

DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON. PETER GUTWEIN MP

Public Sector Superannuation Reform (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2016

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Madam Speaker

The purpose of the Public Sector Superannuation Reform (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2016 is to make amendments to other Tasmanian legislation as a consequence of the enactment of the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016*.

As members would be aware, after a process of due diligence and, following on from the merger of Tasplan and Quadrant last year, Tasplan and the Retirement Benefits Fund agreed to merge and create Tasplan Super. This new fund will manage over \$7.1 billion of assets for 165 000 Tasmanians.

Madam Speaker, following the passage of the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016* in May 2016 of this year, the Government facilitated the execution of the Successor Fund Transfer Deed.

On 24 August, I formally nominated Tasplan as the default superannuation fund for Tasmanian public sector employees under the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016*. As Tasplan is the first default fund nominated under the Act, it is the initial default fund to which the assets that currently make up the Tasmanian Accumulation Scheme, and members, will be transferred effective from the transfer date.

Madam Speaker, it is expected that the transfer date will be 31 March 2017. It is my intention that this Bill and the remaining provisions of the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016* will commence concurrently on the transfer date. This is necessary to ensure that all of the Acts on the State's statute books are consistent with the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016* and that there is no unnecessary duplication.

The *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016* will, therefore, become the single piece of legislation dealing with the administration of public sector superannuation in Tasmania.

Madam Speaker, the Bill repeals provisions of Acts that are no longer necessary and which are now contained in the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016*. This includes provisions that relate to the rate of employer superannuation contributions and how such contributions are calculated, as well as provisions regarding the ability to elect to make voluntary or spouse contributions and to become a member of another complying superannuation scheme.

The Bill also provides that certain employees, who were employees for the purposes of the *Retirement Benefits Act 1993* or the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 1999*, are taken to be employees under the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016*. This ensures that all of the arrangements that currently apply in respect of these employees continue from the transfer date.

This Bill also makes minor consequential amendments to ensure consistency in terminology across the State's statute books.

Madam Speaker, this Bill, in conjunction with the *Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016*, supports the reforms that have been taking place to the administration of public sector superannuation in Tasmania over the past two years.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.