2,607**
Liabilities				
Payables	6.1	122	27	107
Employee benefit liabilities	6.2	973	1,238	1,165
Total liabilities		**1,095**	**1,265**	**1,272**
Net assets		**1,446**	**1,193**	**1,335**
Equity				
Reserves	8.1	848	822	822
Accumulated funds		598	371	513
Total equity		**1,446**	**1,193**	**1,335**

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in 2.2 of the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Notes	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Cash inflows				
Appropriation receipts – operating		9,664	10,308	8,621
GST receipts		70	32	97
Total cash inflows		**9,734**	**10,340**	**8,718**
Cash outflows				
Employee benefits		(8,747)	(9,276)	(7,807)
GST Payments		(70)	(32)	(97)
Supplies and consumables		(917)	(1,032)	(705)
Total cash outflows		**(9,734)**	**(10,340)**	**(8,609)**
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	9.1	**-**	**-**	**109**
Cash flows from investing activities				
Cash outflows				
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets		-	**-**	**(109)**
Total cash outflows		**-**	**-**	**(109)**
Net cash from (used by) investing activities		**-**	**-**	**(109)**
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		**-**	**-**	**-**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting year		**-**	**-**	**-**
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting year		**-**	**-**	**-**

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.3 of the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Reserves $'000	Accumulated Funds $'000	Total Equity $'000
Balance as at 1 July 2025	**822**	**513**	**1,335**
Net result from continuing operations	-	(142)	(142)
Balance as at 30 June 2026	**822**	**371**	**1,193**

	Reserves $'000	Accumulated Funds $'000	Total Equity $'000
Balance as at 1 July 2025	**848**	**766**	**1,614**
Net result from continuing operations	-	(253)	(253)
Other comprehensive result	(26)	-	(26)
Balance as at 30 June 2026	**822**	**513**	**1,335**

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Note 1 COUNCIL OUTPUT SCHEDULES

1.1 OUTPUT GROUP INFORMATION

Budget information refers to original estimates.

Output Group 1 – Legislative Council Support Services

	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Income from continuing operations			
Revenue from appropriation	5,446	5,637	4,968
Total revenue from continuing operations	**5,446**	**5,637**	**4,968**
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits	4,541	4,701	4,493
Depreciation	73	132	128
Communications	-	90	77
Travel	-	65	125
Information technology	-	191	70
Other expenses	917	600	359
Total expenses from continuing operations	**5,531**	**5,779**	**5,252**
Net result from continuing operations	**(85)**	**(142)**	**(284)**
Expense by output			
Legislative Council Support Services	5,531	5,779	5,252
Total	**5,531**	**5,779**	**5,252**
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services		2,456	2,607
Total liabilities incurred for Legislative Council Support Services		(1,239)	(1,272)
Net assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services		**1,217**	**1,335**

Output Group 2 – Payments administered by the Legislative Council

	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Income from continuing operations			
Revenue from appropriation	4,218	4,670	3,653
Total revenue from continuing operations	**4,218**	**4,670**	**3,653**
Expenses from continuing operations			
Travel and Communication	447	278	177
Parliamentary salaries and allowances	3,578	4,209	3,126
Parliamentary travelling allowances	153	151	283
Parliamentary Committee fees and allowances	40	32	37
Total expenses from continuing operations	**4,218**	**4,670**	**3,622**
Net result from continuing operations	**-**	**-**	**31**
Expense by output			
Payments Administered by the Legislative Council	4,218	4,670	3,622
Total	**4,218**	**4,650**	**3,622**

1.2 RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL OUTPUT GROUPS COMPREHENSIVE RESULT TO STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Total comprehensive result of Output Groups	**(85)**	**(142)**	**(253)**
Comprehensive result	**(85)**	**(142)**	**(253)**

1.3 RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL OUTPUT GROUPS NET ASSETS TO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Total net assets deployed for Output Groups	**1,193**	**1,335**
Net Assets	**1,193**	**1,335**

Note 2 EXPLANATIONS OF MATERIAL VARIANCES BETWEEN BUDGET AND ACTUAL OUTCOMES

Budget information refers to original estimates as disclosed in the 2025-26 Budget Papers.

Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of Budget estimate and $10,000.

2.1 STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Note	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %
Depreciation	(a)	73	132	(59)	(80.8)

Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income variances

(a) The increase in depreciation is due the value of depreciating assets increasing following capital works in Chamber and within the Legislative Council electorates.

2.2 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Budget estimates for the 2025-26 Statement of Financial Position were compiled prior to the completion of the actual outcomes for 2025-26. As a result, the actual variance from the Original Budget estimate will be impacted by the difference between estimated and actual opening balances for 2024-25. The following variance analysis therefore includes major movements between the 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025 actual balances.

	Note	Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000	Actual Variance $'000	Actual Variance %
Receivables	(a)	80	57	45	(12)	(15)
Payables	(b)	122	27	107	95	77.8
Employee Benefits	(c)	973	1,238	1,165	(265)	(27.2)

Notes to Statement of Financial Position variances

(a) The decrease in receivables is due to a decrease in outstanding invoices at the end of the financial year.

(b) The decrease in payables reflects sufficient year-end funding being available to settle outstanding invoices.

(c) The increase in Employee Benefits Liabilities is due to an increase in Members salaries as determined by the Tasmanian Industrial commission.

2.3 STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	Note	Budget $'000	Actual $'000	Variance $'000	Variance %
GST receipts and payments	(a)	70	93	(23)	(32.8)
Supplies and consumables	(b)	917	1,029	112	(12.2)

Notes to Statement of Cash Flows variances

(a) The increase in GST payments is due to the increase in expenditure.

(b) The increase in supplies and consumables is due an increase in administrative expenditure relating operation costs in the 2026 financial year.

Note 3 REVENUE

Income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefit related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities,* dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15.

3.1 REVENUE FROM GOVERNMENT

Appropriations, whether operating or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Council gains control of the appropriated funds as they do not contain enforceable and sufficiently specific obligations as defined in AASB 15. Except for any amounts identified as carried forward, control arises in the period of appropriation.

Revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, unexpended appropriations rolled over under section 23 of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Items Reserved by Law.

Section 23 of the Financial Management Act allows for an unexpended appropriation at the end of the financial year, as determined by the Treasurer, to be issued and applied from the Public Account in the following financial year. The amount determined by the Treasurer must not exceed five per cent of an Agency's appropriation for the financial year.

The Budget information is based on original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

	2026 Budget $'000	2026 Actual $'000	2025 Actual $'000
Continuing operations			
Appropriation revenue – operating			
Current year	5,893	5,915	4,991
Items Reserved by Law			
R003 Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (1)	3,578	4,209	3,421
R004 Travelling Allowances (1)	153	151	167
R005 Members' Committee Fees and Allowances (1)	40	32	42
Total revenue from Government from continuing operations	**9,664**	**10,307**	**8,621**
Total revenue from Government	**9,664**	**10,307**	**8,621**

(1) (Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)

Note 4 EXPENSES

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

4.1 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

(a) Employee expenses

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Wages and salaries	7,752	6,535
Annual leave	355	388
Long service leave	51	142
Fringe benefits tax	285	157
Superannuation – defined contribution scheme	792	664
Superannuation – defined benefit scheme	73	69
Other Employee Expense	63	80
Total	**9,371**	**8,035**

Superannuation expenses relating to defined contribution schemes are paid directly to superannuation funds at a rate of 12 per cent (2024-25: 11 per cent) of salary, which is the Superannuation Guarantee rate set by the Australian Government. In addition, departments are also required to pay into the Public Account a "gap" payment equivalent to 3.45 per cent (2024-25: 3.45 per cent) of salary in respect of employees who are members of contribution schemes.

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefit schemes relate to payments into the Public Account. The amount of the payment is based on an employer contribution rate determined by the Treasurer, on the advice of the State Actuary. The current department contribution is 12.95 per cent (2024-25: 12.95 per cent) of salary.

(b) Remuneration of Key management personnel

	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			
2026	**Salary**	**Other Benefits**	**Superannuation**	**Other Benefits and Long-service Leave**	**Termination Benefits**	**Total**
	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
Key management personnel						
Clerk – Catherine Vickers	340	26	43	5	-	414
Deputy Clerk – Tim Mills	271	26	42	(10)	-	329
Usher of the Black Rod – Craig Muir	213	22	33	11	-	279
Total	**824**	**74**	**118**	**6**	**-**	**1,022**

	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			
2025	**Salary**	**Other Benefits**	**Superannuation**	**Other Benefits and Long-service Leave**	**Termination Benefits**	**Total**
	$'000	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**	**$'000**
Key management personnel						
Clerk – Catherine Vickers	330	26	42	9	-	407
Deputy Clerk – Tim Mills	263	26	39	19	-	347
Usher of the Black Rod – Craig Muir	196	22	29	19	-	266
Total	**789**	**74**	**110**	**47**	**-**	**1,020**

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

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Remuneration during 2025-26 for key personnel is set by the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898.* Remuneration and other terms of employment are specified in employment contracts. Remuneration includes salary, motor vehicle and other non-monetary benefits. Long-term employee expenses include long service leave and superannuation obligations.

Acting Arrangements

When members of key management personnel are unable to fulfil their duties, consideration is given to appoint other members of senior staff to their position during their period of absence. Individuals are considered members of key management personnel when acting arrangements are for more than a period of one month.

(c) Related party transactions

In accordance with *AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, related party transactions are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor. The Clerk is required to determine the materiality of any related party transactions.

The Clerk is also required to determine if additional action is required to ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements of *AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures*, including identification of related parties, identification of related party transactions and the adequacy of these disclosures.

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

4.2 DEPRECIATION

All applicable Non-financial assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Key estimate and judgement

Depreciation is provided for on a straight-line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually.

(a) Depreciation

	Major depreciation Period	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Furniture and fittings	10 years	31	30
Leasehold improvements	10 years	101	98
Total		**132**	**128**
Total depreciation		**132**	**128**

4.3 SUPPLIES AND CONSUMABLES

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Audit fees – financial audit	24	23
Communications	90	77
Information technology	191	70
Travel and transport	65	59
Regional office support	140	88
Resource Support	102	106
Committee expenses	4	14
Consultancy	184	50
Meal allowance	7	19
Maintenance	1	2
Uniforms	2	2
Stationery	5	4
Insurance	39	45
Other supplies and consumables	74	27
Total	928	586

Audit fees paid or payable to the Tasmanian Audit Office for the audit of the Council's financial statements was $24,400 (2024-25, $23,000).

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Note 5 ASSETS

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the Council and the asset has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

5.1 RECEIVABLES

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price. Receivables are recorded inclusive of GST (where applicable).

Receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Any subsequent changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised for all debt financial assets not held at fair value through profit and loss. The expected credit loss is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables, a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses is applied, with a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses recognised at each reporting date.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Receivables	55	45
Total	**55**	**45**
Settled within 12 months	55	45
Total	**55**	**45**

5.2 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

(i) Valuation basis

Heritage assets comprising antique furniture, artworks and artefacts are recorded at fair value. All other Non-current physical assets, including work in progress, are recorded at historic cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. All assets within a class of assets are measured on the same basis.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of plant and equipment.

Fair value is based on the highest and best use of the asset. Unless there is an explicit Government policy to the contrary, the highest and best use of an asset is the current purpose for which the asset is being used or build occupied.

The recognised fair value of non-financial assets is classified according to the fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making these measurements.

Level 1 the fair value is calculated using quoted prices in active markets.

Level 2 the fair value is estimated using inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and

Level 3 the fair value is estimated using inputs for the assets or liability that are not based on observable market data.

(ii) Subsequent Costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the

Council and its costs can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. The costs of day to day servicing of plant and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(iii) Asset recognition threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Council is $10,000. Assets valued at less than $10,000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are material in total). Antique furniture and artworks and artefacts are treated as discrete groups of assets and all items in these groups are recorded as non-current assets.

(iv) Revaluations

The Council has adopted a revaluation threshold of $10,000.

Assets are grouped on the basis of having a similar nature or function in the operations of the Council.

Assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure they reflect fair value at balance date. Revaluations are shown on a fair value, five-year basis.

The latest revaluation as at 30 June 2025 were independently conducted. The valuer for Antique Furniture was Mr Mark Howard of Lauder and Howard Antiques and Fine Art and the Artworks and Artefacts valuer was Ms Trudi Curtis of Coville Gallery. The Antique Furniture revaluations were based on local and national action results, proprietary online sales, consultation with qualified valuers and market experience. The Parliament artefacts have been valued at replacement cost. The Artwork revaluation was based on conformed values. Revaluations are shown on a gross basis where a replacement cost basis of valuation has been used. Asset revaluations based on a market basis have been disclosed on a net basis.

(v) Assets in respect of leases where the Council is the lessor

The Council leases motor vehicles under operating leases with rental payments payable monthly. Lease payments include lease and operating costs.

(a) Carrying amount

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Antique furniture		
At fair value	983	983
Total	**983**	**983**
Artworks and Artefacts		
At fair value	742	742
Total	**742**	**742**
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	689	689
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(398)	(297)
Total	**291**	**392**
Furniture and Fittings		
At cost	646	646
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(261)	(230)
Total	**385**	**416**
Total plant and equipment	**2,401**	**2,533**

(b) Reconciliation of movements

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below. Carrying value means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

2026	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Carrying value at 1 July 2025	**983**	**742**	**392**	**416**	**2,533**
Depreciation	-	-	(101)	(31)	(132)
Carrying value at 30 June	**983**	**742**	**291**	**385**	**2,401**

2025	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Carrying value at 1 July 2024	**1,202**	**550**	**381**	**446**	**2,579**
Additions	-	-	109	-	109
Depreciation	-	-	(98)	(30)	(128)
Revaluation increment / (decrement	(219)	192	-	-	(26)
Carrying value at 30 June	**983**	**742**	**392**	**416**	**2,533**

(c) Level 3 significant valuation inputs and relationship to fair value

Description	Fair value at 30 June $'000	Significant unobservable inputs used in valuation	Possible alternative values for level 3 inputs	Sensitivity of fair value to changes in level 3 inputs
Antique Furniture	983	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing antique furniture is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values	Not applicable
Artwork and Artefacts	742	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing artwork and artefacts is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values.	Not applicable

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Note 6 LIABILITIES

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

6.1 PAYABLES

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost, which due to the short settlement period, equates to face value, when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets and services.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Creditors	1	59
Accrued Expenses	26	48
Total	**27**	**107**
Settled within 12 months	27	107
Total	**27**	**107**

6.2 EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

Key estimate and judgement

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities expected to be realised within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee entitlements are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material.

A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Accrued salaries	138	130
Annual leave	448	421
Long service leave	652	614
Total	**1,238**	**1,165**
Expected to settle wholly within 12 months	666	644
Expected to settle wholly after 12 months	572	521
Total	**1,238**	**1,165**

6.3 SUPERANNUATION

(i) Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense when they fall due.

(ii) Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan.

Key estimate and judgement

The Council does not recognise a liability for the accruing superannuation benefits to Council employees. This liability is held centrally and is recognised with the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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Note 7 COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

7.1 SCHEDULE OF COMMITMENTS

Commitments represent those contractual arrangements entered by the Council that are not reflected in the Statement of Financial Position. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST.

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position, excluding short term leases and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value, which are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
By type		
Commitments held with Finance-General		
Motor vehicle fleet	103	318
Total Commitments held with Finance-General	**103**	**318**
Other commitments		
Photocopiers	70	70
Total other commitments	**70**	**70**
Total commitments (including GST)	**173**	**388**
By maturity		
Commitments held with Finance-General		
One year or less	103	221
From one to five years	-	97
Total Commitments held with Finance-General	**103**	**318**
Other commitments		
One year or less	23	24
From one to five years	47	46
Total Other commitments	**70**	**70**
Total Commitments (including GST)	**173**	**388**

7.2 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position due to uncertainty regarding any possible amount or timing of any possible underlying claim or obligation.

(a) Quantifiable contingencies

A quantifiable contingent asset is any possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

A quantifiable contingent liability is any possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or any present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. To the extent that any quantifiable contingencies are insured, details provided below are recorded net.

The Legislative Council has no contingent Assets and Liabilities.

Note 8 RESERVES

8.1 RESERVES

2026	Antiques, Artworks & Artifacts $'000	Total $'000
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	822	822
Balance at end of financial year	**822**	**822**

2025	Antiques, Artworks & Artifacts $'000	Total $'000
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	822	848
Revaluation increment/(decrement)	-	(26)
Balance at end of financial year	**822**	**822**

Note 9 CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

Cash means notes, coins, any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, as well as funds held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, being short term of three months or less and highly liquid. Deposits are recognised at amortised cost, being their face value.

9.1 RECONCILIATION OF NET RESULT TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2026 $'000	2025 $'000
Net result	(142)	(253)
Depreciation	132	128
Decrease (increase) in Receivables	(12)	35
Decrease (increase) in Other assets	29	(1)
Increase (decrease) in Employee entitlements	73	215
Increase (decrease) in Payables	(80)	(15)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	**-**	**109**

Note 10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

10.1 RISK EXPOSURES

(a) Risk management policies

The Council has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk; and
- liquidity risk.

The Clerk as the accountable authority has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Council's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Council, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Council if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account any collateral or other security.

The value of receivables as at 30 June is immaterial and with an expected loss rate of 0%. There is no history of impairment of receivables. The value of receivables is recorded at the gross carrying amount as at balance date, the carrying amount is not past due, in either year.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The Council does not have any significant exposure to liquidity risk.

The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Council by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position:

2026	**Maturity analysis for financial liabilities**							
	1 Year $'000	**2 Years $'000**	**3 Years $'000**	**4 Years $'000**	**5 Years $'000**	**More than 5 Years $'000**	**Undiscounted Total $'000**	**Carrying Amount $'000**
Financial liabilities								
Payables	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Total	**27**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**27**

2025	**Maturity analysis for financial liabilities**							
	1 Year $'000	**2 Years $'000**	**3 Years $'000**	**4 Years $'000**	**5 Years $'000**	**More than 5 Years $'000**	**Undiscounted Total $'000**	**Carrying Amount $'000**
Financial liabilities								
Payables	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	107
Total	**107**	-	-	-	-	-	-	**107**

10.2 CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2026 $'000	**2025 $'000**
Financial assets		
Receivables at amortised cost	57	45
Total	**57**	**45**
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	27	107
Total	**27**	**107**

Note 11 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER BALANCE DATE

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which would have a material effect on the Council's financial statements as at 30 June 2026.

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Note 12 OTHER MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION AND JUDGEMENTS

12.1 JUDGEMENTS AND ASSUMPTIONS

In the application of AASBs, the Legislative Council is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by the Legislative Council that have significant effects on the Financial Statements are disclosed in the relevant notes to the Financial Statements.

Significant judgements, estimates and assumptions included in the Financial Statements:

- Depreciation and amortisation - Note 4.2
- Employee benefits liabilities - Note 6.2

12.2 OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING

The Legislative Council is the Upper House of the Parliament and functions as a House of Review.

The role of the Members of the Legislative Council is twofold:

- To examine the merits of legislation from alternative perspectives and to authorise expenditure of State monies; and
- To provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day. In modern time, the Legislative Council has expanded from the base of being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself with the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government.

The overall objectives of the Legislative Council remain constant over time. Services may increase with parliamentary evolution, but are invariant in the medium term. The major objectives and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Legislative Council are to:

- Support the Legislative Council in its constitutional role;
- To provide an accurate retrieval and assessment system of precedent, law, history and parliamentary method necessary for the effective functioning of the Legislative Council and its Committees;
- Provide effective apolitical support including administrative, research, policy and procedural support and advice to the President of the Legislative Council and other elected Members;
- Ensure the effective custody of documents including journals, records and papers of the Legislative Council, the responsibility of which, in accordance with Standing Orders, is vested in the Clerk of the Legislative Council;
- Ensure the effective functioning of Standing, Sessional and Select Committees including the provision of adequate and appropriate resources;
- Accurately prepare and present legislation, once passed through both Houses, to Her Excellency the Governor for the Royal Assent;
- Promote public awareness of the purpose, functions and work of the Legislative Council;
- Maximise the potential of all staff through effective human resource practices; and
- Efficiently manage resources, both financial and human.

The Council is funded by Parliamentary appropriations and Reserved-by Law allocations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions.

12.2 BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Financial Statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- The Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.

The Financial Statements were signed by the Clerk on 28 September 2026

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as the AAS include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Council is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under the AAS that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are consistent with the previous year.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern. The continued existence of the Council in its present form, undertaking its current activities, is dependent on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Council's administration and activities.

The Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

12.3 REPORTING ENTITY

The Financial Statements include all the controlled activities of the Council.

12.4 FUNCTIONAL AND PRESENTATION CURRENCY

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Council's functional currency.

12.5 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

(a) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

There were no new or revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that have a material impact on the reporting of the Legislative Council's operations for the current annual reporting period.

(b) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The Legislative Council has considered the new accounting standards and assessed that they will not have a material impact on the financial statements once adopted in future reporting periods.

12.6 COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect any changes in accounting policy or the adoption of new standards.

12.7 ROUNDING

All amounts in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated. As a consequence, rounded figures may not add to totals. Amounts less than $500 are rounded to zero.

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12.8 TAXATION

The Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax.

12.9 GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, classified as operating cash flows.