



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Thursday 25 November 2021

REVISED EDITION

Contents

QUESTIONS.....	1
COVID-19 - CHANGING INFORMATION ABOUT REOPENING MEASURES	1
COVID-19 - EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTRES	3
CITTA HOBART PTY LTD AND ANOR V CAWTHORN	5
SECURING TASMANIAN'S FUTURE - INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION	8
POLITICAL DONATIONS - DISCLOSURE OF GAMBLING INDUSTRY DONATIONS	10
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS	11
COVID-19 - BOOSTER VACCINATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS.....	13
CITTA HOBART PTY LTD AND ANOR V CAWTHORN	14
SECURING TASMANIA'S FUTURE - PRODUCTIVE INDUSTRIES AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS	16
COVID-19 - INCREASED DEMAND FOR TESTING.....	18
COVID-19 - RAMIFICATION OF POSITIVE CASES ON BUSINESS PREMISES	19
INTRODUCTION OF NON-FATAL STRANGULATION LAWS	22
SECURING TASMANIA'S FUTURE.....	23
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	26
7. HEALTH SYSTEM PERSONNEL - RECRUITMENT	26
9. DIAGNOSTIC LAPAROSCOPY IN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM	26
5. DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT - STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES	26
12. BURRUNAN DOLPHIN - PROTECTION STATUS	27
8. FAMILY VIOLENCE - ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES.....	27
4. MARINE CONSERVATION - EMPLOYMENT OF RANGERS AND BUDGET	28
GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET) BILL 2021 (NO. 45).....	28
COUNCIL AMENDMENTS	28
PERSONAL EXPLANATION	28
MEMBER FOR CLARK - Ms O'CONNOR	28
SITTING DATES	29
MOTION	29
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ESTABLISHMENT	29
MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	36
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	43
PATHWAY TO RECONCILIATION.....	43
JUSTICE AND RELATED LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 2021 (NO. 60)	50
SECOND READING	50
GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET) BILL 2021 (NO. 45).....	51
IN COMMITTEE	51
GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET).....	54
BILL 2021 (NO. 45).....	54
IN COMMITTEE	54
SITTING TIMES.....	75
SUSPENSION OF SITTING	77

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER.....	77
COMMENTS MADE BY MEMBER FOR CLARK, MS JOHNSTON	77
SUSPENSION OF SITTING	89
ADJOURNMENT.....	89
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	94
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	97
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	98
APPENDIX 1	99
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 7.....	99
APPENDIX 2	101
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 9.....	101
APPENDIX 3	103
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 5.....	103
APPENDIX 4	105
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 12.....	105
APPENDIX 5	107
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 8.....	107
APPENDIX 6	110
QUESTION ON NOTICE NO. 4.....	110

Thursday 25 November 2021

The Speaker, **Mr Shelton**, took the Chair at 10 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People, and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

COVID-19 - Changing Information about Reopening Measures

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.01 a.m.]

An alarming pattern is emerging with your plan to manage COVID-19 once you reopen Tasmania's borders. First you said all travellers coming to Tasmania would require a negative test result, then it was travellers from hotspots and only until early January. You initially said that all travellers would require proof that they had received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. Then, on 18 November, the Premier said the requirement would only be enforced through spot checks. He backflipped the next day and said everyone would, in fact, be checked.

At Estimates, the Premier said he was demanding a purpose-built quarantine facility from the Commonwealth. Just weeks later he said it was unnecessary.

On Tuesday the Premier said the school year could be delayed to ensure primary-school students could be vaccinated before ruling it out yesterday, regardless of whether students have been vaccinated.

What is going on? Are we seriously supposed to believe that Public Health advice is changing so quickly and dramatically? Can you not see how this constant flip-flopping is undermining public confidence in your plan to reopen the state's borders?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question and her interest in this matter. Tasmanians have a number of natural concerns. It is common for people to be concerned about the 15 December opening of borders. The Premier, I, other responsible ministers and departmental representatives have regularly provided information since the beginning of the pandemic. We have managed, as a Government, despite those opposite scaremongering all the way.

As the Premier said yesterday, matters pertaining to the pandemic and decisions made by Public Health are not linear. In other states, my latest information is in regard to Victoria, which made 12 changes to their reopening plan -

Ms O'Byrne - To be fair, they have actually had COVID-19 all year.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, member for Bass.

Mr ROCKLIFF - and to be fair, we have managed our borders well. The strong leadership of the Premier and this Government has kept Tasmanians safe, so do not go there,

Ms O'Byrne. That is a complete own goal, protecting a Labor government in Victoria, when this Government has worked with the community and worked with Public Health officials.

The Premier, and Ms Courtney, when minister for Health, and I have been very frank about our reopening plan, particularly when it comes to our vaccination rates, imploring Tasmanians and making the difficult decisions around mandatory vaccination, which took a little while for your mob to come on board with.

We have over 99 per cent of our Health employees fully vaccinated and compliant with the Public Health order. With over 16 100 employees, it was a challenge in terms of full vaccination and complying with the Public Health order. To have only 124 non-compliant with absolutely minimal, if any, interruption to our health service is a fantastic job.

The Opposition has been playing politics with the pandemic at every single opportunity. When you do not know what to do and what to say, you say nothing; when you think about what you might want to say or do, you play politics the whole time, introducing fear into the community.

These are difficult conditions. As if the community has not already been troubled and concerned about the pandemic all the way through. I pay particular attention, as part of my responsibility as Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, to the anxiety in the community around the pandemic and COVID-19, particularly the Delta strain. That is why we are investing more in mental health resources and supports for our community. We do not want those opposite to be playing politics, fearmongering, and scaring people with respect to the 15 December opening.

Public Health has been working with small businesses and primary healthcare providers. There is a meeting with primary health providers today, as I understand it, about supporting them through their businesses and the services they provide with respect to the opening. We stand ready for a safe reopening of our borders on 15 December.

Again, vaccine is our best safeguard against COVID-19, the best line of defence. I implore Tasmanians to keep turning up to get the jab. We are doing well. We have provided the opportunities across Tasmania in terms of -

Mr SPEAKER - If you could wind up please, minister.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes. We have set that benchmark to achieve 90 per cent fully vaccinated for all Tasmanians aged 12 years and over. As long as people keep turning up to be vaccinated, this will be one of the safest places to live in the country, if not the world, to visit and do business, when our borders reopen.

We have been consistent with those very strong messages and direction when it comes to vaccination. We will continue to be, right up to and beyond, when it comes to our vaccination rates.

Ms O'Connor - You have been on your feet for nearly seven minutes.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It is an important subject.

Ms O'Connor - Sure, but you have not got to the point.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Vaccine keeps you and those around you safe. It means we can live with COVID-19 in our community by having a majority of our population immune.

However, we will continue to have safeguards at our borders to keep Tasmanians safe. There will be a number of checkpoints to ensure people are complying with the rules. To travel to Tasmania, you will need to apply to our designated travel app with verification that you are fully vaccinated. If you are from a high-risk state or area, you will need to have a test 72 hours prior to travel.

There are a series of checkpoints that will help ensure people are meeting the requirements. The first check occurs when you purchase your tickets and airlines provide information regarding the travel criteria. At the point of check-in, you will be required to agree to these criteria. When you arrive at interstate airports, biosecurity staff and security will provide reminders of requirements prior to travel. On arrival in Tasmania, every person will need to walk through the airport clearly displaying to biosecurity officers their digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates, or paper certificates. Those who do not have these will be pulled out of the queue for further information.

Compliance spot checks will also occur. If travelling without double vaccination and a pre-test, if that is required, you will be ordered to quarantine until a negative test is produced. If you are not vaccinated you will be sent home. People who are caught deliberately flaunting the rules could face an on-the-spot fine of \$1557 for failing to comply. Police will also have the powers to arrest people, where they could be summonsed and charged with a penalty of up to \$17 000, or six months in prison. It is important.

Ms O'Connor - I understand that, but could you get to the point in under 10 minutes?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, Ms O'Connor, and I thank the member for her question.

We have been consistent. This is not linear, as the Premier has said. There have been changes in other states, and we will be taking the best direction and Public Health advice. We have been guided by Public Health all the way. That is why the combination of the strong leadership of the Premier guided by Public Health advice has kept Tasmanians safe, and we will not be lectured to by those opposite. Quite frankly, Tasmanians will not put up with those on the other side playing politics and fearmongering in the community, particularly at this challenging time for all Tasmanians.

COVID-19 - Early Childhood Education Centres

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.11 a.m.]

Early childhood education centres are high-risk sites when COVID-19 is circulating in the community. Hundreds have been closed interstate in recent months, yet Tasmania is one of only two jurisdictions that has not introduced a vaccine mandate for early childhood educators. Adventure Patch, which cares for approximately 2000 children across the state, had

this to say about why they took it upon themselves to introduce a vaccine requirement for staff, and I quote:

Our educators have had too many conversations with concerned parents worried their children could contract COVID-19, so we have taken a stance when we believe our Government should have.

This is a sentiment repeated across the sector. When borders open on 15 December, children will still be going to child care. Unlike schools, centres will not close over the summer break. Parents fear for the health of their children, given that no child in any of these centres can be vaccinated. Why are we out of step with the rest of the country, and why are you not doing everything you can to ensure that our early childhood education centres are as safe as possible for our young people and our babies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Lyons for her question. We are doing all we can when it comes to health preparedness for the borders opening. We have done all we could possibly do throughout the entire pandemic, despite those opposite changing their position on restrictions - sometimes on the same day changing their position.

If memory serves me correctly, the Leader of the Opposition said one thing one day about restrictions - it may well have been to do with borders, I cannot recall exactly - and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition at the time said another thing on the same day.

I am pleased we have been guided by Public Health and not the Opposition when it comes to the pandemic. That is a classic example of the flip-flopping we have seen by those opposite when it comes to the pandemic: sniffing the breeze, wondering where the politics would best suit them for the day.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order. I will give everybody a chance to settle down. It is the last day of parliament, and the last question time. I understand people might get a bit rowdy on these sorts of days, but today, for the benefit of Hansard and others, you cannot keep interjecting on the minister. If you have asked a question of the minister, please allow the minister to answer it in silence.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. We will not be lectured to by the flip-floppers opposite, who have sniffed the political breeze through the last 20 months, asked questions and put out public statements, depending on the politics of the day. We have not done that. The Premier has not done that. We have been vigilant all the way through, and been guided by Public Health advice all the way through. What was mandatory for healthcare workers was the need to be fully vaccinated, or have proof of vaccination, by 31 October. We have over 99 per cent -

Ms White - What about childcare workers?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I understand there are a number of questions in the community about mandating individual workers. I was making the point about mandating our healthcare workers.

The Public Health mandate is for departments and other areas to get a risk assessment around their particular areas of responsibility, such as the Department of Education. We recognise that the early education and care sector is critical to the safety and development of our young people, and also to workforce participation, all ECEC providers. I know them well, having worked with them very closely over the course of seven years as education minister.

They have been encouraged to conduct a risk assessment of their workforce, to inform their approach to COVID-19 vaccination. Further advice and support on conducting these risk assessments is available through -

Ms White - Why is the Public Health advice about that different here from other states?

Mr SPEAKER - Ms White, please. I am sure you do not want the last day of parliament to be the first time you are thrown out.

Mr ROCKLIFF - WorkSafe Tasmania, and I encourage all early childhood education and care sector organisations and providers to proactively engage with their workforce as part of their consideration. I note that a number of major providers have already put in place mandates for COVID-19 vaccination.

Citta Hobart Pty Ltd and Anor v Cawthorn

Ms O'CONNOR question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Ms ARCHER

[10.16 a.m.]

On the last sitting Thursday, on the adjournment, I asked you to explain why you twice refused to help a disability advocate, David Cawthorn, defend the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 in the Supreme Court, at potentially huge financial cost to himself, yet once the developer took the Parliament Square dispute and decision to the High Court, you joined in support of the property developer and owner.

You have not taken the opportunity to explain yourself, so we will give you one now. This case, Citta Hobart Pty Ltd & Anor v Cawthorn, has huge implications for state anti-discrimination acts and the people they seek to protect. When we asked you about this matter earlier this year, you pointed to a legal uncertainty as a reason for the state to join as a party to the case in the High Court. However, the question remains: why did you join in support of the developer and Parliament Square's owner, who are arguing the relevant state anti-discrimination provisions are invalid, but not Mr Cawthorn, who has joined us in the Chamber today?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Greens for an opportunity to clarify my position, the Government's position and, indeed, the law on this. Clearly Ms O'Connor has not read the annual report of the Solicitor-General, because he set out quite clearly the circumstances in which he gave advice to me, and why this course has been embarked upon.

While I have taken no pleasure - and I acknowledge Mr Cawthorn is here today, who I have said in this Chamber happens to be a friend of mine -

Ms O'Connor - Why did you not explain your position to your friend?

Ms ARCHER - I would really like to be heard in silence for this, because it is an opportunity for me to again put on the record the facts, and the law as well.

I have taken no pleasure in intervening in the case to which Ms O'Connor has referred. As the First Law Officer of the State, sometimes these difficult decisions need to occur, and I act apolitically. That is the role of the First Law Officer of the State. The Solicitor-General is the Second Law Officer of the State, and regularly seeks my instructions to intervene on matters of law. It is not the case that we are intervening to support the development. I am intervening, based on the Solicitor-General's advice, to clarify an important constitutional point about the powers of state tribunals and the effects of Commonwealth laws. Indeed, the Solicitor-General has said so in his annual report, as I alluded to, and I will detail -

Ms O'Connor - You joined in support of the applicant.

Ms ARCHER - that for the benefit of the House.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, order.

Ms O'Connor - I am worried that the Attorney-General has misled the House.

Ms ARCHER - I have not misled the House. If Ms O'Connor could listen for a change and stop interjecting.

The Government will always remain committed to working with people with disability - I have demonstrated that throughout my entire parliamentary career - as well as their families, their carers, their disability providers and the wider community to build a more equitable, inclusive and accessible state for all Tasmanians.

We have to ensure that our laws in this regard are interpreted correctly so that there is no confusion and so that they are interpreted to the full benefit of those living with a disability. It is critical that our laws are interpreted correctly. Such action has been necessary at the very least to provide clarification to ensure our laws are interpreted correctly. As is consistent with -

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker. Mr Cawthorn is entitled to an answer to understand why the Attorney-General joined in support of the developer and not Mr Cawthorn. That is the question.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, you have put the question to the minister. I do not uphold your point of order. The Attorney-General is answering the question and she should be heard in silence.

Dr Woodruff - And she is restating what she has said numerous times.

Ms ARCHER - Dr Woodruff can withdraw that. She just said I am misleading the House. I am not.

Dr Woodruff - I said she has made that statement numerous times. Those were my words.

Mr SPEAKER - Nobody should be interjecting and nobody should be explaining what their interjection was. The Attorney-General has the call. I expect the rest of her answer to be heard in silence. The next person who interjects will be asked to leave the Chamber.

Ms ARCHER - Thank you, Mr Speaker. As is consistent with section 8(c)(i) of the Constitution Act 1924 and the rule of law, I will always exercise the powers of Attorney-General with the high standards of integrity and act apolitically when required.

I intervened in an application to the High Court of Australia by Citta for special leave to appeal a decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Tasmania. The High Court has granted Citta leave to appeal. In doing so, the court noted that the appeal raised an important question of national significance and that Citta case was reasonably arguable. Accordingly, I am intervening in the appeal proper.

There is an important issue currently before the High Court. That is, whether the full court's decision of our Supreme Court requires our state Anti-Discrimination Tribunal to exercise federal judicial power, which may be unconstitutional. I will repeat that: which may be unconstitutional. Left unanswered, state tribunals may routinely exceed their jurisdiction, bringing about confusion, uncertainty and disappointment amongst parties before them as well as increased appeals.

There are important constitutional issues involved in this appeal which, as the High Court has noted, are of national significance. Often many states intervene on the same proceedings for this purpose so that they can get clarity for their own jurisdictions. By granting Citta leave to appeal, the High Court has recognised the importance of this issue to the fabric of our federation and the Commonwealth Constitution. My intervention in this matter is for the sole reason of ensuring that the state's institutions act lawfully. I am not, the Government is not, siding with any particular party. It is a point of law.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker. There is a document that says the Attorney-General is joining in support of the developer. We need some clarity here.

Mr SPEAKER - On the point of order, again, silence.

Ms ARCHER - There are plaintiffs and defendants to an action. There are appellants and respondents. If a document has referred to me joining with Citta, it is purely in name only. It is not that we are supporting the developer. I have made it very clear that my intervention in this matter is for the sole reason for the ensuring that the state's institutions act lawfully. I am sorry I am taking up time, Mr Speaker, but it is important I get this on the record.

The state is not taking sides with respect to the merits of the case. Nor is the state attacking any of the provisions of our Anti-Discrimination Act 1998. The state's interest is limited to the important question of the correctness of the Full Court of the Supreme Court's decision by reference to the Commonwealth Constitution. The Solicitor-General's own annual report notes this.

I note there was a cheap shot by the Leader of the Greens in her adjournment speech. That is why I have not come in here and said this because I have answered these questions in question time before. I do, and I will refer to the Solicitor-General, an independent and

eminently qualified legal practitioner, an independent statutory officer. He said in his annual report:

The Attorney-General accepted my advice to intervene in the special leave application in this matter as a result of concerns that the judgment of the Full Court of the Supreme Court did not appear to accord with the constitutional principle that a State is unable to invest the judicial power of the Commonwealth in a body which is not a court, in this case, the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. As was pointed out in the High Court, the case is of national significance. The special leave application has been allowed, and so the matter will go on appeal to the High Court during the next reporting period.

I mention the case to clarify two matters that have been misrepresented in the public domain.

This is my final point and I still quote the Solicitor-General.

The first is that the State's case does not involve an attack on the validity of the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1995*. The second is that the State's case does not attack the merits of the cases advanced by either party. The State's concern is that, until the Full Court's decision is authoritatively ruled on by the High Court, State Tribunals will be left in the difficult position in which they are bound to follow a decision of the Supreme Court, which may lead them into error, and occasion inconvenience and expense to the parties.

They are the facts. Ms O'Connor either has not read that annual report of the Solicitor-General, a dereliction of her duty as a member of this place, or chose to ignore it. I hope she has read it and that she simply has not understood the exact principles there.

The issue in respect of which we are intervening became apparent the first time when the Full Court of the Supreme Court published the reason for its decision. Until then there was no occasion to intervene in the proceedings before the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal or the Supreme Court or the Full Court. We are talking also about a time when it was the then attorney-general, Dr Vanessa Goodwin.

Securing Tasmanian's Future - Infrastructure and Construction

**Mr STREET question to MINISTER for INFRASTRUCTURE and TRANSPORT,
Mr FERGUSON**

[10.27 a.m.]

Can you update the House on how the Liberal Government is delivering our plan to secure Tasmania's future through infrastructure, development and construction, and across your other portfolios? Are you aware of any other approaches?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Franklin, Mr Street, for his question. I will answer the last part of his question first. No, I am not aware of any alternatives to our strong infrastructure plan. It is an exciting time, building our incredible state, through our infrastructure, housing, development, construction and transport projects and services. I think many Tasmanians know that. They tell us that.

As the Premier said yesterday, the economic indicators show that Tasmania is on a strong growth curve. The trend is holding as we look towards 2022. That means job security and confidence in our state like Tasmanians have never seen before. We heard from the Treasurer that Tasmania's economy grew 3.8 per cent in 2021, the second fastest rate in the country, more than double the national rate and nearly double that estimated in our own Budget. The Government is building infrastructure that enables this economic growth. Our record investment on roads, rail and bridges alone last year was two-and-a-half times more than that spent in the last full year of that disastrous former Labor-Greens government.

The improvements to safety and amenity on the Midland Highway are very evident and now more than two-thirds complete, on time and on budget. As members here would be aware from some recent very nasty crashes and fatalities that those remaining final stages are so important to us as we now move to begin around Oatlands, Ross and Campbell Town very soon.

The growth in population and economic activity around Sorell and the southern beaches is also being supported by the joint Morrison-Gutwein Liberal Government's \$350 million investment in the south-east traffic solution, one of the biggest seen in that region. On the Bass Highway the first projects have now started under our \$280 million joint Morrison-Gutwein Liberal Government's investments. They are greatly appreciated in that community.

The Government is modernising public transport. The new and very popular Derwent River ferry service is already being extended, with extra services and an extra ferry this summer. The new timetable starts on Monday. It is great news. This year saw the delivery of the 100th locally built BusTech bus for Metro, meaning that we now have one of the youngest fleets in the country, while improvements to the bus networks have resulted in faster, more direct and frequent services - just what customers said they wanted.

We have also seen the launch of the second new Bruny Island ferry, the *Parrabah*, the introduction of quarterly vehicle registration payments, and reforms to the taxi and rideshare industries to create a more even playing field.

New funding is locked in for our upcoming zero-emissions bus trial. More buses, new park-and-ride facilities and upgraded bus shelters, which Tasmania needs, are all designed to increase and put more value on public transport in Tasmania. We want to see the encouragement so that we see more priority on public transport.

We also have a comprehensive approach to increasing housing supply, and we need it. It is the only way to combat rising prices, and put downward pressure on house prices and rentals. Since the commencement of the Affordable Housing Strategy - and I commend previous Liberal ministers in this area - 1143 new long-term homes have now been built, including 279 in the past year alone. In the past 12 months, we have released 356 new lots of

land and made 69 units of homeless accommodation available. Today there are 514 new homes being built and 115 units of new public housing due for completion by the end of next month. Our plan to deliver extra rental housing is working. I am pleased to advise the House that 144 dwellings have been approved under our Ancillary Dwellings Program, which is encouraging people to build ancillary dwellings that must be rented into the rental market.

Another incentive we introduced this year was our residential land rebate program. I am thrilled to tell the House, for the first time, it is already unlocking 458 lots of new residential land which have been approved, with more to come.

We have been working hard, as well, to create opportunities for our ICT sector. We are building a digital Service Tasmania portal for centralised access to government services anywhere, any time and on any device.

In conclusion, across the state-owned companies in my portfolios, the investment pipeline is huge and growing, including the \$64 million shiploader at Burnie and the \$240 million Devonport East redevelopment. On the shiploader, which triggered Dr Broad, that is a Tasmanian product. Congratulations to COVA Haywards for getting that job under our Buy Local policy, introduced by the Gutwein Liberal Government.

Mr SPEAKER - If you could wind up, minister.

Mr FERGUSON - As I wind up, it is a long way from the dark, bad old days of the Labor-Greens government. We are delivering for Tasmanians and we are grateful for the support.

Political Donations - Disclosure of Gambling Industry Donations

Ms JOHNSTON question to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[10.33 a.m.]

In 31 sleeps, Santa will hopefully be paying Tasmanians a visit, but I am sure for the poker machine industry, it feels like Christmas has come early this week. As it has been said many times in this place, we have non-existent donation disclosure laws in Tasmania. Even with the weak federal laws, Tasmanians will have to wait until after Christmas before they will know how much the gambling industry has donated to the Tasmanian Liberal Party in the most recent financial year.

Will you tell Tasmanians today how much the gambling industry donated in cash and in kind to the Liberal Party in the last financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank Ms Johnston for that question and for her interest in this matter, enduring as it appears to be.

The first thing I say with regard to Santa, is I am pleased we will not have any restrictions on Santa coming into the state this year. In fact, after 15 December -

Ms O'Connor - What if he has COVID-19? Will you check he is double-vaxxed?

Mr GUTWEIN - Yes, he will be double-vaxxed. If his last stop is Victoria or New South Wales, he will have a test as well. If he is COVID-19 positive, I might leave that to Dr Veitch to deal with.

The simple answer to that question is that we follow the law and those disclosures are a matter for the Australian Electoral Commission. Regardless of the time frame or what else occurs in those matters, it is at arm's length from me. It is a matter for the party.

I make this point, which is one you and others in this place seem to skip past: the most recent advice we have, the social and economic impact study, indicates that Tasmanians are gambling less, there are fewer Tasmanians gambling, and the number of problem gamblers has fallen. That is what is happening.

You have done your very best to raise matters in this debate over recent weeks and months but the people of Glenorchy and the northern suburbs, which is your electorate, are not beating a path to my door. I heard a Labor member indicate a significant level of doorknocking prior to a previous election and also in recent times but, on the street, it is not an issue. People are not raising it or talking about it. The facts are that we have a very strict harm minimisation regime in place. I do not have my phone in my pocket but in the time that I am sitting here in question time I could be online and I could lose my house. That is what the evidence is telling us around the country about where the real risk of gambling is, especially among young men.

For whatever reason you want to maintain your position on this, I say again that in this state we have some of the strictest regulations in the world regarding gaming. Tasmania right now is one of the safest places you could gamble. Bearing in mind the opportunities to gamble on a whole range of platforms, one of the safest places is in one of the gaming rooms. At least they are supervised and operate under regulations. I make the point again that the evidence of those social and economic impact studies indicate that the number of Tasmanians gambling is down, the number of people gambling is down, and the number of problem gamblers is down as well.

Recognition of Visitors

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable members, I welcome students from years 7 and 8 from Oatlands District High School who join us in the gallery today. Welcome to parliament.

Members - Hear, hear.

COVID-19 - Vaccination Rates in North-West Tasmania

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.38 a.m.]

There are large numbers of Tasmanians who are completely unvaccinated. This is particularly evident in our electorate of Braddon. There are nearly 2000 people in Burnie aged over 15 who are yet to have even a single dose; 1500 in the Central Coast Council area; 2100 in Devonport; nearly 1000 in Latrobe; and more than 1300 in Waratah-Wynyard.

These people are seriously at risk when you reopen Tasmania's borders. It is not good enough to say that they have had their chance. What additional steps are you going to take between now and 15 December to ensure that as many of these people as possible have received at least their first dose?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. Advocacy and highlighting why the Government has been consistent and strong when it comes to vaccination all the way through, when it comes to mandatory vaccination for our health, disability and aged-care workers, when it comes to the opportunities all around the state, rural and regional areas, those opportunities have been consistently provided.

We are not stopping there and we are not going to stop on 15 December. We are going to keep going with this consistent, strong messaging around the importance of vaccination as the best line of defence against COVID-19. We will continue to provide access and opportunity all around Tasmania when it comes to vaccination, and continue to reinforce the message and the evidence from interstate. In New South Wales, there are almost 9000 people hospitalised or seriously ill and hospitalised - 8841 is the figure that I have - and 95 per cent of those people were not fully vaccinated. Conversely, in the ACT, where 95 per cent of people are fully vaccinated, there were very few hospitalisations with the recent outbreak there.

I am very pleased that we, as a state, on Tuesday night hit the 93 per cent mark for Tasmanians aged 16 years and over having had one dose of the vaccine, and those fully vaccinated for that age group at 85.65 per cent. I have highlighted -

Ms DOW - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 45, relevance. The minister has not gone anywhere near the question, and he has not outlined what additional measures will be taken to ensure that those people can access a vaccine.

Mr SPEAKER - I do not uphold the point of order. The minister is on his feet and he has the opportunity to answer the question. He is a couple of minutes into his answer. The minister has the call. Silence, please.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am happy to be corrected, but the vaccination rollout has been one of the largest undertakings of the health agency in decades. It has been huge. Over 400 full-time equivalents - 700 people - have been engaged. An army of workers has covered the state from coast to coast, and anywhere in between - big cities, small towns. I am confident everyone has had the opportunity to date to be vaccinated.

However, we are not giving up there. While a majority of the local government areas have passed that 90 per cent milestone, there are some still lagging behind. Circular Head, Kentish, George Town and the Southern Midlands still need to boost their dose rates. I understand that some people in these communities perhaps think that because they are isolated, COVID-19 will not come to them. I ask them please to heed those messages. I am acutely aware because the member and I share an electorate where there were tragedies from COVID-19 early on in the pandemic.

Vaccination clinics have been held on the west coast, including Strahan, Rosebery, Queenstown and Zeehan. It has been identified that we need to go back, and we will, and we

are. We have been closely monitoring local government areas with the lowest vaccination rates, and targeting them with our small towns vaccination bus and pop-up clinics.

There are opportunities at our GPs and pharmacies as well. The vaccination bus has visited Rosebery twice, I am advised; we have also had a number of pop-up clinics there, as well as a presence by Ochre Medical, which is also providing vaccinations.

While we will move vaccination staff around as needed, it is important to remember that there is a whole range of points of presence when it comes to vaccination. In addition to fixed and pop-up clinics, GPs and pharmacies, I thank the Moreton Group for reaching out to help people who are homeless. They have done a tremendous job. We have had vaccination programs targeting specific groups such as the vulnerable, people with disability, homeless, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and Aboriginal Tasmanians.

In the coming weeks there will be clinics in north-western Tasmania, at the Burnie Arts and Function Centre, Devonport Surf Lifesaving Club, and Burnie Community House. The Royal Flying Doctor bus will also continue to visit regional towns in coming weeks.

I mentioned the north-east yesterday. The mayor has made some comments there, and the vaccination rates for both dose one, and particularly dose two, have increased quite dramatically over the last few weeks - almost 20 per cent in the last six weeks.

I am advised that Ringarooma, Gladstone, Bridport, Winnaleah, Kempton, Colebrook, Tunnack, Parattah, Woodsdale, Port Sorell and Ridgley -

Ms O'Connor - Mr Super Long-Winded today, you are.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It is very important information to get out there. It is factual information. It is consistent information -

Ms O'Connor - I am sure it is, but you are not getting to the point. It is wonderful, okay, good.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you. It is not wonderful that we are in a pandemic, and that was not what you were talking about, but it is important that everyone has the opportunity. It has been a huge undertaking by all our health agency staff, and that will continue right up to 15 December and beyond.

COVID-19 - Booster Vaccinations for Healthcare Workers

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.46 a.m.]

Will booster vaccines be mandated for healthcare workers and, if so, when?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for her question. We will always seek and be guided by the best possible Public Health advice. In fact, booster doses commenced in state clinics on 8 November. The ATAGI advice is that the booster should be given six to 12 months after the primary second dose, and is available for people 18 years and older. Tasmanians will be able to book a booster appointment 180 days after their second dose. Booster doses are also available through GPs and pharmacies. I am advised that over 5000 booster doses have been administered in state clinics since the commencement on 8 November, as I have indicated.

While the Government will be commencing booster doses, the priority is for dose 1 and dose 2, and that will be our focus and our priority. There are still many thousands of Tasmanians who are yet to receive the jab, even though we are at 93 per cent and almost 86 per cent fully vaccinated. That will be our focus. The booster doses -

Ms DOW - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 45, relevance. The minister, again, has not gone anywhere answering the question. The question was around a mandate for compulsory boosters for healthcare workers. It was a very simple question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - With respect, I thought I answered the question when I first stood up, in my first sentence, that we will be always guided by Public Health advice. If Public Health advice says that it is mandatory for healthcare workers to have a booster, then yes, we will.

Citta Hobart Pty Ltd and Anor v Cawthorn

Ms O'CONNOR question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Ms ARCHER

[10.48 a.m.]

We have here the notice of filing in the High Court of Australia lodged by Citta Hobart Pty Ltd and Anor. Under the facts, showing the matter is one to which section 76B applies, it states:

Citta and landowner contended that the state disability discrimination provisions under which the complaint was made were directly, or indirectly inconsistent with this federal scheme -

That is, the federal disability access scheme.

and therefore invalid ...

In your letter to the High Court, it states:

The Attorney-General intervenes in support of the position of the applicants.

The applicants are Citta Hobart Pty Ltd and Parliament Square Hobart Landowners Pty Ltd. Given that you have joined the High Court case in support of the position of the applicants, is it your position that the relevant state discrimination provisions are invalid?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, can I make it very clear that it would not matter who the appellant was. We are intervening on a matter of law. Appeal cases are on matters of law. It is important that I correct some of what Ms O'Connor has said in this place, particularly in her adjournment speech. It touches on the comment that she has made now. Ms O'Connor suggested in her adjournment speech that the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, and I quote -

Got frightened and subsequently found it had no jurisdiction.

Ms O'Connor - Well, the Full Bench of the Supreme Court sort of agreed.

Ms ARCHER - An odd comment in itself. This is scurrilous. It manifests a lack of understanding about the principal matter in which a tribunal must act. Its first duty is to determine its own jurisdiction -

Dr Woodruff - It has nothing to do with the question.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Ms ARCHER - Ms O'Connor referred to the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. The tribunal's reasons disclosed that that is what it did.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker, on relevance. I have not asked about the tribunal. What I have asked you is if it is the Attorney-General's position that the state's anti-discrimination provisions are invalid, which is the applicant's position.

Mr SPEAKER - I do not uphold the point of order. The Attorney-General has the opportunity now to answer the question.

Ms O'Connor - She popped up a straw man.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Ms ARCHER - Ms O'Connor, I have answered in a lot of detail this morning why we are intervening in this matter in -

Dr Woodruff - This is a different question.

Ms ARCHER - In relation to the question that Ms O'Connor has now put, I have answered why we have intervened. I have answered that it is in relation to the principle that has arisen as a result of the decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court. There is an important issue before the High Court and that is whether or not the Full Court's decision requires our state Anti-Discrimination Tribunal to exercise federal judicial power, which may be unconstitutional.

Left unanswered our state's tribunal, in particular now our TASCAT, may routinely exceed their jurisdiction bringing about confusion, uncertainty, and disappointment among parties. My intervention in this matter is for the sole reason of ensuring that the state's institutions act lawfully.

Dr Woodruff - Why did you not join with the defendant? That is what no-one can understand.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Ms ARCHER - Because the appeal case is the appellant. It is Citta Group. I have just said, Mr Speaker, it would not matter who the appellant was; we are not siding with the Citta Group, we are intervening on a matter of law.

Members interjecting.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, before you start, please, silence, so I can hear.

Ms O'CONNOR - I believe the Attorney-General is at risk of misleading the House because this is a High Court document that says she joined in support of the developer.

Mr SPEAKER - It is not a point of order.

Ms ARCHER - Because the developer is the appellant. It is the same as saying we support the appellant, as in their proceedings, not their case. The proceedings. Can I make that clear? I am really reluctant to say this but I am dumbing it down now. We are not supporting their case. We are supporting the action, that is, the proceedings because they are the appeal proceedings on a matter of law which we need the High Court to rule on so that our state tribunals know that they are not exceeding their jurisdiction or in the event they do exceed their jurisdiction.

Securing Tasmania's Future - Productive Industries and Veterans' Affairs

Mr TUCKER question to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRIES and WATER, Mr BARNETT

[10.53 a.m.]

Can you outline how the majority Liberal government is delivering our plan to secure Tasmania's future across the minister's portfolio areas? Is the minister aware of any alternatives?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for his question and his strong support for these important matters. The Government is passionate about supporting Tasmanian businesses, communities and families. Over the past 12 months we have had the greatest health and economic challenge since the Second World War. We have delivered and will continue to deliver our plan to secure Tasmania's future.

We have a bold vision and a clear plan to secure Tasmania's future. You have heard from the Premier and others in regard to the strong economic growth, more jobs and delivering opportunities for Tasmanians and their families.

We are backing our productive industries to the hilt. There is no stronger supporter than the Liberal Government in support of our productive industries and our renewable energy future. We are 100 per cent fully self-sufficient in renewable energy. This year we have legislated for 200 per cent by 2040 and 150 per cent by 2030. This is a world-leading initiative. This parliament should be proud of that.

We are backing a renewable hydrogen industry with \$50 million in our Budget. We are now spending that money. This week we submitted our proposal to the federal government for Bell Bay to become a renewable hydrogen hub, leading Australia to access that, backing our affordable, reliable, clean electricity. It is consistent with the Tasmanian brand of being clean, fresh, pure and natural across all of my portfolios.

With regard to cost of living and cost of doing business, where have the electricity prices gone? Down 7 per cent at July this year and 11 per cent for small business. With regard to the benefits to having either the lowest or among the lowest regulated power prices in Australia in Tasmania, you can see \$145 average household savings or \$183 average for a small business. That is \$30 million savings for our 243 000 households and \$5.3 million for the 29 000 small businesses out there. That is a winner. We have delivered the winter power relief of \$125 for those 90 000 Tasmanians who are doing it tough.

Agriculture is the life blood of our rural and regional communities. It is growing jobs. We heard this week of the 13 per cent growth in agriculture. We have punched through that \$2 billion mark and we are on track to get to that \$10 billion farmgate value by 2050. We are rolling out the Agricultural Development Fund of \$3 million and our plans for Launceston, the UTAS to be a Tasmanian agricultural precinct, working with the researchers, TEA, UTAS, our stakeholders and industry. This is nation-leading and visionary. We are backing it with \$15 million to make that happen, with more to come.

We have done it tough during COVID-19 but we have worked together. We have put the challenges and opportunities on the table with our stakeholders, have had our round tables and have said, 'Team Tasmania, we can do this'.

Water is liquid gold, with \$30 million in our Budget to roll it out to deliver more premium, fresh produce across the state. We are backing the Rural Water Use Strategy because it is precious and important. In addition to that funding support, there is more than \$2 million for biosecurity. We want to keep pests and diseases out of Tasmania and will do what it takes to preserve the Tasmanian brand and protect our environment.

Seafood received \$6 million in unprecedented support, particularly during COVID-19. They have done it tough and we have stood with them to support them all the way, our wild catch fishery and salmon industry as well.

The Wild Fisheries Action Plan has \$3 million to support boat improvements, uptake of new technologies, skills development, shellfish market access and seafood trails. For the first time we have a 10-year recreational fishing strategy supporting the 100 000 Tasmanians out there who love their fishing.

Mr SPEAKER - If you could wind up, minister.

Mr BARNETT - Forestry receives \$7 million for value adding, downstream processing, promoting our forest industry. Mining and mineral processing receives \$3.5 million and makes up more than half of our exports, 60 per cent. With trade, we have punched through another record \$4 billion. Exports means jobs. We are backing them with trade advocates -

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker, standing order 48. Five-and-a-half minutes. You asked the minister to wind up and he has not.

Mr SPEAKER - I accept the point of order and ask the minister to wind up.

Mr BARNETT - Thank you, Mr Speaker. As I was concluding, trade advocates in Singapore, the US and Japan.

Finally, our 10 500 veterans. There is no stronger supporter of our veterans and their families, with record funding of \$1.4 million.

Regarding the other side, there is not much to say. There is nothing, no policy, no plans, not even an alternative budget. They are divided. They are in chaos.

COVID-19 - Increased Demand for Testing

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKCLIFF

[11.00 a.m.]

Yesterday you were unable to explain how Tasmania would be able to accommodate testing hundreds of travellers at state-run clinics. It is not just Tasmanians travelling interstate who will be seeking tests. It is also tourists who need to be tested before they return home. For example, the South Australian Government's website says:

Vaccinated travellers from low-risk jurisdictions with a 90 per cent vaccination rate ...

Likely that category will apply here in Tasmania:

will require a test within 72 hours prior to their travel.

Approximately how many tests are you expecting to be performed per day for Tasmanians travelling interstate and for mainland tourists who require a test before returning home?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the member was briefed on Monday with respect to these matters. The surge capacity will be going from 2000 to 4000 to 5000 per day.

COVID-19 - Ramification of Positive Cases on Business Premises

Ms FINLAY question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mr ROCKLIFF

[11.02 a.m.]

We are only 20 days away from the border reopening and we continue to receive a large amount of correspondence from business owners alarmed at the lack of detail about what will happen if a positive case visits their premises.

How will a close contact be defined and what will be the isolation requirements for close contacts? What about other staff who spend a significant amount of time with a colleague identified as a close contact? How is it that this information is not already available to business owners when they are only 20 days away from the border reopening?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Bass for her question. The Premier clearly explained this last week. There has been a lot of work and engagement between Public Health and businesses. The answers to those questions will be detailed by the Premier tomorrow. It has been explained by the Premier and me -

Ms Finlay - It is not soon enough. They do not know how to prepare themselves.

Mr ROCKLIFF - What tomorrow? It will be tomorrow.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We are also looking at the experience and evidence in other states which is informing our work with respect to this matter, as the experience in other states has informed us about the importance of vaccination. I have just outlined the New South Wales experience and the ACT experience regarding fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated and the implications of that for individuals. Similarly, when it comes to other matters and experience in other states, it will be informing Public Health.

The Premier clearly said last week -

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We understand, Ms Finlay, exactly. We have been preparing for this moment since the start of the pandemic. Over the course of the last 20 months, the most important priority has been getting Tasmanians fully vaccinated - it is above 90 per cent. It has been an enormous amount of work. That is the first line of defence.

As I have said, we have had meetings on COVID-19 with primary healthcare providers, unions and others over the course of the last six months, since I have been the minister. They will increase in frequency. Public Health is meeting with primary healthcare providers today

about their circumstances, questions and the protocols that will be implemented, and working hard with them, working together. You can probably take a leaf out of their book, our book, if you like, about working alongside individuals, businesses, primary healthcare providers across the state. We will get through this by working together, not playing politics and scaring people in the community.

Securing Tasmania's Future - Emergency Services, Parks and Family Violence

Ms OGILVIE question to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Mrs PETRUSMA

[11.06 a.m.]

Could you please update the House on the majority Liberal Government's plan to secure Tasmania's future in the portfolios of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, Parks and the Prevention of Family Violence?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Clark for her question and her interest in all these important matters.

I am pleased to advise the House that 2021 has been a very strong year of delivery in the Parks portfolio. The Parks and Wildlife Service has completed the construction of the magnificent second lookout over Wineglass Bay, undertaken infrastructure upgrades in the Tasman National Park and delivered new camping facilities at Wild Dog Creek in the Walls of Jerusalem National Park. In addition, the PWS has undertaken significant restoration work following the devastation of the 2019 summer bushfires, enabling the reopening of several iconic tracks.

Parks has also delivered the new Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area tourism master plan, the TWWHA natural values climate change adaptation strategy and the TWWHA biosecurity strategy, as well as release the draft TWWHA fire management plan for public consultation. Parks is also prepared and ready for the upcoming fire season, including our winch-capable helicopter crews.

We have also released a feasibility study for the next iconic walk in the beautiful Tyndall Range. On the strength of the study's findings, the Government has now doubled its commitment for this wonderful project to a massive \$40 million.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Parks and Wildlife Service. I thank all of our staff and volunteers, both past and present, for their outstanding efforts, dedication and commitment to delivering a world-class parks service, and preserving and protecting our world-renowned reserve system and our glorious natural and cultural values.

In 2022 we will progress significant reforms to the Reserve Activity Assessment process and continue the delivery of a range of parks infrastructure projects, including the new Overland Track huts, the new Dixons Kingdom camping facilities and bushfire recovery works on the Eastern Arthur Traverse.

Eliminating family sexual violence is a key priority of the Tasmanian Government. Today I am pleased to table the annual report for Safe Homes, Families, Communities Responding and Reporting 2020-21. As I outlined to the House last night, there have been many key achievements over the second year of our second family and sexual violence action plan. This includes our highly successful trial of electronic monitoring of high-risk family violence perpetrators to reduce the incidence and impact of family violence in our state. Our Project Vigilance trial was so successful that Tasmania Police received a silver award in the police-led category of the 2021 Australian Crime Violence Prevention Awards on Tuesday.

There has been a significant reduction of 46 per cent in reported high-risk family violence incidents since the beginning of our first action plan in 2015-16. However, we know that there is still far more work to be done to stop violence before it starts, which is why we have already commenced work on developing our third action plan. Formal consultation on the new plan will commence early next year, including with our 2021 Tasmanian Australian of the Year, Grace Tame, with the next action plan to be released in July 2022.

In my portfolio of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, we are continuing the delivery of our commitment to recruit 308 police officers, with 70 new officers this year alone already graduated and on the beat. On top of this, 48 recruits are currently training at the academy and will graduate next year. We have also welcomed our largest ever TFS recruit course, and in 2021 we have trained 46 new firefighters to bolster our firefighting capacity.

This Government's investment in policing has also enabled the establishment of the Crime and Intelligence Command, which is delivering real results, with Tasmania Police involved in dismantling a drug syndicate, yielding the largest seizure of illicit drugs and cash in Tasmania of over \$5.5 million. In addition, Operation Coat resulted in 20 people being charged with illegal drugs and firearms, and \$140 000 in cash being seized after a major joint police operation targeting criminal networks.

Our new police stations at New Norfolk and Longford - together with a new northern Special Operations Group facility and a new State Operations Centre - will soon be delivered. In 2022 we will continue our capital program, including the new Sorell Emergency Services Hub, police housing and a southern Special Operations Group facility.

We have also commenced consultation on a contemporary new Fire Service Act. I look forward to the report from Mr Michael Stephens next year that will inform the future for this important legislation. As we approach summer, I want to thank all personnel in the Tasmania Fire Service, as well as the State Emergency Service, for their extensive work and their outstanding preparation and planning for the upcoming bushfire season, as well as flood prevention.

The extensive commitment of \$125.6 million by this Government over the forward Estimates to the fuel reduction program, Red Hot Tips, remote area teams, volunteer support and flood mitigation is helping to ensure our communities are prepared and resilient in the face of our changing climate.

Our emergency services, as well as our sexual and family violence services, have been on the front line of Tasmania's response to COVID-19.

On behalf of all of us in this House, I thank them all from the bottom of my heart for the outstanding work they do each and every day.

Mr Speaker, on this side of the House, we have delivered in 2021 on what we said that we would do. In 2022 we will keep on delivering our plan to secure Tasmania's future and to keep Tasmanians safe. That is in stark contrast to those opposite, who have not delivered on what they said they would do, torn by infighting. In fact, the bitter divisions just keep getting worse. To put it in the words of the soon to be leaving Labor member for Huon, Mr Bastian Seidel, it is just toxic.

Introduction of Non-fatal Strangulation Laws

Ms O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, Mrs PETRUSMA

[11.12 a.m.]

I note the minister's comments just now that this Government delivers and does what it says it will do. It has been more than two years since Coroner McTaggart recommended the Government investigate the introduction of non-fatal strangulation rules. You promised your party would introduce such laws during the election in April and, in June, the Attorney-General released advice from the Sentencing Advisory Council saying the laws would bring Tasmania into line with other jurisdictions. Five months later, with parliament not set to return for a further three months, we are still yet to see the bill. What we are seeing is a steady stream of family violence cases.

As minister for Police, and as the minister responsible for the prevention of family violence, what action have you taken to pursue this matter with the Attorney-General? Why was it not a priority for your Government this year? Why did you not deliver what you said you would?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Bass for her question. On this side of the House, there are no bitter divisions, so we actually talk to each other and work together quite closely.

The Attorney-General and I quite often discuss these issues of great significance and importance to this state, because we want to stop family violence from starting at the start. I congratulate the Attorney-General for the outstanding work she has been doing with regard to legislative reform, because she is passionate about making sure that no woman and no child in this state ever experiences family violence.

Our Government recognises that non-fatal strangulation, choking or suffocation is a significant form of violence, and can be a precursor for escalation in the severity of family and domestic violence. Non-fatal strangulation, choking or suffocation is never acceptable. The protection and safety of victims of family violence and their children is a priority for our Government and for everyone on this side of the parliament. That is why the Attorney-General, during the election, announced that we will move to strengthen our laws.

We are currently drafting legislation to introduce a standalone offence of non-fatal strangulation in Tasmania, which will recognise the seriousness of this behaviour by allowing it to be charged and prosecuted as a specific criminal offence.

In doing so, we are taking on board the extensive work of the Sentencing Advisory Council regarding the various laws that operate in most other states and territories. We are listening to our stakeholders and the community, which is why we will introduce a standalone offence, as we said we would do, and we will strengthen our laws to the benefit of everyone in the community.

The Attorney-General, her department and I are working closely with relevant stakeholders on the elements of the offence. The Attorney-General looks forward to circulating a draft bill for broad public community consultation before the end of this year, with the intent to table legislation in the new year. The Attorney-General also believes it is very important that we consult, as this is too important an issue to do without consultation and extensive feedback. I want to congratulate the Attorney-General. I know this is an issue of grave importance to so many in this state.

Today, on the elimination of violence against women, I want to encourage all members of this House to work together, because it is only through us all working together with the community sector and government services that we can truly make a difference for the women and children in this state.

Members - Hear, hear.

Securing Tasmania's Future

Mr ELLIS question to PREMIER, Mr GUTWEIN

[11.16 a.m.]

Can you update the House as to how the Government has continued to deliver our plans to secure Tasmania's future during 2021? What are the alternatives?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Braddon for his interest in this matter. Before I touch on the plan, I note what has been an appalling display by the Opposition this morning. On their COVID-19 efforts, my understanding is that they issued only three media releases this year that have encouraged all Tasmanians to get vaccinated. That is the message. That is the most important safeguard -

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr GUTWEIN - that we have against serious illness and death in this state. What you do is completely walk away from the message and you switch to politics. Just extraordinary. I encourage you on that side of the House -

Opposition members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, that is completely unacceptable. I am pleased to see the grade 7 and 8 students have left the Chamber and are not listening to that. The Premier should be heard in silence.

Mr GUTWEIN - Mr Speaker, I encourage those on the other side to get behind the program, and help us ensure that Tasmania is as safe as it possibly can be.

We are in good shape. Our vaccination rates for over-16s are now at 93 per cent, with nearly 86 per cent double dose. The over-12s are at 91.74 per cent - almost 92 per cent for the over-12 population that is eligible for the vaccination, with 86 per cent of them having had second dose.

We still want the 12-18-year-olds to turn up. We still need mums and dads to bring them forward. We still want those kids who are going to go to festivals and dance to get vaccinated. I encourage those on that side of the House to get behind the program, because it has been quite evident that they have not.

I will touch on small business for a moment. I would encourage them, as Dr Veitch has been doing at every press conference that I have been at with him over the last month, to dust off their COVID-19 safety plan. I encourage them to get it out of the bottom drawer, because the simple fact is that we have done such a great job in this state that many people do not believe that COVID-19 is coming. COVID-19 will be here.

I say very clearly to Tasmanians - I would love it if the press would print it - that on 15 December, the best protection you can have is to get vaccinated. It will considerably lower your risk of serious illness and, importantly, death. Get vaccinated. That is the message.

We are in good shape. Earlier this year we had an election, and this year Tasmanians voted for a historic return of a third Liberal majority government.

On that side of the House and across this Chamber, we welcomed new members. There were some members who were elevated to positions and then de-elevated from positions. On that side of the House, if memory serves me correctly, there was a record set for the shortest serving time for a Leader of the Opposition and the shortest time frame for an Opposition Leader who had been sacked to come back. Quite extraordinary.

Ms O'Connor - Four minutes.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr GUTWEIN - In Tasmania we have one of the fastest growing economies in the country. We have had record jobs creation, we are rolling out a massive infrastructure program, underpinning confidence. Survey after survey has indicated that we are the most confident place in the country.

On that side of the House, since the Budget and the shadow treasurer, is it Mr Winter or Dr Broad? I do not think I have had a question, have I? One of you two is the shadow treasurer. Can someone please put their hand up?

On this side of the House we have got on with the job. We have started what is going to be a challenging task for the Government, and that is the commission of inquiry. That needs to occur. We are the first government to have had the courage to put in place that commission of inquiry into child sexual abuse. It will be challenging. We cannot change the past, but from that commission we will shape the future. It will be a safer future for the kids in our state.

Report after report has indicated that the Budget is back on track, our credit ratings have once again been noted and approved at the current levels by the agencies that point out that is as a result of strong financial management and the way the Government has responded to COVID-19. We have kept people safe. That is the role of government. It will be difficult as we move forward.

I urge those on that side of the House to stop their politicking and work with us. I was appalled this morning to hear the reference to Victoria from the member for Bass, Ms O'Byrne. Let me explain something: Victoria last year, more than 800 deaths. A COVID-19 ribbon across their community. You have a responsibility, yet what we watched in this place has been the very public and messy divorce plays out between Labor and the Greens.

The voting record of the member for Clark, who has come to this place as an Independent, indicates she is very close to the Greens, in fact, it is 100 per cent on bills. That will be of interest to your electorate.

I will have more to say this evening in thanking the parliamentary staff and others. I wish those in this Chamber a merry Christmas. I will do that again tonight. I thank the Clerk and his staff for their work as well.

Time expired.

TABLED PAPERS

Joint Standing Committee on Integrity - Report

Ms O'Byrne presented the Annual Report 2021 of the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity.

Report received and printed.

Joint Standing Committee of Public Accounts - Report

Mr Street presented the report of the Standing Committee of Public Accounts - Review of Auditor-General's Report No. 1 of 2016-17 Ambulance Emergency Services.

Report received.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The following answers were given to questions upon notice:

7. HEALTH SYSTEM PERSONNEL - RECRUITMENT

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for HEALTH

In relation to the recruitment of health system personnel, how many of the 180 additional health workforce positions announced in June as part of the 30-Day Plan have been filled?

See Appendix 1 for incorporated document, page 99.

9. DIAGNOSTIC LAPAROSCOPY IN PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Ms O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for HEALTH

- (1) Have any people received diagnostic laparoscopy in our public hospitals for the identification or treatment of endometriosis, and if so, how many in:
 - (a) 2019,
 - (b) 2020, and
 - (c) 2021 to date?
- (2) Is there a wait time for diagnostic laparoscopy in the public health system, and if so, what is this wait time by hospital?
- (3) Is there a wait time for diagnostic laparoscopy for the identification, or treatment of, endometriosis in the public health system, and if so, what is that wait time by hospital?

See Appendix 2 for incorporated document, page 101.

5. DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES, PARKS, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT - STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT

In relation to staffing of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), are there any policy officers employed by DPIPWE who have responsibility for ensuring the marine environment remains healthy, who do not also have responsibilities related to fisheries and/or aquaculture, and if so, how many?

See Appendix 3 for incorporated document, page 103.

12. BURRUNAN DOLPHIN - PROTECTION STATUS

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for ENVIRONMENT

In relation to the Burrunan Dolphin (*Tursiops australis*):

- (1) What is the protection status of the Burrunan Dolphin?
- (2) Has the protection status of this species been evaluated, and if so, who evaluated it, and when?
- (3) Have any measures been taken to protect this species, and if so, what are these measures?

See Appendix 4 for incorporated document, page 105.

8. FAMILY VIOLENCE - ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Ms O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for the PREVENTION of FAMILY VIOLENCE

In relation to the following support services: the Family Violence Counselling Service; Engender Equality; the Sexual Support Service; Laurel House; Yemaya; and the North West Relationship Abuse of an Intimate Nature Program (RAIN):

- (1) Is there a wait time for support from these organisations, and if so, what is the average wait time for people seeking support from these organisations for the financial years;
 - (a) 2018 - 2019;
 - (b) 2019 - 2020;
 - (c) 2020 - 2021, and
 - (d) 2021 to date?
- (2) Are there a waiting list for these organisations, and if so, how many individuals are on these waiting lists for the financial years;
 - (a) 2018 - 2019;
 - (b) 2019 - 2020;
 - (c) 2020 - 2021, and
 - (d) 2021 to date?

See Appendix 5 for incorporated document, page 107.

4. MARINE CONSERVATION - EMPLOYMENT OF RANGERS AND BUDGET

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for PARKS

In relation to staffing of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE):

- (1) Are there any marine park rangers currently employed by DPIPWE, and if so, how many?
- (2) Is there a proportion of the State Budget allocation for Parks and Wildlife Management (Output 8.1 - \$74.9 million) that is dedicated to marine conservation, and if so, what proportion?

See Appendix 6 for incorporated document, page 110.

GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET) BILL 2021 (No. 45)

Council Amendments

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker - I move -

That that message be taken into consideration at a later hour today.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Member for Clark - Ms O'Connor

[11.31 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, last night on the adjournment Mr Barnett took offence to a comment I made during my speech. During my contribution he took a point of order and said:

If the member referred to me as a planet raper, I ask her to withdraw and apologise.

This was in response to a comment I made during my contribution which was:

We are happy to be on the side of the planet protectors and we will always stand against the planet rapers because someone in here has to do it and we will do it.

I maintained at the time that this was not a personal reference to Mr Barnett. It was not.

This morning, you came to my office and drew my attention to an interjection I made during Mr Barnett's contribution before I rose in response to his attack on conservationists. In this interjection I said:

You are the parliamentary arm of the planet rapers. I know which side I want to be on.

This was said in response to Mr Barnett's claims that the Greens are the parliamentary arm of the Bob Brown Foundation. This was clearly a reference to the Liberal Party in response to a reference Mr Barnett made to the Greens.

As such, it is not captured by standing order 144. I further note that under standing order 144 a person must make an objection at the time when such words are used. Mr Barnett now has sought to rewrite history to pretend his objection, made during my contribution, was in relation to a comment made during his contribution. This is manifestly out of order.

That said, Mr Speaker, and in the interests of peace and because Mr Barnett has taken offence, I apologise for any offence caused by my use of the words 'planet rapers'.

SITTING DATES

[11.33 a.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House - Motion) (by leave) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 1 March next at 10 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Government Business Scrutiny Committee - Establishment

[11.33 a.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House)(by leave) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House of Assembly appoint a Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee, with leave to sit on 30 November and 1 December 2021 to inquire into Government Businesses in accordance with the following schedule and rules.

For 2021 the following Government Businesses are allocated to the Committee as detailed below -

Tuesday, 30 November 2021	0900-1000: Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation (1 hour)
	1000-1300: TasRacing Pty Ltd (3 hours)

	1400-1500: Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority (1 hour) 1500-1700: Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd (2 hours) 1700-1800: Aurora Energy Pty Ltd (1 hours)
--	---

Wednesday, 1 December 2021	0900-1200: Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd (3 hours) 1200-1300: Tasmanian Railways Pty Ltd (1 hour) 1400-1500: Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd (1 hour) 1500-1600: Motor Accidents Insurance Board (1 hour)
----------------------------	--

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE -

- (1) The committee shall consist of six members appointed by the House as follows -

The Chair of Committees (Chair);

Mr Ellis (Deputy Chair);

Mr Tucker

Two members nominated by the Leader of the Opposition; and

One member nominated by the Leader of the Greens.

- (2) During sittings, substitute members may be allowed.
- (3) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of a committee, the Speaker may nominate a member in substitution, but in so doing has regard to the composition of the committee appointed by the House.
- (4) A committee may proceed with business despite a vacancy in its membership.
- (5) The Chair of a Committee has a deliberative and a casting vote.
- (6) The quorum of a committee is four of whom one is the Chair of the Committee or Deputy Chair.

- (7) If at any time a quorum is not present, the Chair will suspend proceedings of the committee until a quorum is present or adjourn the committee.
- (8) Any time lost for lack of a quorum shall be added to the time allocated to that session.
- (9) Members of the House who have not been appointed as members of the committee, may participate in proceedings by asking questions, but not more than two in succession; and may not vote, move any motion or be counted for the purposes of a quorum.
- (10) The responsible minister and chairperson of the board of a GB shall be examined before a committee for a maximum period of four hours.

SITTING TIMES

- (1) The committee meets only in accordance with the timetable adopted by the House or as varied by the Chair.
- (2) A one-hour period shall be provided each day at the discretion of the Chair for the purpose of a luncheon break.
- (3) The committee may sit only when the House is not sitting.

HEARINGS

All hearings of the committee are open to the public except that any evidence stated by a witness to be of a commercially sensitive or confidential nature shall, if requested by at least one member of the committee, be heard in camera. Any such evidence shall not be published or in any way divulged by any member of a committee or any other person unless the committee recommends it to the House and the House resolves that the information be made public.

PROCEEDINGS OF A GOVERNMENT BUSINESS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- (1) When the activities of a GB are to be examined at a committee hearing it shall be represented by the responsible minister and the chairperson of the board.
- (2) Questions may be put directly to the responsible minister and the chairperson of the board.
- (3) A committee may ask for explanations relating to the activities, performance, practices and economic management of the GB.
- (4) The witnesses who are asked for explanations may be assisted where necessary by other officers of the GB in the provision of factual information.

- (5) Officers may answer questions at the request of the responsible minister but shall not be required to comment on policy matters.
- (6) Time limits of one minute for a question and three minutes for an answer shall apply in a committee.
- (7) Questions may be asked on a ratio of two Opposition, one Greens, and one Government or in such form as the committee determines.
- (8) A witness may advise a committee that an answer to a question, or part of a question, will be given later to that committee, and where possible that committee sitting day.
- (9) Additional information may be provided to a committee about an answer given.
- (10) Additional information -
 - (a) is to be written;
 - (b) given by a time decided by a committee; and
 - (c) may be included in a volume of additional information laid on the Table of the House by the committee.
- (11) If any member persistently disrupts the business of a committee, the Chair -
 - (a) names the member;
 - (b) if the member named is a member of the committee, suspends the sittings of the committee until he or she has reported the offence to the Speaker; and
 - (c) if the member named is not a member of the committee, orders that member's withdrawal from the sittings of the committee until he or she has reported the offence to the Speaker;

as soon as practicable, the Chair advises the Speaker who then gives notice that the member of the committee be replaced.

- (12) If any objection is taken to a ruling or decision of the Chair -
 - (a) the objection must be taken at once and stated in writing;
 - (b) the Chair, as soon as practicable, advises the Speaker who makes a ruling on the matter; and

- (c) the committee may continue to meet but may not further examine the matter then under consideration.

(13) Television coverage will be allowed, subject -

- (a) to the foregoing provisions contained under 'Hearings'; and
- (b) to the same guidelines that apply to televising of the House of Assembly itself.

TRANSCRIPT

An unedited transcript of committee proceedings is to be circulated, in a manner similar to that used for other committee transcripts, as soon as practicable after the committee's proceedings.

Evidence taken in camera shall be printed on coloured paper and shall only be circulated to the committee members and shall not be divulged in any way to any other person.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A report of the committee is to be brought up by the Chair or the Deputy Chair to the House and shall be the transcript of the public hearings and the minutes of the meetings of the committee.

LEAVE FOR MINISTERS TO ATTEND L.C. COMMITTEE

And that the House of Assembly give leave to ministers of the Crown who have relevant portfolio responsibilities to attend any similar committee established by the Legislative Council if requested by that committee as follows -

Thursday, 2 December 2021	The Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
Friday, 3 December 2021	The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice The Minister for Resources The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Mr Speaker, as is my usual practice, I have engaged non-government members and encouraged them to negotiate among themselves through the Opposition any preferred changes to the hours, noting that the Government's intention here was to remain consistent with previous years. As it happens, it goes on a two-yearly cycle as we take turns with the other place in relation to which GBEs and chairs will appear in that order.

The Government has accepted the request of the Leader of Opposition Business, Mr Winter, on behalf of the Opposition and other members. That is an amicable and professional way to resolve these things. Apart from that it is completely consistent with previous years.

[11.34 a.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I acknowledge that the Leader of Government Business has amended the time line from what was drafted. We appreciate the flexibility to do that. There are different businesses based on the annual reports and the operations of those businesses during the year require more scrutiny than others. It is not to say that one business is more important than another other than the annual report and its operations over the 12 months of reporting warrant further scrutiny. We look forward to doing that.

[11.35 a.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, I also thank the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of Opposition Business for the manner in which the GBE schedule this year has been promulgated and negotiated. I am particularly thankful to Mr Winter for his reasonableness and the fact that when you say something to me and give a commitment that you mean it. That means a lot in here. I thank you for your integrity in this regard.

The Greens want to make sure that there is sufficient time to scrutinise key GBEs, therefore we are pleased to see that the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of Opposition Business have been able to feed in the thoughts of the Greens and that we will have more time to scrutinise Tasracing, Tas Irrigation and TasWater. There are questions there that are significantly in the public interest, as there are for all GBEs.

At the risk of Mr Ferguson politically using what I am about to say next, I sat through Budget Estimates this year and I thought that the Independent member for Clark was treated poorly at the table and that there was not fairness in the allocations of questions to the one Independent in this place and indeed -

Ms Ogilvie - It was identical for me.

Ms O'CONNOR - Ms Ogilvie, who has just piped up, asked more Dorothy Dix questions than Ms Johnston was able to ask in representing her community, to the extent that Ms Ogilvie asked the same Dorothy Dix question twice while Ms Johnston had been effectively told by the Chair that her turn would come. As it turned out, it never really came. It is not fair and it is not in the interests of the people who elect us, that a government backbencher has more questions at the table than an Independent member.

Ms Ogilvie - When I was an Independent, it was exactly the same.

Ms O'CONNOR - The difference is, Ms Johnston turns up.

[11.38 a.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I also thank the Leader of Government Business and the Leader of Opposition Business for including me in consultation around the arrangements with GBEs this year. I appreciate being included in this.

I note, as the Leader of the Greens has noted, that there was an interesting turn of events with the Estimates proceedings between Committee A and Committee B. At the time, I communicated with the Leader of Government Business my appreciation, particularly in Committee A, around the way in which the matter was handled in regard to the rotation of questions.

I note that in this particular motion, once again, independent is not mentioned in clause 7 regarding the ratio of questions - two Opposition, one Greens and one Government. There is no mention of Independents. You gave an undertaking during Estimates to provide appropriate opportunity for me to ask questions. That certainly was fulfilled in Committee A.

I am on the record of expressing concern around Committee B and that there was a delay in the opportunity to fairly ask questions during Committee B. In most instances, I had to wait at least 50 minutes before the rotation got around to me, which meant that when there was a portfolio item only for one hour, there was a limited opportunity for questions from an Independent.

People have elected me to this place to be an independent voice, to ask questions and to hold the Government and, in this case, GBEs to account. I have written to you and acknowledge your response to me this morning, minister, in relation to an undertaking that there will be a fair and appropriate opportunity for me to ask questions. I note, once again, the timetable provided for GBEs only allows in some instances one hour for particular GBEs. I want to ensure that I get at least one question.

I hope that undertaking can be given, Mr Ferguson. Perhaps even more than one question would be appropriate in many instances.

[11.40 a.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I will briefly respond. I also wish to say that TasWater is listed for three hours. It is not a government business. The Government maintains a 3 per cent current shareholding in that business. The minister will not be attending. That is consistent with previous years, but it is a practice that has been adopted from the Legislative Council, which began to show an interest in having TasWater appear - and it has appeared for the last four or five years that I am aware of. However, the chair and the CEO will attend. I wanted to make that additional comment, for the avoidance of any doubt.

In relation to Ms O'Connor's claims and comments, I feel they are a colourful interpretation of history. I might not challenge them too much, other than to say she wears a particular lens in her glasses on this one. Ms Ogilvie, who has previously been an Independent member, was able - under the very same rules, under the GBE Scrutiny Committee last year and probably the year before, two years in a row - to ask the questions, just as Ms Johnston has sought to do. I will not attempt to bind the chair of the committee, but I will say that is the intention, and that is the spirit behind this.

It is interesting that the more you try to codify the order of questions, the more problematic it actually can become -

Ms O'Connor - Well, this is on you.

Mr FERGUSON - It is for the committee and the chair to manage on a day-by-day basis.

Ms Johnston, with respect, the reason some GBEs are one hour is because members have sought to transfer hours to a different business. I am simply saying that the Government has accepted the request of the Opposition. This is always an imperfect science, but what it does is provide the House and its committee, more or less, with its way of finding the way forward. Ms Johnston, I am certain the chairs will afford you a fair opportunity to ask questions, as I know you will seek to do.

I thank members for their contributions. I look forward to the reports of that committee at the end of the process.

Motion agreed to.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Securing Tasmania's Future

[11.42 a.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the following matter - securing Tasmania's future.

There is nothing more important that we could be speaking of today, and I am hopeful this will give everybody an opportunity to speak fulsomely about our fabulous state of Tasmania.

I will start by talking about confidence - confidence in our place, and in our people, as we move forward. Confidence is such an important part of our recovery, particularly from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent on us, in this place, to lead that confidence. We must all do that together, and provide that leadership to our community - with our community - to join with them in the face of the huge challenges that we have been presented through the pandemic - rather than the relentless negativity from those opposite, constantly talking down the careful, cautious public health-led approach that the Premier and our Government has taken through this pandemic.

We should be confident about recovery across the community as we head towards our safe border opening, and our border reopening date of 15 December. It is now just three weeks away, and it is a very important date.

This Liberal Government is delivering our clear plan to secure Tasmania's future, in particular through strong budget and economic management, and this is already delivering results. Our plan is working, and we can see that our Tasmanian economy is roaring back to life. This is a good thing. Only last week, the ABS announced that our economy grew 3.8 per cent in 2020-21. That was the second-fastest growth in the country, and more than twice that of the overall Australian economy. This was a huge result, especially given the broad impacts of the pandemic across our businesses and community.

CommSec's State of the States Report ranks Tasmania 'the best performing economy in the nation' for the seventh quarter in a row, and there is no sign of it slowing down. As

somebody who graduated into the recession back in the late 1980s, and whose friends all had to move to Western Australia to get jobs, I never thought we would say those words, but here we are delivering that result. It is quite incredible.

Exports are at a record high, at \$4.2 billion in the year to September 2020-21. Retail trade is at a record high of \$668.7 million in September. Building approvals over the year are at some of their highest levels in 25 years.

Economic commentators have praised our strong economy. Deloitte said, overall, a lot continues to go right for Tasmania, thanks to strong COVID-19 control and effective government support when it matters most. We also saw an important reflection on the Government's strong economic management in Standard & Poor's credit rating release on 18 November, which maintains the state's AA+ credit rating with a stable outlook. The S&P credit rating reinforces the confidence in the Tasmanian Liberal Government's strong budget management and our continuing recovery.

S&P noted that Tasmania's economy is recovering after COVID-19, aided by strong financial management and a swift response to the pandemic. S&P also stated that Tasmania's economy is outperforming the national average, because the state was successful in containing the initial spread of the virus, and we remained open. It was also pleasing to note that S&P said they continue to view Tasmania's financial management as extremely strong. The state has solid policies and strategies designed to meet funding commitments on a timely basis, and these are managed by specialists.

This is a strong endorsement of this majority Liberal Government's fiscal strategy and budget management. Only this week, Moody's credit ratings have also maintained the state's Aa2 credit rating with a stable outlook. The Moody's credit rating reinforces the confidence in the Government's strong budget management and our continuing recovery, which is so important. Moody's noted that effective management of the pandemic has enabled the Tasmanian economy, our economy, to grow faster and stronger in 2021 than they had expected.

Our businesses continue to enjoy some of the best business conditions in the country, according to the NAB.

The 2021-22 Budget secures Tasmania's future, and it is delivering on our plan to grow our economy, support investment and create jobs. The Budget charts a clear pathway back to surplus. The continued recovery is expected to drive growth in the Tasmanian economy of 4 per cent in 2021-22, and it is so important for confidence. Over four years, 28,000 jobs are being supported with an infrastructure program of \$5.7 billion.

Even today, we have received more positive feedback, with the ANZ Stateometer showing Tasmania continues to perform above trend for the third quarter in 2021. ANZ has described Tasmania as a pocket of strength. We are a pocket of strength here in our fabulous little island. What a beacon of hope for everybody. The report noted that Tasmania is leading the country on wages growth. Specifically, the ANZ report also noted that the state's wages growth has constantly tracked above the national average since 2021.

New ABS data, released today, of construction work done in the September 2020-21 quarter shows that Tasmania continues to outperform the nation. Construction work done in the September 2021 quarter was 19.9 per cent higher than the September quarter last year in

real seasonally adjusted terms. This was the equal fastest growth in the nation, as confident Tasmanians invest in our future, and as our building and construction sector steps up and drives our recovery.

It is good news, and confidence is all around. Building work completed in the year 2020-21 grew to just over \$2 billion. What a result.

Time expired.

[11.49 a.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Mr Speaker, I rise to speak on this matter of public importance. Securing Tasmania's future describes a lot about what this Government actually does. 'Securing Tasmania's future' sounds like a slogan the Government has been using. Before that, it was 'Taking Tasmania to the next level', if I recall correctly. These statements sound very positive but what do they actually mean? What sort of future is the Liberal Government securing for Tasmania? Just as when they talked about 'Taking Tasmania to the next level', which level were they talking about? Were they talking about a level up or a level down? 'Securing Tasmania's future' - what future is this Government actually securing for Tasmanians?

They come in and they talk the big game but this is a government that in March will have been in power for eight years and still what we typically see are just slogans, like 'Securing Tasmania's future'. Many times we have plans, we have the Government spruiking targets. Those targets and plans, and the slogans are all just papering over the cracks of a complete lack of action. Which direction is this state actually heading?

We had the member who has just resumed her seat talk a lot about the economy but there is a distinct difference between the Budget and the economy. The economy has shown some positive signs, absolutely, but things like the unemployment rate have been very volatile at the moment. They are up, they are down, we are better than the national average then the next time they are done, we are worse than the national average. Things are bouncing around and it shows that the Tasmanian economy, typically, can turn around very quickly for matters that are completely out of our control. What is in the Tasmanian Government's control is the Budget.

So, where is the Budget? After these eight years of government, what we are seeing is debt and deficit. Record debt and record deficits. The first time we have had debt since 2004. The Government talks now about pathways to surplus and that is because we have debt for the first time.

This Government, and I have said it many times, is borrowing \$2 million a day, every day for the next four years. What do we actually get for this debt, this \$2 million a day, every day for four years? We get health waiting lists that are the worst they have ever been. The health waiting lists are significantly worse than they were under a Labor government. There have been minor improvements but even with those minor improvements they are still far in excess of what they were under Labor as a government.

We have ambulance wait times spiralling out of control. We have emergency wait times the worst they have ever been. We have record ambulance ramping, and so on.

What is the actual impact on Tasmanian people? We get a glimpse of it every now and then with shocking coroner's reports that talk of people committing suicide in the toilets in the emergency department. We have stories of incidents where old people are put into storage rooms because there is no room in the emergency department. We have coroner's reports talking about babies dying of sepsis. That is what this Government is doing. We have increasing adverse outcomes. How many extra payouts are we seeing in the health system because people are not being seen on time and it is getting worse?

NAPLAN results: the member who has resumed her seat, Ms Ogilvie, member for Clark, talked about securing Tasmanian's future. What about the future for our children when our NAPLAN results are getting worse. The result of the strategies this Government have put in place for the last eight years is worse NAPLAN results. Our education system is demonstrated to be going backwards under this Government. Eight years they have had. The sort of future that this Government is securing for our children is worse educational outcomes.

Child protection is spiralling out of control. Once again, we see coroner's reports detailing the death of children under their watch. Things are getting worse. What do they do about it? They change the way the statistics are collected so that it is more difficult to make a child protection notice. If you ring up Child Protection, they say, 'well what are you going to do about it?' They put the onus back on the person trying to make the representation. It is just shocking.

Where is the justice system that this Government is securing for Tasmania's future? What is it like? We made national news this morning. Congratulations, Government, national news: overcrowding in the prison system, prisoners having to watch each other defecate in the morning. That is the future this Government is securing. What are they doing with those prisoners? They are overcrowding them. They are not rehabilitating them. They are not supporting them; not rehabilitating them; putting them out, sometimes, into homelessness. That is the sort of future this Government is securing.

Crime rates are out of control. We are seeing gun crime in Launceston spiralling out of control. There have been murders lately. There have been stabbings. There has been domestic violence. Silence from the Government. What are they doing about it? The Police Association is talking about the violence and crime rates in Launceston. That is the sort of future this Government is actually securing. Spiralling crime rates. It is out of control.

What are they doing on the economic side, the sort of future they are securing for our major industries? They are throwing the major industries under the bus. What are they doing? Surprising the salmon industry by announcing a moratorium without consultation. The forest industry: they are not maintaining their legislated sawlog contracts, and now they are talking about lock-ups, which they said they would not do.

Major industrials are questioning energy security. What are they doing about the gas system and what are they doing about infrastructure? We had the minister get up and talk about infrastructure. What about the potholes? What about the lack of quality in the roads at the moment?

This is the future this Government is actually securing for Tasmania. All it is is a slogan. When you scratch the surface, this state is going backwards in so many different aspects that the sort of future Tasmania is having secured is one that is worse than it was before.

Time expired.

[11.57 p.m.]

Mr TUCKER (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, this majority Liberal Government is delivering our clear plan to secure Tasmania's future, in particular, through strong budget and economic management. This is delivering results. Our plan is working and we can see that our Tasmanian economy is roaring back to life.

Only last week, the ABS announced that our economy grew 3.8 per cent in 2020-21. This is the second-fastest growth in the country and more than twice that of the overall Australian economy. This was a very significant result, especially given the broad impacts of the pandemic across our businesses and community.

Tasmania's 39 000 small businesses are the engine room of our economy. They employ over 100 000 Tasmanians and are the backbone of many of our regional communities. They are important to many communities across my electorate of Lyons. These jobs are vital to the thousands of families spread across my electorate. Despite our economy roaring back to life, the Government knows just how tough the pandemic has been to Tasmanians and many of those small businesses right across the state. It is why last year, at the height of the pandemic, the Government provided the highest level of support for businesses per capita of any jurisdiction in the country.

I am proud that, working with our federal Liberal colleagues, this majority Liberal Government delivered a supercharged support program to support these Tasmanian businesses, the operators impacted by border closures. Overall, there was a very positive response to the Government support provided to the businesses that had really struggled, and many of them are still feeling the effects.

Businesses and industry leaders praised it. Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Mr Michael Bailey called it a lifeline for business. He said:

The three-pronged approach of waiving operating costs, scaling up cash grants and payroll tax relief will not only help businesses survive the next couple of months, it will help boost confidence across the economy.

Tourism Industry Council Tasmania CEO Luke Martin described it as 'unprecedented and a lift raft for Tasmanian businesses'. Mr Martin said:

The scale of the investment also reflects the Government's confidence in our visitor economy to bounce back out of COVID-19 quickly and strongly. This should give heart to everyone involved in the industry.

Tasmanian Small Business Council CEO Robert Mallett said the increased support package 'will assist thousands of Tasmanian businesses'. Mr Mallett also said that the package would 'provide a much needed lifeline leading into the coming summer months'.

Alex Heroys, CEO of Destination Southern Tasmania, also backed it saying, 'This package is there to support the workforce and to keep those people employed'.

What about the response from Labor at the time? It was more relentless negativity, more whingeing. They have made an art form of the flip-flop and will be better at the beach. What we saw was the spiteful media release at the time from Ms White claiming that the program was not real support. I am not sure what part of the \$70 million of support for our businesses was not real. It shows how out of touch with businesses and the Budget, Labor really is.

Why does Labor always have to try so hard to find something negative to say after some good news is released? It was an embarrassing media release from Ms White, a leader in name only, who has lost control of her own bitterly divided party room. The Opposition should have welcomed it, but they did not. It was a great example of the relentless negativity we have had to put up with from Ms White and Labor this year.

It is all about rebuilding confidence, about providing certainty for our businesses and community, letting them know that we strongly support the recovery of those businesses affected by the lock-downs on the mainland, to continue to rebuild confidence and giving those businesses the best possible support and chance to recover.

Tasmania was the bottom of the heap under the Labor-Greens government. Dead last in so many of the economic reports at the time. At that time, two out of three Tasmanian businesses believed the government was working against them. In contrast, despite enduring one of the toughest economic periods in our history, Tasmanian businesses are confident about their future under a Liberal Government because we will always be on their side.

That is why Tasmanians voted for a strong Liberal Government in May for an unprecedented third time in a row. Ms White, you took the Labor Party's vote backwards in every electorate. It was a humiliating loss for Ms White. In contrast, the voters endorsed our strong Liberal plan to secure Tasmania's future. We are delivering that plan, which is clearly working with jobs now at record levels and the strongest business confidence in the country. We are getting on with job.

Our borders will reopen in three weeks' time on 15 December. As we have done throughout COVID-19, we are taking a sensible and cautious approach to reopening. We are ready. Our Reconnecting Tasmania plan allows our state to open while ensuring that we have the help and safety nets in place to keep on top of COVID-19.

[12.03 p.m.]

Ms BUTLER (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, the latest Dropping off the Edge report provides great insight into the growing disadvantage in Tasmania, the growing divide between advantage and disadvantage. If I get time at the end of this speech, because I know how much the Premier loves Midnight Oil, I would like to recite some of the lyrics to their song *Read About It* because that is indicative of where we are at the moment in Tasmania.

Disadvantage in Tasmania is concentrated. Six per cent of the total number of statistical area levels accounted for 36 per cent of the disadvantaged positions across all indicators. Disadvantage is not shared evenly across the state. The disadvantaged in Tasmania are largely ignored by this Liberal Government which does very little to tackle the issues. The indicators that contributed most to the index in Tasmania were low income and crime.

From the August crime statistics, serious crime in Tasmania is increasing at a startling rate. Serious crime has risen by 40 per cent statewide in comparison to last year. It is now

39 percent above the three-year average. That is a crime. That is a serious issue. Serious crime is a serious issue. Serious crime is increasing, coupled with Tasmanian's custodial inspector accusing the Government of hiding the true extent of prisoner overcrowding.

The Government keeps going on about securing Tasmania's future. That is just make up words. That is just motherhood statements. That is just self-congratulatory pat on the back spin. This is the reality of what your prisons look like. A prisoner said:

You are in a cell with another person. The toilet is in the cell. The shower is in the cell. It is very de-humanising. It is a two-by-four metre cell, so you have got enough room to be able to pace the four metres while the other cell mate lives in his bed. It makes you very erratic. It can make you very manic. You are a caged animal and treated as such.

You have a 40 per cent increase in your serious crime rate. You are putting people into overcrowded prisons. You are not accepting any responsibility for that. You keep telling everyone that everything is fine and then you have one of the highest re-offending rates in Australia as well and you are putting people into prisons and not rehabilitating them. No wonder you have a 40 per cent increase in your serious crime rate. This has nothing to do with security Tasmania's future in a positive way.

Mr Konic stated that:

The designation of the beds is temporary, excluding them from the prison's calculation of operational capacity indicated that the TPS was not providing the staff and services to cater for the additional prisoner numbers in its custodial sentence.

Mr Konic then stated that:

Staff shortages are the second most common reason for lockdowns.

That is why you are constantly having lockdowns. You are fudging figures, you have overcrowded prisons and you are not doing much about that. It is contributing to a 40 per cent increase in serious crime. How is that contributing to a stronger Tasmania?

I would like to talk about the health system next. I will give you some clear statistics on that and how you are seriously not securing Tasmania's future in the existing health system. About 56 000 Tasmanians are waiting to see a specialist at the moment. How is that securing Tasmania's future? There are 18 000 Tasmanians on the dental health waiting list. How is that securing Tasmania's future? Bed block at the LGH is the worst in the country. How is that securing Tasmania's future? About 60 per cent of patients presenting to the LGH ED with life-threatening conditions were not seen in the recommended time and 10 776 Tasmanians are currently on the elective surgery waiting list. How is that securing Tasmania's future? That is disgraceful.

You have some of the highest disadvantage indicators in Australia. Thirty-six per cent of the most disadvantaged people are in six of the LGA areas. You are doing nothing to help those people. Four out of five patients presenting at the Royal Hobart Hospital ED with

life-threatening conditions were not seen in the clinically recommended timeframe. How can that be securing Tasmania's future?

I will move on to housing. The rental affordability index data released yesterday stated that Hobart is the least affordable city in which to rent in the country. We also have the lowest wages in the country. How is that securing Tasmania's future?

Our NAPLAN results are the worst of any state across every age group in reading, the second-worst in every age group in writing, the worst in every age group in spelling, the worst in every age group in grammar and punctuation and the worst in years, 5, 7 and 9, in numeracy. How is that securing Tasmania's future?

In the lead-up to the 2018 election, the Liberal Party pledged that by 2020, Tasmanian students would be at, or above, the national average in reading, writing and maths. Is that part of your Securing Tasmania's Future? You are failing. They are going backwards. Over 52 per cent of our population are functionally illiterate. You are not securing Tasmania's future. Since 2008, Tasmania's performance in NAPLAN has gone backwards in 14 of the 20 indicators across years 3, 5, 7 and 9. We are performing worse than any state, and we are falling further behind on your watch. You are not securing Tasmania's future.

The quote I would like to end with is from a Midnight Oil song, and it goes something like:

The rich get richer
The poor get the picture
The bombs never hit you when you're down so low.

Time expired.

Matter noted.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Pathway to Reconciliation

[12.11 a.m.]

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Premier) - Mr Speaker, I begin by acknowledging the Tasmanian Aboriginal people, Tasmania's First Peoples, and pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

During the last 20 months, we have dealt with challenges brought on us by a worldwide pandemic, which unfortunately has cost lives and impinged on our freedoms and our liberties. However, Tasmanians, in the main, regardless of race, religion, circumstance or background, have reached out their hands to help each other when needed, in the most extraordinary example of common humanity that I have ever witnessed. We must hold on to that. We must grow stronger from it. We must use that strength to move forward together, to solve what have been intractable challenges.

During my lifetime, Tasmania has changed for the better. Our state has progressed economically, as well as environmentally and socially. We have moved a long way from the unflattering views that we once regularly heard, especially from those who had no understanding of the beauty of our state, our strength of character, or our true potential.

Ms O'Connor - Hear, hear.

Mr GUTWEIN - One matter, though, that lingers, that is not resolved, is our relationship with our First Nations people, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people. My Government believes very strongly that we must continue on our pathway to achieve true reconciliation.

At the opening of the 50th Parliament of Tasmania in June this year, her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, outlined in her speech that I had requested Professor Kate Warner AC and Professor Tim McCormack to facilitate a process to understand, directly from Tasmanian Aboriginal people themselves, how best to take our next steps towards reconciliation. They were requested to consult directly with Tasmanian Aboriginal people to gather their views on a proposed way forward towards reconciliation, as well as their views on a truth-telling process, and on what a pathway to treaty would consist of. I am tabling the report in full today.

The Government will now consider the recommendations and respond in full in the new year. The report's authors have briefed respected elders and senior Tasmanian Aboriginal people this morning, and I expect that, in the near future, further briefings will also occur for further stakeholders.

The report highlights that there is much also for Tasmanian Aboriginal people to consider. Some of the report will not make for easy reading. The report opens a door that we can walk through, if we wish - but to do so we must choose to do that together, as further division, further conflict, will not provide a pathway to true reconciliation.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal people have called this place lutruwita, Tasmania, home for more than 40 000 years. As one of the oldest cultures in the world, theirs is a rich history - a story of survival, of conflict and dispossession. It is one that deserves our respect and acknowledgement.

I believe that by understanding our past, no matter how painful or uncomfortable that might be, it is imperative to shaping our future, and ensuring we can share in the benefits of a truly meaningful reconciled relationship.

Professors Warner and McCormack began their consultations in NAIDOC week in July, holding more than 100 meetings over four months. They met with Tasmanian Aboriginal people, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal subject matter experts. The conversations provided Professor Warners and McCormack with the information that has been compiled in their Pathway to Truth-Telling and Treaty Report. The report summarises the views and voices of Tasmanian Aboriginal people across a broad range of topics, faithfully represents the views of Aboriginal people, and provides key insights and learnings that will enlighten many Tasmanians.

I have specifically chosen not to highlight any particular aspect of the report, or to draw quotes from it for this statement today. My reason for that is that the report needs to be

considered in its entirety. It is a carefully considered and thoughtful piece of work by two of our most eminent minds, dealing with complex and, what in the past have been largely intractable, positions held across our broader community, by both non-indigenous Tasmanians and Tasmanian Aboriginals. To highlight one aspect or issue over another risks creating immediate division and debate on issues that, when considered in isolation, can be challenging and confronting.

Professors Warner and McCormack were specifically requested to consider the views of Tasmanian Aboriginal people on truth-telling, and what a pathway to treaty would be. I will, for completeness, outline the major recommendations on those matters the report provides findings on.

One of the key recommendations is to create a truth-telling commission, the make-up of which should include a broad representation of Tasmanian Aboriginal people, with majority membership. It should be chaired by an eminent Tasmanian Aboriginal person, or co-chaired by an eminent Tasmanian Aboriginal woman and an eminent Tasmanian Aboriginal man. The truth-telling commission should be a tool for acknowledging, for recording, and for healing. Professors Warner and McCormack heard strong and consistent advocacy for the need for a Tasmanian truth-telling process that focuses on the past, the present and the future, with the powers of a commission of inquiry.

The report also recommends that Tasmania commits to beginning a Tasmanian treaty process. It recommends that the best way forward is to legislate a broad framework allowing for both truth-telling and a treaty process. It is recommended that the truth-telling process should also determine the representatives of the Aboriginal people for treaty negotiations. It is evident from the report that the next steps of this journey will be complex, as there are many Tasmanian Aboriginal voices, and not all of those voices align, but importantly, all of these views need to be heard.

Non-indigenous Tasmanians will also have a view on this report and its recommendations, and some will hold strong views. I acknowledge this, and I acknowledge that this will not be an easy journey that we are embarking upon. However, this is a journey we need to go on together, and I believe it is a journey Tasmania is ready for. Importantly, if we do this together, we will achieve a uniquely Tasmanian approach to reconciliation, one that provides the foundations for a more equitable and just future for all Tasmanians, both now and into the future.

Every Tasmanian has a part to play in reconciliation, and every Tasmanian will benefit from it. Importantly, we must keep listening to and be guided by Tasmanian Aboriginal people. We must have the courage of our convictions to take meaningful action in order to achieve real change.

I sincerely thank Professors Warner and McCormack for this significant work, and importantly thank Tasmanian Aboriginal people and all participants for their views.

I encourage members in this parliament and all Tasmanians to read this report, and hear and absorb the voices of Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Take the time to reflect on those voices, understand the hurt, the abandonment and the sadness - but also the strength of character, the connection to Country, the pride that shines through in those voices which, for so long, have fought for something better, for acknowledgement and respect. Take time also to reflect on

what we have learnt in the last 20 months about each other and how with kindness, respect and commitment to our shared humanity we have been able to work together to achieve the outcomes that we have as Tasmanians. Let us not lose sight of what we have achieved, the lessons we have learnt and continue this journey together with the same spirit and commitment.

The Government will now consider the report, engage with stakeholders and we will respond in full to the recommendations when parliament resumes next year. I have great pleasure in tabling the *Pathway to Truth Telling and Treaty Report*.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.21 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House take note of the statement.

As a reflection of our recognition of the deep history and culture of this island we acknowledge the traditional owners of lutruwita Tasmania. We acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal people who survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and Aboriginal rights. We also recognise the value of continued and continuing Aboriginal knowledge and cultural practice which informs our understanding of history, culture and in supporting the development of the Tasmanian community.

Today is a very important day. There is so much in our history that we do not speak about. Tasmania has a very long history and we should embrace every opportunity to give a voice to the stories, the people, the culture and to speak truthfully about what happened to Tasmanian Aboriginal people when the colonisation of Tasmania occurred. The Labor Party supports a treaty and we thank the Government for the work they have done to date on progressing a treaty for Tasmania.

Tasmania is unique in that it could be argued the negotiations to commence a treaty have already begun and they began a long time ago. There is historical evidence of two agreements being made between the Crown and Tasmanian Aboriginal people. They are documented in a book, *Friendly Mission*, written in 1966. The first was on the 6 August 1831 at Little Musselroe Bay when George Robinson told mannalargenna of the Coastal Plains Nation that he had been:

Commissioned by the Governor to inform them if they were to desist of the wanton attacks on the settlers they could return to their own districts and have everything provided to them including protection.

The second, in November 1831, Robinson met with two leaders near Lake Echo, montpelliatter of Big River Nation and tongerlongter of Oyster Bay Nation when:

They were willing however to accept the offers of the government and they placed themselves under my protection accordingly.

Sadly for our state and particularly for the Tasmanian Aboriginal people neither of these agreements were upheld by the Crown. There was even a petition from Tasmanian Aboriginal people to Queen Victoria in 1846 in which they wrote:

Your petitioners humbly state to your majesty that Mr Robinson made for us and with Colonel Arthur an agreement which we have not lost from our minds since. We have made our part of it good.

Despite all this, there is no treaty in Tasmania. The agreement struck in 1831 has not been honoured by the Crown.

The tabling of this report today, *Pathway to Truth Telling and Treaty Report*, is an important development for our state. I acknowledge the work of Professor Kate Warner and Professor Tim McCormack, who are here with us today. Also, people from the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who are joining us in this place. Thank you for being here and for giving us this chance to get it right.

With the telling of stories from our history there is likely to be pain, anger, remorse, guilt, shame as well as feelings from across our community of elation that, despite attempted genocide, Tasmania's First People continue to survive today. Some people will feel confronted, others will have their assumptions challenged for some truth telling will be powerful and an empowering experience. There will need to be appropriate counselling provided to ensure that all Tasmanians who engage in truth telling can do so in a way that is supported and is culturally appropriate. A treaty will need to address many elements and also recognise that intergenerational trauma continues to impact on Tasmania's first people.

The trauma of separation from country, family and culture cannot easily be healed but we have an obligation as the Tasmanian parliament, and for government, to honour the offer of treaty that was first outlined in 1831 and to make reparations for the wrongs of the past.

The Labor Party and I know that the path forward may not be easy, but the Labor Party is committed to treaty. We will take time to read this report and listen to the voices of Tasmania's Aboriginal people. We commit to doing all that we can to support this important work and commend the Government again for tabling this report today.

[12.26 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, I, too, pay my respects to Tasmania's First People. To Aboriginal Elders past, present and emerging, I pay my deepest respects. I acknowledge the warriors who fought for this country when the English arrived and I acknowledge the warriors in the Aboriginal community who continue to fight for this country today.

We are standing on country that was taken at the point of a gun, an island that was never ceded by its true owners. What we are dealing with here is 218 years of violence, dispossession and despair. I acknowledge that Tasmania's Aboriginal people have endured dispossession and violence and they are strong in their culture and identity. I acknowledge the members of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community who we are privileged to have here with us on this significant day.

I thank Professor Kate Warner and Professor Tim McCormack for the heart and soul that they put into this work. I thank the Premier for starting this hugely important process towards truth telling and treaty. We would not be standing here if the Premier had not done the right thing and recognised that there are wounds that have not healed. These wounds profoundly affect Aboriginal people, but it is a stain on all our collective souls.

The path to true reconciliation is a path that we must all walk together for healing. I note that in this House right now, there is not one member of the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as a representative in this place. This place is full of, as they say in palawa kani, raytji, we are white fellas and white women. Part of true reconciliation, truth telling, treaty and justice must be to ensure we have Aboriginal representation in the Tasmanian Parliament.

In the soil of this beautiful island, lutruwita, Tasmania, are the bones and stories of countless generations. It is very hard if you are not an Aboriginal Tasmanian to conceive of how deep the connection is to this country. To Aboriginal people, the bones and the stories of the old people are part of this country and we can learn a lot from Aboriginal Tasmanians in this difficult climate-constrained century about how to better look after this beautiful island. That too needs to be part of reconciliation. We need to be prepared to hear hard truths and as raytji we need to sit and listen and commit to acting.

I will briefly touch on the 1831 agreement between Robinson and Mannalargenna that saw Aboriginal people, who had been at that point subject to persecution, who were hunted, chased off their lands at the point of a musket, on Robinson's promise, downed their weapons and went to the islands. They believed a white man when he told them they could come back on their country and that was a betrayal. We, as a parliament, need to acknowledge that betrayal as part of moving towards treaty.

No more broken promises, Mr Speaker. No more false hope for this island's true owners. We now have a signpost to truth-telling and treaty and I believe we have a collective will in this parliament to walk together with Aboriginal Tasmanians to heal some of those multi-generational and terrible wounds. We need to return lands. It has been some 16 years since land was returned to the first people of this island.

On behalf of the Tasmanian Greens, I wholly recommit to working cooperatively with Aboriginal people and across this parliament towards true reconciliation and healing, truth, treaty, justice, the return of lands and changing the date of our national day from 26 January which, as we know, nationally, is the day Aboriginal Australians lost their country.

This is a very important first step in the report that we have been handed by Professors McCormack and Warner. We have a pathway to truth-telling and treaty and it is a pathway we need to walk together with open hearts and genuine commitment. Thank you again, Premier, for making this happen and I also commend the report to the House.

[12.32 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Aboriginal Affairs) - Mr Speaker, I will speak very briefly today because this statement, this debate, this report is not about our words here today and what we here think about what Aboriginal people need or want. The report is not a government report, it is not a consultancy, it is not a policy proposal to debate. It is the beginning of Tasmania's first attempt to capture the voices, views and feelings of Aboriginal people themselves on things that matter to them, not just the questions we have chosen to ask them. Today is all about them and what they said.

First, and most importantly, I honour and thank the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who trusted us in this process to share their views, stories and feelings, some of which we have heard before from voices we have heard before, some of which are new, and some of whom have come forward for the first time to tell their story to us in this way. Sometimes those stories

will have been difficult for them to have shared and sometimes they may have been fearful about sharing them. Nevertheless, they trusted us with their stories in good faith for the benefit of all Tasmanians and so thank you to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people who were part of this process with us.

I thank Professors Warner and McCormack, and Fauve Kurnadi, who worked with them, for being people worthy of that trust on behalf of all Tasmanians, representing our readiness to listen. The feedback I have had from Aboriginal people, Aboriginal stakeholders I have spoken to has been that they felt heard and they felt confident to share their time, their thoughts and their stories with you.

Thank you both for carrying that responsibility so well. We have said it before; we could not think of anybody else who could do it. We thank you for the work you have done. It has been a remarkable piece of work and you have given us a unique product.

I thank, as others have, our Premier, Peter Gutwein, and all who have supported his initiative to set off on this journey without a clear destination in mind but a preparedness and a commitment to be guided by the voices of Aboriginal people themselves. Thank you, Premier.

I note now that the challenge sits with us. The people who prepared this report, who did all the work carefully curating and faithfully representing the views of Aboriginal people who have shared their stories, and all those people who contributed the content - those people now trust all of us to read the report: not just to skim through to find the bits that interest us or that we agree with or do not agree with, or to try to speculate on the policy outcomes or to second-guess the next steps.

If we all read this work in full, through all of its density, all of its scholarship, all of its difficult-to-hear parts and its uplifting and aspirational words, we can all return to this place next year better equipped, better qualified to discharge our responsibilities to Aboriginal people and all Tasmanians and then to take the next steps, guided and led by the words and voices of Aboriginal people in this report, on the challenging but essential journey ahead. I thank everybody who has given me the privilege of being part of this today. Thank you.

[12.37 p.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal community, the Elders past, present and emerging, traditional owners and custodians and, importantly, the ongoing custodians of this beautiful island that we call home. I thank those who have participated in the development of this report and I particularly acknowledge those who are here today. I apologise that I have my back to many of you here. It is a historic day today. I also thank Professor Kate Warner and Professor Tim McCormack for the care and way they have approached the development of this particular report.

I stand here as the Independent member for Clark to support a truth-telling process, a treaty process and a path to true reconciliation. I recognise the sadness, the hurt, the difficult conversations that have been occurring in the development of this report and acknowledge, as the Premier has, that the pathway forward is not going to be an easy one. Truth-telling is not easy. It can be uncomfortable and painful to tell and to listen to. I commit to doing all that I can with genuine love and support to this process, to the community, the Aboriginal community, to go on this journey together with them so that we can have true reconciliation and truth-telling.

I commend the Government for tabling this report today. It is an incredibly important moment in history and I think that, as we look back on this particular day, we will do so with pride because it is about truth-telling, it is long overdue, it is about reconciliation and it is about moving forward together as a community with love and support for one another and this beautiful island.

Statement noted.

**JUSTICE AND RELATED LEGISLATION (MISCELLANEOUS
AMENDMENTS) BILL 2021 (No. 60)**

Second Reading

Continued from 24 November 2021 (page 49).

[12.41 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I believe I was winding-up my contribution and agreeing that the changes that have been made in the Sex Industry Offences Act appear to be appropriate, in terms of the concerns the main stakeholders, Scarlet Alliance, had previously raised. It is good that it has been changed.

With those words, and in light of the comments I previously made about the legislation when it came to the House the first time, we are happy to support the bill.

Ms ARCHER (Clark - Minister for Justice) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank Dr Woodruff and Ms Haddad for their support of this bill. I know that a lot of their contributions were made when we first debated a similar version of this bill, but it was not completed in time before parliament prorogued for the state election in May, and we have brought this back.

As I said in my second reading speech, we have taken the opportunity to address one specific issue in relation to the Sex Industry Act, and also added another request that I think was made by the chief.

In summing up, I am pleased that both Ms Haddad and Dr Woodruff have acknowledged the work to carry out further consultation and engagement with stakeholders on this revised bill. Specifically, we have listened to concerns that were raised during the last debate regarding the proposed amendment to the Sex Industry Offences Act 2005. I note Dr Woodruff took me at my word that Scarlet Alliance had been appropriately consulted. I can confirm I have triple-checked this, that subsequent briefings and discussions with the Scarlet Alliance have been held. We have further refined the amended definition of sexually transmissible infection, or STI, to address the feedback that has been received, particularly in relation to the inclusion of specific diseases in the list, which Ms Haddad mentioned in her contribution as well.

I understand the department also had further consultation with the state Sexual Health Service and the Department of Public Health to ensure the changes did not have any unintended consequences, because these were originally put forward by the Department of Health.

The amendments are needed, as the Sex Industry Offences Act refers to diseases specified as sexually transmissible infections in Table 1 of the Guidelines for Notifiable Diseases -

Human Pathogenic Organisms and Contaminants, issued by the Director of Public Health, under section 184 of the Public Health Act 1997.

The current guidelines are now called the Guidelines for Notifying Diseases and Food Contaminants - slightly easier to pronounce - issued 18 January 2016, and do not include a table or specification of STIs that aligns with the definition in the act. The term 'sexually transmissible infection' is therefore currently undefined in the act. The term needs to be defined as it relates to the offence provision of section 12, whereby sex workers must abide by the general requirement to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risks of acquiring or transmitting an STI.

The proposed definition in the bill provides for a broadly consistent approach with many other jurisdictions, which either take a broader approach to defining STIs, or do not specifically define STIs - with the exception of New South Wales, which has a different regulatory framework. As a result of these changes and further engagement, the Scarlet Alliance has indicated strong support for the amendment.

I thank the department for their work in bringing these amendments forward, specifically the Strategic Legislation and Policy Unit within my department. They have ensured that we have efficient acts in place, and address any minor, technical or necessary issues as they arise in legislation from time to time. We do these in justice and related legislation (miscellaneous amendments) bills throughout the year, and it is important that we address these things as and when they arise, or near enough thereto.

As members know, I have quite regular meetings with the chief magistrates and the Chief Justice. They write to me, and any legal or other stakeholder or member of the community is certainly welcome to do the same. We can investigate and identify any anomalies that might need investigating at the first opportunity, and then amend if necessary.

There were no questions put to me, which I think might be a record. In all the bills I have taken through - and I have lost count - I have not ever not had a question, so that is most unusual and very pleasing.

I thank all parties for their support of this bill, and in anticipation of it passing the other place, I commend the bill to the House.

Bill read the second time.

Bill read the third time.

GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET) BILL 2021 (No. 45)

In Committee

Council amendments to clauses 33, 39, 44, 68, 76, new clauses A, B and C

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Deputy Chair, I move -

That the Council amendments to clauses 33, 39, 44, 68, 76, and new clauses A, B and C be agreed to.

I am in the hands of the House. If we would like to do them individually, or together, I am open-minded. I assume we will do them individually, unless there is a shared view that we do them together.

I can indicate from the outset that the Government will be agreeing to all of the amendments that are before us from the Legislative Council.

Ms O'Connor - I have a proposed amendment to the amendments for clause 65.

Mr FERGUSON - I propose that we deal with them all together, except for clause 65.

I will speak to the amendments in total, except for the amendment proposed to clause 65.

Mr Deputy Chair, I move -

That the committee agree to the amendments in front of the House to clauses 33, 39, 44, 68, 73, and new clause A, new clause B and new clause C.

First of all, the amendment proposed by the other place to clause 33 inserts additional wording into the object of the act, to ensure a public health and consumer protection approach is taken. The objects of the act are intended to be very broad and the Government believes it should not be too restrictive. We had a debate in this House in relation to the objects and the Government did agree to an amendment to support the Greens request.

We believed that we had the balance right when it left the House; that the requirements to consider harm and consumer protection were addressed through the objects of the bill. However, inserting this additional wording provides some additional clarity to decision making in the future. The Government does not oppose that occurring to ensure that the bill can continue to move.

The proposed amendment to clause 39 prevents the high roller casinos as proposed in the legislation from operating fully automated table games. So that the Committee is clear, there was not any intention to have fully automated table games in high roller casinos, but the amendment clarifies that position and therefore the Government has no issue with that.

The amendment to clause 44 provides that the commission is required to consider if an applicant for a casino or Keno licence is suitable with regard to its history of compliance with industrial relations and workplace safety laws in Australia, and whether appropriate systems are in place to protect whistleblowers. It is a revised amendment of an amendment that was moved in this House, I think, by Mr Winter. While the Government thinks provisions of this type are more appropriate in workplace health and safety laws and there are provisions for those arrangements, the revised amendment from the Legislative Council is different from the one that was moved in this House. It has a reduced scope, it is more workable, it is more acceptable to the Government and so we will not be standing in the way of that.

The amendment to clause 68 is to set the date of renewal of a venue licence to take effect as the day on which the current licence was due to expire. This is complementary to the

amendment which we will later discuss to clause 65 and is required to make the amendment to clause 65 operate correctly.

The amendment to clause 73 applies the same provisions previously inserted for casino and Keno licence applications to an applicant for a monitoring licence with regard to consideration of the applicant's history of compliance with industrial relations and workplace safety laws in Australia and whether appropriate systems are in place to protect whistleblowers. As previously mentioned, while the Government thinks that provisions of this type are better and more acceptable and more appropriate in workplace health and safety laws, the revised amendment has a reduced scope and applies equity to the considerations of applications for different licences.

I move now to the amendment, new clause A, as amended from the other place. This amendment reorders and rewords the functions of the commission. While the Government does not believe that this amendment provides any significant expansion to the functions of the commission it is however considered to clarify the functions and modernised wording in relation to gambling harm. The Government does not stand in the way of that.

In relation to new clause B which amends section 127A(c), this amendment requires the minister to direct the commission 12 months after the act receives Royal Assent to carry out an investigation into the introduction of simulated racing events and provide to the minister a report within six months of the direction being given. The amendment further requires the minister to direct the commission 12 months after the day on which part 4 of the act commences to carry out an investigation into the introduction of fully automated table games and provide to the minister a report within six months of the direction being given.

Again, while it is likely the commission would have reviewed these products at an appropriate time into the future in any event, the Government does not oppose such reviews being required, even reviews that are at the instruction of the minister of the day.

Finally, the new clause C, section 38(2) 'Matters to be considered in determining application'. This amendment that we have received from the other place applies the same provisions previously inserted for casino, Keno licence and monitoring operator applications to an applicant for a venue licence with regard to consideration of the applicant's history of compliance with industrial relations and workplace safety laws in Australia and whether appropriate systems are in place to protect whistleblowers.

I think Mr Dean may take the credit for this amendment that was moved in this House.

Mr Winter - Mr Winter.

Mr FERGUSON - What did I say?

Mr Winter - Mr Dean.

Mr FERGUSON - There you go, you got me there. I apologise for that, although Mr Dean is a perfectly good name, yours is Mr Winter and the credit belongs there. While this was considered not necessary because there are those protections already in place, in the interests of keeping the bill moving we will not be standing in the way of this. It does not offend any policy provisions in the legislation. While the Government believes this type of

provision would have been more acceptable and appropriate in workplace health and safety laws, the revised amendment has a reduced scope again and the one in front of us applies equity to the consideration of applications for those different licences, in this case for the applicant for a venue licence.

I commend those range of amendments to the Committee. We should agree to them. The Government does.

Mr WINTER - Labor's view is that the bill has come back in an enhanced form from the other place. I look forward to Ms O'Connor's contribution if she believes that the amendments moved by members in the other place have not enhanced the bill. It was only last sitting week that she said, 'Do not let the perfect be the enemy of the good'.

Ms O'Connor - There is nothing good about this legislation.

Mr WINTER - I chuckled at Ms O'Connor saying it at the time. Ms O'Connor has clearly stated her opposition to the bill. All we are debating here is amendments. I believe that the bill has come back in an enhanced form. We will see what Ms O'Connor thinks when she votes on those amendments as part of her contribution.

The public health approach is in some of those clauses that the minister has referenced and we are currently debating. I listened carefully to the debate about the public health approach that was strongly advocated for in the other place. Where the other place got to in terms of this amendment has again enhanced the bill. It is important that a public health approach is a consideration by the commission but it is important that the commission looks at a range of matters and takes an approach which is fairly broad. It is a gaming commission and it has an important regulatory role to play to ensure that not only there is a public health approach but also that the industry is well regulated, that we do not see the issues we have seen in other states, particularly Victoria. As we have referenced in the past, the royal commission into Crown Casino in Melbourne is an example of the sort of gaming environment we never want to see in this state.

Labor supported the amendment to clause 39 amendment, but I am not sure it is particularly

Sitting suspended from 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

GAMING CONTROL AMENDMENT (FUTURE GAMING MARKET) BILL 2021 (No. 45)

In Committee

Resumed from above.

Mr WINTER - Mr Chair, as I was saying, the amendment to 39 prevents fully automated table game machines in high-roller areas. I have not been to a high roller casino or area before but I assume they are not prevalent there anyway. I am still happy to support the amendment, as we did in the other place.

I was very pleased to see the amendments to 44 accepted, as proposed by Labor in the other place. As the minister alluded to, they were not supported here in the first debate but the proposed amendment was changed slightly and I was very pleased to see that supported. This is the amendment that inserts a requirement for operators to have the necessary industrial relations record, or at least the consideration of their industrial relations record, when it comes to being given a licence. It also provides some whistleblower protection through a policy of the operator. This will require that the operator has a whistleblower policy, or a framework in place for an employee to be able to call out any untoward behaviour, any lack of compliance with the requirements of an operator, and that if an employee does that, as has happened in other jurisdictions, that they are protected, as they should be. We are very pleased to see that was supported by the other place and I hope it is supported here as well.

We are dealing with everything except for clause 65. I will not speak at length.

Clause 68, which is another component of renewals, I think this one was from Ms Webb. This was something we had not contemplated, certainly in our drafting, as being required. I wonder if the minister could comment on that clause 68 and its relationship with the changes in clause 65. Perhaps it was explained in the other place and I missed it, but I felt it was not necessary. Perhaps I am wrong on that.

Otherwise, though, we are happy to support it. It supports the intent of Labor here and in the other place. I recall that when we debated this, the crossbench, the Greens and Labor all had amendments prepared on the renewal of licences issue and we all had similar thoughts. Ms O'Connor put it quite well that the licence model, as proposed, was essentially perpetual. The licences continued to roll over and over. The fact that the licences would separate over time and become very difficult for any future government to attempt to change the way those licences worked without a sovereign risk event, is something parliaments should be keen to avoid and we were keen to avoid. The amendment we put up here was unsuccessful.

Labor took the approach to this matter of thinking about what policy solution we could insert into the bill that might resolve our concerns about the licences being, effectively, perpetual. When we received our draft amendment back from OPC it was almost identical to part of the one from Ms Webb, who ended up moving the amendment that we had drafted from OPC in relation to the renewal of licences. We were pleased that was supported by the Legislative Council and also supported there by the Government because it means that there is a firm date when all the licences will expire, on the same day. That was not the case before these amendments were put in place.

For those of us who watched the debate in the other place, there were many questions asked and the answers provided appeared to frustrate the members there. They could have been better answered in many cases.

In terms of renewals and the licensing and establishment of licences, I am keen to understand what the time frame looks like for the establishment of the licences. Assuming that this passes today in its current state, the department will have quite a challenging task to get the new arrangements in place by 1 July 2023, particularly through the tendering in the first case and ensuring that the correct operator is found to undertake the Licensed Monitoring Operator (LMO) licence. Ensuring that it is the right organisation for Tasmania is critical to this. It is going to be a very important organisation to the entire mechanism because this is a very big change for gaming in Tasmania.

I am keen to understand the importance the Government places on ensuring, particularly if it is a new operator coming to Tasmania, that they have people on the ground here in Tasmania. There are organisations across Australia that do this but my background in IT tells me it is always better, particularly when you are talking about technology, to have bodies on the ground in the state. I am keen to understand how the Government will approach that matter and also the time frames.

This is going to be a major change and my sense is that we are putting a lot of pressure on Liquor and Gaming to put this in place in a very short time. The Government has been quite insistent that it wants to see this bill come through in this session. This policy has been on the table for almost four years and we finally have a bill in place but only 18 months to actually implement it. With regard to the licensing, I am keen to understand from the Government how to work that.

[2.38 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, Mr Winter can form the view that the bill has come back in an enhanced form. I have long believed you cannot put a shine on a cowpat. While some of the amendments improve the legislation, the legislation as a whole is still going to be a licence to print money for the gambling industry and will still consign generations of Tasmanians to poverty and misery.

Some members of the upper House did their best to make sure there was a tangible harm minimisation approach in the legislation but simply wrapping it up in language where you say, 'we will take a public health approach' is internally contradictory. To say, 'we take a public health approach but we are enacting legislation that will embed poker machines and new forms of gambling in the community now for 20 years'. Sounds nice but the words will have a very modest effect because there is no tangible harm minimisation in this legislation.

The amendments that would have genuinely enhanced the bill, put forward by Independent members of the upper House - in this instance, I understand it was the member for Nelson, Ms Webb - were the same set of amendments that the Greens and Ms Johnston tried to move down here: \$1 bet limits, slower spin speeds, shorter opening hours. They are the harm-minimisation measures which the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission, the community sector, charities and churches made clear to every member of this place would save lives and livelihoods.

They are the one that did not pass. If Labor had stuck to its position of focusing on harm minimisation after it walked away from its policy to remove poker machines from pubs and clubs, we would have \$1 bet limits, slower spin speeds and shorter opening hours for venues. That promise to focus on harm minimisation became a barren field because of the agreement struck between the Labor Party and the Tasmanian Hospitality Association to the extent that Labor was effectively hamstrung in any attempt to have genuine harm minimisation measures in this bill.

There are members of the upper House who feel the same way the Greens do. It is a deep sadness about what has happened to our colleagues in this place and to democracy. It has changed the way I personally feel about some of my colleagues and working in this building, which is such a privilege. One of the things I have always found to be a really important and positive part of working in here is the ability to walk outside the Chamber and be genuinely kind to each other. At the moment, I am not feeling that. That is because I have lost

considerable respect for my colleagues in the major parties. Summer is coming and I am sure I will get over myself.

This has been a tawdry episode in Tasmanian politics. It is certainly the nastiest piece of legislation I have ever been part of debating in my 13 years. We are not going to block these amendments, but I can flag that the amendment to have a licensing period in place should have come out of the Government. It was the bare basics of having a framework that at least had a confined point in time for a policy agenda. It is easy to lose sight of the fact that this legislation is Liberal Government policy at this point in time. You enact legislation that basically says there are rolling licences and there will be poker machines in pubs and clubs, new forms of gambling, and high-roller casinos north and south forever. That was never tenable but that is what the industry wanted. It was part of the Liberals' policy to be on a sustainable footing. That means the licence to print money in perpetuity.

I flag that we will be moving an amendment consistent with our policy position that further improves the amendment to clause 65. We will get to that shortly. Is that correct, Chair, that you will deal with clause 65 in a moment?

Mr CHAIR - Yes.

Ms O'CONNOR - It improves the improvement where the Legislative Council has agreed there needs to be a confined licensing period of 20 years and that period of 20 years commences on 1 July 2023. Each subsequent 20-year period commences on the expiry of the immediately preceding licensing period. We will be moving to make that a seven-year licensing period, which is in line with the advice of the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission. It is in line with what is the case in gambling markets interstate where there is not a 20-year free licence. This is a free licence. Venues are not paying for this licence. They are being given it.

We will be moving that that period be changed from 20 to seven years to make it more consistent with best practice, harm minimisation, what is happening interstate and the advice of the independent people with expertise in the Liquor and Gaming Commission.

Ms JOHNSTON - Mr Chair, I will be supporting these amendments but I cannot let an opportunity pass without making a few comments. I want to reflect on the great sadness I feel today, as we end this parliamentary session, for the harm that poker machines are going to continue to cause in my community. I know it will continue for a long time.

I also want to reflect on the kindness of the Government to assist Labor in easing their conscience in the upper House by allowing these amendments to get through for our consideration. I concur with the Leader of the Greens, as my children would say, you can sprinkle glitter on a turd but it still makes it a turd. That is exactly what we have before us here.

I will take a moment to go through the amendments that have been proposed and make a few brief comments on them. With regard to clause 33, I welcome the insertion of a public health and consumer protection approach within the objects of the act. They are hollow words when you read the rest of the act which fails to properly address harm minimisation measures and take a public health approach. It is the height of hypocrisy for Labor and Liberal members to talk about the importance of taking a public health approach and a consumer protection

approach when they have consistently rejected the appropriate measures that would put into effect that protection, things like lower spins speeds, \$1 maximum bet limits or limiting the hours of operation. They would be things that would be taking a public health and consumer protection approach.

While I welcome this, and maybe a future Government might look at this particular part of the act and reform and amend the act in future years and make those words have meaning, it is with sadness that I believe that this insertion will be quite hollow.

Clause 39 clarifies that fully automated table games are excluded from high roller casinos. That is an important clarification to make.

With regard to clause 44, matters to be considered in determining application, I appreciate the importance of providing this protection to workers in the industry particularly around anything they might do in relation to compliance. I supported that in this place when Mr Winter put forward a similar amendment. While it is important that we protect workers in their duty, what is absent from the bill is protection for vulnerable consumers. That is a real disappointment that we continue to turn our backs on people who are most vulnerable, who are the consumers in this instance.

I know we will deal with clause 65 shortly so I will skip ahead to clause 73. It is about workplace safety and I make the same point. It is important to make sure that workers are safe in the workplace but absent again is protection for consumers, who are the ones most harmed by poker machines.

In new clause A, I am pleased to see a clarification of the commission's responsibilities and functions to foster the responsible service of gambling and minimise the harm from gambling. These words are hollow unless you follow them up with actions.

New clause B is a welcome amendment sought by the Legislative Council, providing reporting and investigation requirements into the two new gaming products this bill will be introducing.

New clause C is similar with a requirement for the commission to report and investigate on a range of matters which include the commission's recommendation on policy considerations, harm minimisation measures and regulatory considerations in relation to the conduct of simulated racing events and their implementation.

The next clause is in relation to fully automated table gaming. This is a good amendment. Unfortunately, the commission will not be looking into harm minimisation measures for poker machines. It is a really sad and missed opportunity of this bill if we cannot at least put the harm minimisation measures into the legislation, to at least require the commission to look into them.

We had a lengthy discussion about the facial recognition technology and card-based play that the commission will be investigating. I supported that amendment when that came, but at the time I made the observation that we really should have broadened that investigation, that report, to include all harm minimisation measures, and not just limit it to those two in particular.

Mr Deputy Chair, I will support these amendments, but it is incredibly disappointing that this is all that has come back from the other place in terms of amendments. I note, again, it is

only through the collaboration between the Liberal Party and the Labor Party on behalf of the poker machine industry that we have these small changes made.

I also recognise the immense work the Independents in the other place have done, in their contribution to the debate and the record, and discussing what the two parties - the Liberal Party and the Labor Party - ought to have been discussing, and debating, and advocating for the most vulnerable people in our community - those who are addicted to poker machines, or at risk of being addicted to poker machines.

I also reflect how deeply disappointing it is that on many occasions questions simply went unanswered. Explanations were not given. Rationales were not given. Indeed, on the Labor side, there was very little discussion to justify their policy position.

It is a sad day for this parliament that we are considering this, and that it will go through on the numbers, with scant regard to the impact it will have on our community.

Mr FERGUSON - Although these are not the Government's amendments, and I do not feel a burden to explain answers to questions on amendments that are not Government amendments, I will answer the questions that have been posed, in the interests of allowing members to have a good discussion before the Committee today.

Briefly, in relation to clause 68 - and we will come to this later when we consider a question on clause 65 - the amendment ensures that any licence renewal period approved prior to 2043 will not take effect until the prior licence ends. This will ensure that all licences will end at the same date.

Without this amendment, and as the bill left this House the first time, the licence could commence from the date of renewal, leading to licence terms being staggered or, if you like, more naturally finding their own different renewal and expiry dates on a rolling basis for the venue, perhaps.

When you look at it industry-wide, what would emerge over time is that expiry dates would quite naturally be staggered. That, from the Government's point of view, was not a concern. The other House has taken the view that it is preferable to instead approach it this way. This does not have a large policy implication, in our opinion.

The amendment has been considered. The Government did not oppose this in the Legislative Council. I believe it was an amendment that was moved by the member for Nelson, but it was an amendment that we had already been made aware was also a Labor Party amendment. I believe that is the case, and we have obviously had time to consider that.

Mr Winter - To clarify, I thought the lining up of the renewals was dealt with in clause 65, without clause 68 being necessary.

Mr FERGUSON - My advice is that clause 68 is consequential - we are a bit out of step because we have picked out clause 65 for a later question, but my advice is that they are related, and one is consequential to the other. Perhaps what I am answering right now is slightly pre-empting the next question before the Committee.

What this means is that if licence owners have a licence that expires at 2043, with the usual renewal period which we have codified, and which is not subject to amendment here, it is during that time that future renewals beyond that date can be applied for and considered.

On the question about time, we have actually been through this, but I am happy to re-state for the record that the Government is satisfied that the commission will have sufficient time to implement the new licensing structure. The bill allows venues to apply for licences and for them to be assessed 12 months prior to commencement.

In relation to the other major licences, processes are already in place for casino licences. Keno licence arrangements will not change significantly, and a tender will be released in early 2022 for the licence monitoring operator. That was a specific question, I think from Mr Winter, although it is not necessarily the subject of an amendment before us.

I believe we have canvassed this thoroughly. It is on a critical path, which is one of the reasons that the Government was very determined that this legislation needed to be dealt with this calendar year. There was no bluff involved. We are on time. It is intended to conduct that LMO tender in early 2022. My advice is that an outcome would be known by mid-2022, with a 12-month transition process to occur. I believe during our previous debate we discussed the contingency arrangements, which are also provided for should more time be required.

At the risk of deviating somewhat from the amendment before us - and I will try to keep it brief - there has been some discussion about risk mitigation and harm minimisation. I want to be very clear: this bill provides for a new approach in relation to harm minimisation. It may not meet the needs of other people participating in this debate, and I understand that. However, one thing the Liberal Party and Labor Party have been able to agree on, and has not been opposed by others, is the introduction of a direction to the commission to get on with some work, to advise on options and to consider how to implement facial recognition technology to support the exclusion scheme, card-based play.

One thing that only the Liberal Party has proposed is a pre-commitment scheme. I strongly believe that this is going to be a significant opportunity to achieve what many people say they want to achieve: harm minimisation for that small number of people for whom gambling addiction is a major issue in their life. I earnestly look forward to that work being done and I hope it is successful.

I want to make those points, because this is not a debate where people can use whatever colourful language they want about turds, cowpats and glitter. This is a difficult policy area. The Government has devised a way that we can actually give the commission clear guidance and instruction to get on with the work that will allow people to, in advance, set their losses - not when they are in front of colourful machines with flashing lights and noises whirring, but in advance of their gaming. To be able to decide, in advance, how much they can afford to lose - and, if and when they were to hit that limit, the machine will stop working. That is the work that the Government will be directing the commission -

Ms O'Connor - Then they will walk around the corner to another machine and their ATM and they will get money out.

Mr FERGUSON - I will let the interjection sit on the record because it will be that sort of work that the commission will need to work through. I am sincere in this, and I thank members for their contributions on these amendments.

Ms JOHNSTON - I cannot have the minister's contribution go unclarified. For the record - because I am sure at some stage James Boyce or someone else will have the courage and the emotional resilience to write the next chapter in *Losing Streak* - I want to make it very clear that in terms of the amendment to provide the direction to the commission regarding facial recognition, card-based play, pre-commitment schemes, it is a direction to commission a report. It is not actually putting in measures.

It needs to be very clear that we are not actually on the ground changing anything for the consumers, or the people addicted, or at risk of being addicted to poker machines right now. We are asking for a report. That report will come back, and I am sure the minister will give it due consideration, and I hope in time there might be action. However, I want to make it clear for the record because it will be 20 years before this parliament might consider it. Teenagers now who might be in these places as members need to be clear that what is proposed is not a measure on the ground, it is a report. We all know what happens to reports. The joke is they often sit in government offices collecting dust.

Let us not fool ourselves that this measure will make any difference to anyone playing a poker machine in the next few years. We have called for a report. I hope when that report comes back we can have a discussion about implementing harm minimisation measures that will make a difference. At the moment we have not done that. That needs to stand there for the next version of *Losing Streak*.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, I want to challenge something the minister said a short time ago. He said the one thing the Liberal and Labor parties have been able to agree on is for the commission to examine facial recognition technology.

If you have a look at the vote in this place and upstairs, the Liberal and Labor parties agreed on pretty much everything in this legislation. They agreed, for example, that licences should be given out for free; they agreed that no substantive harm minimisation measures would go into this legislation; they agreed to remove parliament from having any say over the future of a casino licence; and they agree that the casino pokies tax rate should be more than halved. In both Houses, I noted that when the issue of the casino pokies tax rate was raised at that point in the legislation, the debate was shut down.

I am unsurprised that upstairs the leader of government business did not feel under any significant pressure to answer a series of questions. When you know you have the Opposition in the bag, you know the pressure level is going to be politically bearable. That is what happened. I watched it too, not in disbelief, but a bit resigned because you saw that the Government was just going through the motions up there. 'We will have to listen to this, we have to go through it, we said we would not gag the debate, there are those annoying questions again from those principled independents. Well we are not going to answer these questions because we are with Labor and Labor is not going to pressure us for not answering the questions'. That is exactly what happened.

When I was watching the debate upstairs, I saw Labor members sitting in that Chamber with their heads down looking at their phones. Then they would get up on a division and walk

to whatever side the Government was on, about 98 per cent of the time. They never gave a rationale for why they voted a certain way on a certain amendment. I find that, as a legislator, pretty revolting. If you are going to vote for or against something that has such profound human consequence, you should explain yourself. Call me old-fashioned.

In some ways it was more depressing viewing up there than it was down here, even though I was in the thick of it because you could see there were more Labor members in the Legislative Council Chamber during the debate than there was during this debate down here. They were utterly useless. They were like human adornments to the Chamber who only went back and forth on the vote, voting with the Government nearly 100 per cent of the time.

It is not true for the minister to say the one thing that the Liberal and Labor parties could agree on was facial recognition technology. There are very few things that they did not agree on in this legislation. That is why we are here now dealing with this nasty legislation which has made the Tasmanian Hospitality Association and the gambling industry put the champagne on ice. They will be popping those corks a bit later this afternoon. We can thank the party of Government and the official Opposition for that.

Council amendments to clauses 33, 39, 44, 68, 73 and new clauses A, B and C agreed to.

Council amendment to clause 65 -

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Chair, I move -

That the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

We are considering the amendment from the Legislative Council to clause 65, which is determination of venue licence application. This amendment imposes a defined licence period of 20-year intervals, with each licence and subsequent licence, regardless of when they are issued, to expire at the end of the defined 20-year period. For the benefit of the committee, for example a licence issued on 1 July 2023 will expire on 30 June 2043, 20 years while a licence issued, for example, on 1 July 2030, would also expire on 30 June 2043, 13 years.

The Government has given this amendment a lot of consideration and feels that it would not substantially change anything to do with the clause or the structural reform being implemented through the bill. I have discussed this in a previous question that we debated on, on clause 68. The comments I made at that point stand in relation to this. In relation to this matter, there was a discussion during the substantive debate in this House in the committee stage where there was a move to change the licensing period.

I think maybe one member chose a single-digit number to swap in, in place of the 20. It might have even been a one -

Ms O'Connor - No, ours was a five-year amendment.

Mr FERGUSON - I am pre-empting a debate that is shortly to start when Ms O'Connor will move an amendment. We have been through this. For those members who hope that at some point in time before 2043 this parliament could again revisit the matter, it would be open to the parliament to do so. I do not have a difficulty with that and nor does the Government.

I commend the amendment from the Legislative Council, although, we did not see it as necessary nor did it prevent a future parliament from re-visiting this. We have no difficulty with the amendment that is proposed in this case.

Mr WINTER - To clarify my earlier comments, this is the amendment we had almost identically drafted. The question I was trying to ask was about the other clause which to me does the same thing. It is not at odds with this change. We are happy to support both.

The minister is right, in my reading of the situation that it would be in 15 years because the licences can be renewed five years before then. That period would be an ideal time for a future parliament or a future government to not only review anything that it likes, but it will be a point for a future parliament or government to consider things such as tax rates, harm minimisation and licensing arrangements.

This is why it was important to us that it was not a perpetual licence because of the staggered arrangements of the licensing model. The problem we could see, and this was well articulated before the bill was tabled when Ms O'Connor spoke publicly about this issue, was that a new licence could be provided, for example, 10 years into the 20-year period and that licensee would then have a 20-year licence from that period, and so on. In the end, you would have the licences staggered all over the place.

The problem before the parliament is that, without creating a sovereign risk event, it would be very difficult to unpick that without paying out huge amounts of money to the gambling industry for compensation, which I am sure no one wants to do. Taxpayers do not want us doing that; parliament does not want that. We want to have a point in time where it makes sense for a future parliament or future government to deal with it. That is why we were happy to see this supported in the other place and we think it will greatly enhance the bill.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Winter, I am glad to hear to you talk about what was a problem with perpetual licence arrangements. I did not hear you talk about it much in the debate down here, but that is good, you supported the amendment upstairs.

Mr Winter - And the one down here, yours I think.

Ms O'CONNOR - Okay.

Mr Chair, I will move an amendment to this amendment. In all the debate in both Houses, we have not had an answer. The minister might think the answer is satisfactory as to why a 20-year licence term has been chosen for venue operators. It is still a number we cannot reference anywhere from other jurisdictions. It does not have an evidence base other than it is what the industry wanted in order to be on what it calls 'a sustainable footing'.

In a way, because of the amendment that establishes a licensing period, we have a similar kind of time frame as we had with the deed. There is a confined period where this policy will absolutely be in place.

If there were any unpicking of this framework, it would require legislation and it would be a very brave government or opposition that would take on the gambling industry again, because we saw what happened after Labor took them on in 2018.

Before I move my amendment, I challenge the statement that we keep hearing from Government that they are ending the monopoly deed. I understand that on the 10th floor of the Executive Building, where the media unit sits, there was a discussion about how you spin this. How do you polish a turd? Someone came up with the line that 'we are ending the monopoly', 'we are smashing the monopoly deed'. We heard Mr Ferguson say it in here. It is untrue.

The deed is clear; it is there in black and white. The defined period of the monopoly deed came to an end in 2018. Then it was subject to a rolling five-year licence period. All it required to end the monopoly deed was for the Treasurer or his delegate, in this instance, I suppose, the Minister for Finance, to write to Federal Group to give them notice that the arrangement was coming to an end and, five years after that letter, it would have been over. All it would have taken to end the monopoly deed, without this legislation that will destroy people's lives, is a letter from the Treasurer after 2018.

We are used to spin and propaganda but that is a really big, fat lie and it has been allowed to stand in this debate, and even before the legislation came into the House. This is a furphy, trying to tell the people of Tasmania that if the Government had not brought this legislation in, we would be living with the monopoly deed forever. That is not what the deed says.

You might be able to tell that porky through a media release or in an interview but it does not stand when you look at the deed. We are not going to let that lie go unchallenged in this place because the treasurer of the day could have ended the deed with the stroke of a pen, which was what parliament decided was appropriate in 2003.

Mr Chair, I move my first amendment -

Clause 65, proposed new subsection (11), paragraph (a)

Leave out '20'

Insert instead '7'.

Mr Chair, I move my second amendment -

Clause 65, proposed new subsection (11), paragraph (b)

Leave out '20'

Insert instead '7'.

This is on the basis that 20-year licences are extraordinary. I do not know many industries that hand out free 20-year licences to industry participants. If Mr Ferguson or Mr Winter have any examples of that, I am sure the House would love to hear about it.

Mr Winter - I think there are, though.

Ms O'CONNOR - Twenty-year free licences? Hmm. I would be very happy to be proved wrong. This is, let us not forget, a free licence to print money because that is basically what a poker machine licence is. The Farrell family's wealth is pegged at around \$750 million

because, since 1993, they have been printing money in the poker machines they own across Tasmania.

There is no argument on commercial grounds; there is no argument on the evidence for 20-year licences. There is a strong argument on harm minimisation grounds to restrict the length of those licences.

It was the advice of the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission that the licences sit at around seven years. I do not have the document here with me but I think it said five to seven years. I might be wrong. I am not saying that definitively. But they definitely did not recommend 20-year licences. This is what the industry wanted. That is why the number '20' is in there for venues to have free 20-year licences. That was the Tasmanian Hospitality Association's position. That became the Government's position and it became the Labor Party's position. Now, because of the absolute corruption of politics and democracy in Tasmania, it is legislation.

I hope that members consider the merits of this amendment. The Premier said yesterday morning that his conscience is clear but if you really think about the consequences of this legislation and the price everyday Tasmanians will pay, people who are our constituents, who we are honour-bound to stand up for and represent, it is very high price that our people will pay for this legislation.

It will be their kids who are unable to control chaos, dysfunction, alcohol and addiction in their households, who will be going without food, who will potentially be made homeless because one of their parents cannot afford the rent, who will be in households where their parent or parents are almost at war with the world because they have such deep psychological distress and self-loathing.

From the Greens point of view, and I believe it is the same for other members who have spoken against this legislation, I cannot get those kids out of my head because I know how powerless children are in families where there is high-level dysfunction. I know how many Tasmanian children live in homes where there is not a lot of spare money. There are children not yet born who will go without because of this legislation. That is why we fought it so hard.

I commend the amendment to the House.

Ms JOHNSTON - I will be supporting the amendment to the amendment. Again, I urge the minister to provide at least a rationale as to how the figure '20' was plucked out of the air in relation to the appropriate time for licences. I support the amendment to make it seven, because it provides an appropriate opportunity to review the structure in the industry, the taxation arrangements, the licensing arrangements and the harm minimisation arrangements without causing a significant sovereign risk event.

I note that the Liquor and Gaming Commission, in their representations, have recommended seven years. That is an independent commission, and they are well placed to provide advice to this place about the appropriateness of licence terms.

If it were to be seven years, then in seven years' time we could have a discussion about the appropriate taxation regime. We could consider whether halving the casino tax rate and things like that is the appropriate thing to do in this place. We could have a discussion about

whether it is appropriate to give out licences to print money to poker machine venues. We could consider what we might be able to do with the additional revenue in health, housing and education, which we all know desperately needs more revenue.

It would be a moment in time that is not too far in the distance, but would still provide certainty in the industry, where we could review whether we are getting a good deal for the Tasmanian community, both financially and socially.

Heaven forbid that a future government, in seven years' time, might actually take time to give consideration to the harm this industry causes and take an entirely different approach, so that we can have an industry that is there for recreational users, but does not cause immense harm and damage to some of the most vulnerable Tasmanians.

I will be supporting this amendment to the amendment, and I will be very interested to hear the minister's views on why 20 is better than seven. If the independent commission is recommending seven, then that is a pretty good starting point. I will be very interested to hear what the minister has to say in that regard.

Mr FERGUSON - The Government does not support the proposed amendment to the amendment of the Legislative Council. We have already had this debate once during the committee stage. Changing the number from five in the earlier amendment to seven does not change the nature of the response, and that would not surprise Ms O'Connor or anyone else. The arguments have been made.

I can advise the House that the joint select committee recommended, amongst other things, that EGM licences should be for an appropriate duration to create investment certainty for industry - with a significantly greater level of responsibility, by the way, for venues and investment required by hotel and club venues under an individual licence-holder model.

It is considered that a licence period of 20 years will provide the level of investment certainty required by industry, and particularly a level of certainty that will satisfy their financiers and banks that might lend the money to invest in these venues.

Importantly, the commission has been provided with the power under the act to investigate a licence holder at any time - year one, year five, year seven, year 19 - at any time. All licences will be subject to the usual requirement that the licence holder must continue to remain suitable to be licensed throughout the period of their licence.

We also know, because we have been through this debate, that there can be significant sanctions when a licence holder is not meeting its obligations - for example, requirements under the mandatory code.

That answers the question, and to assert that there is no commercial reason to have a 20-year licence term is very clearly false.

Regardless of the licence term, it does not change the fact that the commission, as the watchdog, as the police officer in this industry, does have a mandatory code. The mandatory code does change from time to time. Earlier in the preceding debate, I also outlined the review to the code that will occur.

Regardless of licence periods, the code changes independently of those licence periods. My direction to the commission, which is indicated in the legislation, which the Government had committed to prior to even introducing that amendment, is of significant relevance as well.

The debate has strayed out of relevance on a number of occasions already. I do not want to add to that, but I will say that to make the assertion around the ending of the monopoly, that is an honest and correct statement, and to assert otherwise is a weak attempt to try to undermine just one of the sensible reasons why we need this legislation so that we can end the monopoly. The monopoly will continue to exist without this legislation. We know this. We have been through this on numerous occasions. The Premier - this morning, I believe - made a clear point, which gets lost on some of our political opponents, that in just an hour or two you can lose your house by gaming on your mobile phone. You can bet vast sums of money, and yet you are not in an environment -

Ms Johnston - We are not talking about that. We are talking about this bill.

Mr FERGUSON - Well I am, because the arguments have been made by others on this. What we are actually doing is bringing in a contemporary framework, a sustainable industry, delivering on the Government's promises and our policy - which includes ending the monopoly; a fairer share of revenue to the state so that it can invest in government services; an increase in the community support levy, for more support in the community, including for harm reduction and intervention services. We have been through all this, so I am not going to continue to make those arguments, except to state that you cannot let those comments sit on the record.

The debate needs to be relevant to what is in front of us. I have not drawn any points of order when others have taken us off topic, but I will address those points. I will not let them stand unchallenged like that.

We have an amendment in front of us. Ms O'Connor's is the same motion with a different digit. Previously it was five, now Ms O'Connor is moving seven.

The arguments have been explained previously and so, with respect, the Government does not support this new amendment - which, by the way, were it to be agreed to, throws this bill back into the never-never. I know Ms O'Connor knows this, so it is hard not to interpret it as an attempt to derail the legislation. It is hard not to interpret it that way. You know and I know, Ms O'Connor, that the bill would have to go back the Legislative Council -

Ms O'Connor - That is right. I have been here long enough to know that.

Mr FERGUSON - Thank you for your honesty so it can be called out for what it is. MPs can disagree on something like this, but quite clearly we have already had this debate. It is just a different digit that Ms O'Connor is attempting to insert.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, if the minister could just pop that straw man back in the cupboard, we acknowledge that online gambling is also a massive and growing issue. That is not the topic of this legislation. We are talking about electronic gaming machines, which in Australia are the most addictive machines of their type in the world. We are talking about the fact that these are proliferated in pubs and clubs in concentrated areas of socioeconomic disadvantage around Tasmania.

The minister might say that, in mentioning this, I am straying out of relevance. These matters are very relevant to this legislation, to the amendments that have been made, and to the amendment that the Greens are moving. It is relevant to challenge the Government on its nonsense over smashing the monopoly deed. Absolute errant, insulting nonsense.

All it would take, as we have said and not been challenged on the substance of our statement because it is there in black and white, is a letter from the Treasurer to Federal Group to say the party is over and the party would be over within five years.

I listened to the minister just now talk about the importance of investment certainty for this industry. It is such a dispassionate way of saying that you are putting profits ahead of people. That is what it is. The industry wants to be able to make money for as long as possible with a free licence. It wants investment certainty so it can continue to print money without having to go through licence renewal or another legislative process in any period shorter than two decades. I will nearly be in an old folks' home by the time this licence period is over. That is exactly what the industry wanted: a longer licence period so it did not have to deal with parliament or governments or politics or people challenging their basic immorality. This legislation is immoral. It is immoral because it will do harm. Some of us in this place apply the principle of do no harm in how we deal with legislation and the contributions that we make.

You could be as cynical as you like, minister, about why we have moved this amendment but we have moved this amendment to give this House another opportunity to talk about the licences, the length of them, the rationale behind a 20-year licence, to talk about best practice, the advice of the Liquor and Gaming Commission and what would cause less harm.

Everything that we have said on this topic is relevant. It is relevant to the people we are elected to serve.

Mr CHAIR - The question is that the amendments to the Legislative Council amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 3

Ms Johnston
Ms O'Connor
Dr Woodruff (Teller)

NOES 20

Mr Barnett
Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Courtney
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis (Teller)
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Mr Gutwein
Ms Haddad
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma

Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Tucker
Ms White
Mr Winter

Amendments to the Legislative Council amendment negatived.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, this is the last opportunity members have to speak on the future gaming markets legislation. I note that we are standing here because the Liberal and Labor parties in this place allowed themselves to be bought and paid for by the gambling industry, first in 2018 and then in 2021.

We have seen a political party in this place, which is the Tasmanian Labor Party, allow its votes to be bought through a secret agreement with the Tasmanian Hospitality Association. We have watched our colleagues in this place and in the major parties upstairs stand together and vote together on this legislation, which will cause enormous harm.

This legislation is utterly immoral because it will cause family breakdown, child abuse, poverty, homelessness and, as we know, some people blighted by gambling addiction who have lost everything, that last time they lose everything it becomes unbearable and they take their own lives.

There is plenty of evidence that the legislation which has been passed and coordinated by the major parties in sync with the gambling industry in this state will hurt the people we were elected to represent, to defend and to make this island a better place for and so, I condemn you all on behalf of the people we represent.

Ms JOHNSTON - I, too, cannot let this opportunity pass to put on record once again, on behalf of the people of Clark, in particular - and I have spoken many times in this place about the people in Glenorchy, ground zero for poker machine harm in the community, the golden mile for the poker machine industry - to put on record my deep distress, sadness, devastation at what we are doing in this place in putting in measures that will harm the community for many years to come.

I note the sickening sycophantic display from both the Government and the official Opposition in relation to doing the bidding of the poker machine industry and the THA throughout the policy development and the process of this bill in this parliament.

I put on the record my thanks to the community sector, as I did when we last spoke in this place about the bill, for the amazing work they do, day in and day out, at the coalface of the harm that this industry causes to our local community.

I thank, in particular, in my community the amazing Salvation Army and Jeff and Jacqui Milkins. They are absolute gems who deal every day with people harmed, coming out of the Elwick Hotel, addicted to poker machines. Bless their souls. They put their children aside, and spend time working with these poor people who have been so deeply harmed and injured by the poker machine industry. They feed them, they make sure there is somewhere safe and dry for them to sleep, and they support their children and their families. They do this every day.

Organisations such as the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul, TasCOSS and many other amazing community organisations have put their heart and soul into submissions, pleading with us in this place to do much better, to put in a regime that is all about harm minimisation rather than profit maximisation. They tried so desperately and spoke so strongly and passionately about what a difference we could have made in this place. Sadly, this place has turned its back on them. They are going to have to get up tomorrow and the next day and continue to do the work they have been doing now for decades, knowing that there is no end in sight to the harm. It breaks my heart.

In my initial contribution of the second reading speech I talked about how personally I have been affected -

Mr CHAIR - Ms Johnston, you need to confine your remarks to the amendments that come from the Legislative Council.

Ms JOHNSTON - I will confine my remarks to those then, Mr Chair. The limitations around the amendments, which only deal with harm minimisation measures regarding the two gaming products and do not extend to the poker machine industry, is an abject failure of this place. To only require the commission to investigate the two new products and not require the commission to look into the harm caused by poker machines or, preferably, to put harm minimisation measures in place.

It is important to restate that there is a human cost to what we have done, in the amendments we have been considering: a very human cost to the grandparents, the parents, the children, people who have suicided because they have had gambling addictions. My heart goes out to them. We need to make sure that when we conclude this debate today on the amendments, we remember that we are talking about people and people's lives, taking them and destroying them. I conclude my contribution there, because it is about the people and it is with great sadness that I note what we are doing in this House today.

Mr WINTER - I was not going to make a contribution but I note Ms Johnston was directed back to the amendments and I am not sure Ms O'Connor's contribution was entirely in line with the amendments. I will see how I go. Pull me up if you think I am not in line, Chair. Of course, you will.

I am pleased that the bill, as I said, has returned enhanced. The amendments agreed to here do enhance the bill. The fundamental reason we supported the amendments is that we believe the arrangements proposed are better than what we have now. The proposal generates more revenue for taxpayers. That is a fact. It continues to be ignored by members in this place and the other place, but it does generate more revenue for taxpayers. It returns more money to local pubs and clubs.

Ms O'Connor - Where is that money coming from, Mr Winter? Out of the pockets of desperate people.

Mr WINTER - It directs the commission to commence work on new harm minimisation measures like card-based play and facial recognition technology.

Very importantly, because of the amendments that have been agreed to, it is no longer a quasi-perpetual licence model. That was well discussed in this place the first time round and it has been again today.

Voting against this bill means continuing with the current arrangements -

Ms O'Connor - It does not.

Mr WINTER - To continue the 'do nothing approach' to harm minimisation that the Government was and has been putting in place -

Dr BROAD - Point of order, Chair, I ask your ruling on standing order 146, interruptions not allowed.

Dr Woodruff - Let us try for some application of that consistently from you, Dr Broad.

CHAIR - Dr Woodruff, I do not require your assistance either, thanks. Mr Winter, continue.

Mr WINTER - Without this bill, there was no new attempt at harm minimisation put in place by this Government. It was not in their policy in 2018. The only place it has been put is within this bill.

This place is putting a lot of faith in the Government and in the review about harm minimisation. I hope the Government will act on its word and bring back meaningful harm minimisation, particularly when it comes to card-based play, because it is a very broad approach that you could take. As we have said several times, we believe that this is about card-based play linked to licences. That is in line with the harm minimisation approach suggested by people when it comes to that driver's licence or identification.

The reason we are supporting this bill is we believe it is better than the current arrangements and we put that on the table right the way through.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Chair, we have heard it all. I want to make a few quick comments. First of all, it is unacceptable to me that a member would feel that losing \$900 a day, which is \$328 500 a year, is harm minimisation. We have been through that.

The great hope here is that in delivering our policy, we are able to also see technological improvements to this industry and the pre-commitment scheme, and the commission will be instructed to provide advice on options to achieve that.

In concluding, Mr Chair, I would like to thank a few people, very briefly. To the House itself, and members who have been very patient, largely with each other, during 23-plus hours of debate. Then, in the other place, I would like to mention briefly the incredible patience displayed by many members, including Liberal and Labor members, when other members wanted to discuss at length what was important to them. That House worked through 46 hours of debate. I am not aware of any particular attempts to silence or discourage those members from doing that.

It has been a very thorough-going debate, but in the end, the decision made by each House is the decision of the parliament - acknowledging that you can have differences with each other without resorting to the unprofessional abuse of language that we have occasionally seen peppered through this place.

Finally, thank you to the Treasury officials who have been perhaps the most patient of all. They have worked through every one of the amendments, providing advice to myself and to the Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council, Mrs Hiscutt.

We will now take the legislation to its implementation phase, including of course the LMO tender, which needs to commence early next year. We will continue to advise on progress to the community.

Reported the Committee had resolved to agree to the Council amendments.

Resolution agreed to.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENCY REPEAL BILL 2021 (No. 40)

In Committee

Council amendments to clause 9 -

Mr ROCKLIFF - Mr Chair, I move -

That the Council amendments to clause 9 be agreed to.

We are here today considering section 19(2) of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970 and the amendment proposed to be made to that section by the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Repeal Bill 2021.

Section 19(2) of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act 1970 refers to alcohol dependency within the meaning of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968.

As members will appreciate, this definition will become meaningless once the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act is repealed. Clause 9 of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Repeal Bill proposes amending section 19(2) of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act by effectively replacing the existing definition of alcohol dependency with a new definition in that context.

The existing definition has operated effectively, I am informed, without controversy for over 40 years. The amendment is intended to make the minimum changes necessary to ensure the section's ongoing operation in that light. The new definition reflects the definition of severe substance dependence utilised in legislation in place in New South Wales and Victoria. It was included during drafting as a more contemporary version of the existing medically focused definition.

The minimal nature of the change is also a reflection of the rationale for this bill being to repeal the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act, and to amend other acts only when required as

a result of the repeal. To help members understand the rationale for the amendment, it is useful to turn to the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Acts operation. The Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act is:

An Act to protect the public against the risks inherent in the driving of vehicles after consumption of intoxicating liquor or drugs; and for related purposes.

It works alongside the Vehicle and Traffic Act 1999, which provides for vehicle and driver licensing. Under section 17 of the Vehicle and Traffic Act, a court that convicts a person of a traffic offence will also disqualify the person from driving, and this results in the driver's licence being suspended or cancelled.

Suspension or cancellation of a person's licence can have a significant impact on the person and their family. They may, for example, be unable to get to work, or deliver their children to education on time, or at all. In recognition of this, section 18 of the Vehicle and Traffic Act enables a person whose licence has been suspended or cancelled to apply to the court for a restricted driver licence.

The circumstances in which a court may make an order authorising the issue of a restricted driver licence under that section are, however, limited. Firstly, the court must be satisfied the licence suspension or disqualification is imposing, or will impose, severe and unusual hardship on the applicant or the applicant's dependants. Secondly, the court must be satisfied that a restricted driver licence would mitigate or alleviate that hardship. Lastly, the court must be satisfied that issuing the restricted driver licence would not be contrary to the public interest.

Section 19(2) of the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act adds to the court's consideration of what is in the public interest for people who have lost their licence for an alcohol-related driving offence. It places an onus on the applicant for the restricted driver licence to provide medical evidence, and satisfy to the court that it would not be contrary to the public interest to issue a restricted driver licence to a person whose licence has been disqualified for drink driving. Of course, not all people whose licence is cancelled or suspended for alcohol-related driving offences will be alcohol dependent.

For this reason, the court has the discretion to decide to issue a restricted driver licence based on the provision of evidence from a medical practitioner confirming that the person is in fact not alcohol dependent. This is the exception that Dr Seidel has referred to previously in the other place through the debate.

The Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management has reassessed the need to define alcohol dependency for the purposes of section 19(2). This involved examining the case law surrounding the court's consideration of what is in the public interest when deciding to grant a restricted driver licence, and the role of medical evidence in this.

As a result of this reassessment, the Government's view is now that section 19 may continue to operate effectively if the words, 'within the meaning of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968', were removed and not replaced with another more contemporary definition.

The Government was initially concerned that removing the definition would result in divergent decisions from medical practitioners and courts about whether a person was or was not alcohol dependent. I am, however, advised that medical standards exist for medical practitioners who are required to assess a person's fitness to drive. For example, *Assessing Fitness to Drive* - a joint publication of Austroads and the National Transport Commission - details the medical standards for driver licensing for use by health professionals, and contains a chapter on substance misuse.

The standards are approved by the Commonwealth, state and territory transport ministers.

It should be noted that this amendment does not remove the requirement for a person wishing to rebut the court's presumption of alcohol dependency to provide evidence that they are not alcohol dependent. I expect that the evidence required will still need to be robust to satisfy the court. Driving while intoxicated is one of the fatal five contributors to road deaths. In 2020-21, alcohol and/or drugs were identified as a contributing factor in 20 per cent of cases.

This strong approach is consistent with the Government's commitment to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes, and to make Tasmanian roads safer for all road users.

Thank you for your forbearance, members, during that long explanation of what is a very small amendment, but I believe the context needed to be provided for the record. Thank you.

Ms HADDAD - I do not have anywhere near as long a contribution as the minister did. You are supporting the amendment?

Mr Rockliff - Yes.

Ms HADDAD - That was my understanding that it was put by Dr Seidel in the upper House and supported by Government members, Labor members and other Independents as well.

In reviewing the *Hansard* from the other place, it was clear that the intention of the amendment was to ensure that it was not a judicial officer making a decision about someone's dependence or otherwise. That makes sense to me. We have had that discussion in other legislation in this place that it should be medical practitioners who make decisions about health issues, not lawyers and judges. That is my philosophical view. For that reason, Labor supported the amendment in the upper House and we will be supporting it as well here.

I recognise what the minister said in his contribution that there needed to be consideration about what removing that definition from the Road Safety (Alcohol and Drugs) Act would mean. Once the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act is repealed you would have an administrative problem where a piece of legislation referred to another piece of legislation that no longer exists.

I am glad to hear from the minister that both his Department of Health and the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management have looked in detail at the intention of the amendment and also at the sentencing issues around court decisions involving alcohol dependence. I agree with the intent of the amendment which is that when people are facing the criminal justice system for any alcohol- or drug-related offending of any kind that court officers and judicial officers, magistrates and judges need to be able to rely on the evidence of medical

practitioners in making determinations and decisions in court and should not be charged with the responsibility of making those medical decisions themselves.

While it is not impossible that there could be a judge or a magistrate out there who has had a previous career as a medical practitioner, most of the time that is not the case. For that reason, it should be medical practitioners who make decisions on whether or not somebody is experiencing dependence and to be able to provide that evidence to the court in a way that the court can rely on in making their sentencing decisions.

Dr WOODRUFF - We support this amendment. I have not had time to look at the comments made by Dr Seidel for his reasons for removing part B. I support the result whether that was his intention because it would have inserted a definition of 'alcohol dependency' being 'a person who has a tolerance to alcohol only shows withdrawal symptoms when the person stops or reduces his or her consumption of alcohol'.

It is likely that a medical practitioner would be looking at, for example, the criteria for alcohol use disorder. They might be considering more than those two factors. They are a narrow set of what is a much greater set of factors which takes into account a range of different criteria. It is about going through a check list with the person on an individual basis and looking at the particular factors that a person may be experiencing. That would mean for that person the medical practitioner would decide that the person is suffering from alcohol dependency. It may not be the two listed only, it might be a third, a fourth or a fifth. They are more specific. It is about a holistic look and assessment of a person by a medical practitioner.

It is not appropriate in this instance, in the way it has been written anyway, for that to be the definition of alcohol dependency. Where we have landed is that it has left it in the hands of medical practitioners and, as the minister said, not made on a separate case-by-case basis from courts, where there may not end up being inconsistency across people and different circumstances. We support the amendment.

Council amendments agreed to.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I thank you all for the work that has been done across various departments for this bill. We had a debate in the lower House, an election was called and so it has been quite some journey. I want to thank all those involved for this legislation and this bill. It will make Tasmania, in my view, a better place.

Reported the Committee resolved to agree to the Council amendment.

Resolution agreed to.

SITTING TIMES

[4.07 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That for this day sitting, pursuant to Sessional Order 18A, the House not stand adjourned at 6 p.m. and that the House continue to sit past 6 p.m.

Ms White - Can I ask, minister, if you have an indication of the time frame we might be here tonight?

Mr FERGUSON - Yes. In the interests of this debate, I indicate that the Legislative Council has recently committed the third reading vote on the TasTAFE bill with amendments. We await the message of the Legislative Council. No doubt it will be here soon.

For the avoidance of doubt I feel that we ought to lift the adjournment time to allow us to sit and to then suspend, pending any further business that might be coming from the Legislative Council.

I would be quite happy to listen to members opposite if they would like to indicate during the suspension, which I will shortly move, how much time you may need to have a look at the amendments from the Legislative Council, so that we can have an informed debate. I would have thought 10 to 30 minutes could be in order, but it depends on members.

I know the minister is ready to explain the amendments that need to be considered by the House. I hope that answers that question. The general intention is that the House will sit until the Legislative Council has adjourned, but there will be some observation about what their likely progress is to be.

In tandem with the Minister for Skills and Training, we will ask the House to suspend until the ringing of the bells. I will also have a conversation with Ms White and Ms O'Connor so that everybody has had time to get the buff from the Legislative Council. If it is agreeable to members I will ask the Clerk and his team to ring the bells after I know that people are comfortable to know what is coming through.

[4.09 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Thank you, minister. Do you envisage we will only be dealing with the amendments from the TasTAFE bill, or should we also expect to deal with other matters from the Legislative Council, just to understand whether our members should arrange for accommodation for tonight for instance?

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - I cannot really answer that at this stage, but our intention is that our House will sit until the Legislative Council has adjourned and will take any amendments or business that they may need to send to us.

Ms White - They are dealing with the container deposit legislation, so we will wait until they finish that. Is that your expectation?

Mr FERGUSON - I do not want to name bills, because that is one of the bills that is on the list that they are dealing with. They have other bills. I am not wanting to represent that position here and now because the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is working with her colleagues and no doubt they are speaking about what business they can achieve. I am aware that the container deposit scheme bill is underway. We are hopeful that it will be agreed to without amendment, but in case there was an amendment, we need to be prepared to be here to receive that.

Ms White - Are there any other matters being dealt with upstairs that we need to wait for?

Mr FERGUSON - At this stage, that is the agenda. I will keep in contact with members. As I said earlier, we need to be prepared, as we do on the last day of each year, to be on standby for the Legislative Council and more or less have our adjournment when they have theirs.

Motion agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House)(by leave) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House suspend until the ringing of the bells.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 4.11 p.m. to 5.21 p.m.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Comments made by Member for Clark, Ms Johnston

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable members, I refer to a tweet issued by the member for Clark, Ms Johnston, at 4.35 p.m. today, which stated:

During the final opportunity to put on record the very human cost of the life-destroying pokies bill, I was told to keep my contribution relevant. That is the way that the Libs and Labor see it. Apparently human lives are irrelevant. Shame on them.

The Chair of the Committees has taken this as a clear reflection on his conduct of the final proceedings in the Committee of the Whole House, who was simply applying the fundamental rule pertaining to relevancy.

It is a fundamental tenet of parliamentary practice that a Presiding Officer's actions may only be criticised by a substantive motion being moved by the House. Any adverse reflection inside or outside the House is highly disorderly.

Accordingly, I call upon you to unreservedly withdraw the assertion you made in the tweet and apologise.

In absence of such actions on your part, I will have no option other than to name you.

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I unreservedly apologise and withdraw my action.

TasTAFE (SKILLS AND TRAINING BUSINESS) BILL 2021 (No. 56)

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendments.

[5.24 p.m.]

Ms COURTNEY (Bass - Minister for Education) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the message be taken into consideration forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

TasTAFE (SKILLS AND TRAINING BUSINESS) BILL 2021 (No. 56)

In Committee

First Council amendment to clause 6 -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the Council amendment to clause 6 be agreed to.

With regard to this amendment, the second amendment and an amendment later on that I will refer to once we get to it in order, this is about removing the ability of the CEO to be appointed to the board. We do not oppose this amendment. It seems consistent with good governance principles. That has to do with the first and second one, although we are moving them all separately, I understand.

Ms O'BYRNE - I only have one question. Is that a long-term process or something you might look at keeping for that role - not appointing them to the board during the transition stage - or do you anticipate that would eventually change and you would be seeking to bring them back in? Are you looking at this to be the permanent arrangement? I do not know that that was planned.

Ms COURTNEY - I have no expectation that that would change. The amendment and the intent of the member in the other place, from the Government's perspective, that the CEO not be a member of the board, was not for a transitional period. Unless Houses of parliament choose to change their mind at a future time, that would be my expectation.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, as the minister said, this amendment reflects good governance. I was a bit surprised in the initial legislation that there was a provision there for the CEO to also be appointed to the board. This is an improvement put forward by the member for Mersey, Mr Gaffney. The chief executive officer, who administers the day-to-day operations of the entity, should be working up to the board, not part of the board. We support the amendment.

First Council amendment to clause 6 agreed to.

Second Council amendment to clause 6 -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

This follows on from the prior amendment.

Second Council amendment to clause 6 agreed to.

Council amendment to clause 18 -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

With regard to this amendment, there is the insertion of 'satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so'. This is consistent with the original policy intent as well as other arrangements for some other TAFEs in Australia.

Ms O'Byrne - Are you comfortable to speak to all of them? Then we will pass them individually because then I can respond to them all broadly, because there are few amendments to clause 18.

Mr CHAIR - There are four. Are you happy to do all four as one?

Ms O'Byrne - I am comfortable to do all four as -

Ms O'Connor - I will go with the consensus.

Ms COURTNEY - I will just finish my comments for this. Mr Chair, I move -

That the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

Thank you for the reminder with regard to this one. I mentioned the public interest test before in terms of the second amendment for clause 18 then the third and fourth amendment. This is about consultation with the board. This is consistent with the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council recommendation relating to improving the operational autonomy of the board, making sure that there is that capability for the board to be consulted.

With regards to an objection, this is consistent with PESRAC recommendations relating to improving operational autonomy of the board. Directions are currently reported in the annual report, which increases accountability and transparency. Ultimately, in terms of ministerial directions, if we step back, the requirement around the public interest, making sure that they are tabled and there is a mechanism if the board wanted to object to what it was, to be able to provide a formal objection to it.

Ms O'BYRNE - I will talk a little bit about this. I will not take a huge amount of time because any improvement on this dog's breakfast of a bill is good.

What will the consultation mechanism be? Is it a letter you send to them? Are you required to meet with the board wholly or do you write to the board and then the board writes back to you, or is it an actual meeting that you go to and present your position?

The public interest test always interests me. I am interested to see how you would interpret the public interest test and the TasTAFE board may then object. It is always difficult to object when you are appointed by the government, so that comes with it, not the security that this would indicate.

Each of the tabled documents in parliament, are they disallowable instruments, and you would expect them to be disallowable instruments, or are they just being tabled as a report?

Ms COURTNEY - Regarding the direction, the bill as it stands already outlines the fact that the direction has to be in writing and signed by the minister. The added amendment that was moved by Mr Gaffney is about the specific date on which the direction is to take effect. In practical operation, I expect, given the engagement ministers have with the boards of a GBE, that -

Ms O'Byrne - It is not a GBE though.

Ms COURTNEY - Sorry, with a range of their statutory authorities, GBEs or SOCs, there is active engagement already with the board. I expect from an operational perspective, that there would be engagement with the board prior to a written direction. That is not required through the legislation we have here before us. However, it has to be provided in writing. When it is tabled, it is simply tabled; it is not a disallowable instrument.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, while we have huge problems with this legislation and voted against it on its passage through this place, it is an improvement on the legislation to require the minister. The way this would read is:

That the minister may give the TasTAFE board directions at any time regarding the performance and exercise of the functions and powers of TasTAFE if the minister is satisfied it is in the public interest to do so.

Then, a further insertion where there is a requirement to consult with the TasTAFE board. Again, I go to Ms O'Byrne's point: it is always a question about what defines the public interest. One person's interpretation of the public interest is different from another person's, or another minister's interpretation. We have some inconsistency in law now because the future gaming markets legislation which went through this House earlier has mention of a community interest test. Is there a difference between the public interest and the community interest? You would not have thought so.

I am interested in hearing what the minister's understanding of the public interest in this matter might be because there is no definition of it in the bill. It is one of those statements that should be able to be read at face value. However, because it is not defined and it is ultimately subjective, it would be helpful for the minister to articulate, given that she will need to apply the public interest test in her time as minister, what the understanding of that might be.

Ms COURTNEY - Thank you, Ms O'Connor. I cannot comment on the interest test that was in another bill. I expect the public interest would be guided by the ordinary meaning of

'public interest'. I accept the fact that public interest is subjective depending on the minister of the time or the government of the day. However, all of us come into this place looking to make sure that everything we do is within the public interest. I expect that it would be guided by the ordinary meaning. If I needed to take legal advice on that at the time, I could do that.

However, the addition of this in my mind does not change the fact that decisions I would make about TasTAFE, whether it was a ministerial direction or my other engagement with the organisation, would always be about public interest. This is a public provider of education for Tasmanians and what I want to seek through this legislation is the strengthening of our public provider so that it can be stronger for the future and serving more Tasmanians.

Ms O'BYRNE - That is where this all comes unstuck for me. I fundamentally do not believe that this is a bill that is in the public interest. I believe students will end up being disadvantaged by this. It is all well and good to say that we have a shared public interest view, but I do not think that is true. We also have a disagreement on what constitutes consult. These clauses require you to consult, and you have said as a minimum that would be that you have to write to them. I note that you said in your media release when this passed the upper House that you looked forward to consulting with students and staff. I also note that you failed to do that in the work up to this bill.

The definition of consulting is something that I think fundamentally this Government does not get. I am very concerned that anything that defines the public interest does not get there either. It is all well and good to have a disagreement with the board, instruct them and say you are going to present it to parliament but unless it is a disallowable instrument, unless this parliament has some capacity to give effect to it, then it does not change anything.

I appreciate the work that Mr Gaffney was attempting to do, but all it really does is spell out that you have to write a letter, that you can ignore that they do not like it, you can tell parliament that they did not like it, but there is no actual mechanism that allows us to resolve actions that you might take. That concerns me greatly.

When the Government talks about a nimble and a flexible TAFE what it means and what this bill is, is about a diminution of the working conditions of staff and a diminution of the capacity of them to provide the services that students need. A public interest test that we cannot define and an inability to consult with staff in the past does not give me any confidence.

If you are only just presenting it to parliament and there is no capacity for it to be disallowed then, frankly, it is a waste of time. I am glad that Mr Gaffney attempted to make it better. However, I want it on the record that I do not think this resolves the fundamental flaws of the bill.

Council amendments to clause 18 agreed to.

Council amendment to clause 30 -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

This is a follow on in terms of the response to direction. It provides that opportunity of any action taken by, so that each action taken by, or why action has been taken. It further outlines that provision of the response of the direction.

Ms O'Connor - Mr Chair, I am just confirming that we just passed that last chunk of amendments as a bundle in clause 18, there were four of them.

Ms O'Byrne - We have moved to clause 30 but did we pass clause 18 is the question. The Chair has to say it otherwise it is not on the record. Fiona is nodding. If you could perhaps confirm, Chair?

Mr CHAIR - I am sorry, I missed that.

Ms O'Byrne - We have moved to clause 30, but did we pass the four clause 18 amendments?

Mr CHAIR - Yes.

Council amendment to clause 30 agreed to.

Council amendment to Schedule 1 -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the Council amendment to Schedule 1 be agreed to.

By interjection by Ms O'Connor, this is consistent to a prior amendment that has already been made.

Ms O'Byrne - This is where we get to say, as Dr Llewellyn would have, otherwise it would be ultra vires. We do not use that term in parliament enough any more.

Council amendment to Schedule 1 agreed to.

Council new clause A -

Ms COURTNEY - Mr Chair, I move -

That the Council new clause A be agreed to.

With regard to reviews of the act, there was quite a bit of discussion in the other place about this. We have a definition of the independent review, which is the review that happens after 30 months and six years. There is also contained within this a review into the implementation of the act six months after the commencement of the act. That review will be in writing and tabled in each House of parliament within 10 days of being provided to the minister. The substantive review that is undertaken at 30 months and six years is required to be commissioned and independent.

The clauses before you outline the characteristics of the independent review and how that defines those being tabled. This is a six-month review, a progress report of the initial

implementation followed by at 30 months and six years more substantive independent reviews to be tabled in this place. I believe the time lines were chosen to allow sufficient time to have seen how the act was being implemented. Six years is after we have seen that transition happen more.

Ms O'BYRNE - Who would conduct the independent review? The only requirement is that the minister of the day would feel that they have the right qualifications, so there are ministerial appointed independent reviews, independent-ish. You probably might appoint the people you want to: one or more who are not State Service officers, MPs or TasTAFE directors or TasTAFE employees. I am interested in what type of agency, what type of entity might conduct that independent review to ensure it is independent.

The six-month review is not an independent review because that is considered too short a period of time to make an assessment. The 30-month one will be an independent one. The six-year one is there to see whether or not the commitments that were made around workplace protection are met.

There is no guarantee for any of the people employed by that, it would make any difference. Once these employees are no longer part of the State Service Act then that is it, they are not coming back. There is no construct in which they can come back. Given that this legislation is a piece of industrial legislation, this entire piece of work and everything other than the arrangement of employment of staff, could have been dealt with within existing constructs. What we have is an industrial relations bill that you will review when it is too late for any of those workers' protections to be maintained.

There are no existing employer agreements in place and existing agreements can be changed during that period. There is a lifetime for the protection of those agreements.

This industrial relations bill that you have brought forward is an attempt - and I appreciate, again, the work of the other place to try to put in some structures as protection - but this in no way provides protection for workers. It claims that it does. In no way does it ensure that people's conditions are protected.

It pretty much highlights what this entire bill is about, which is workplace standards. It is about union busting. It is about paying people less. I cannot believe - and while we must not reflect on debate in the other place - the fact that someone would say, 'We need to have these kind of arrangements because some people do not want 11 weeks leave. Some people want to be flexible and have part-time and temporary work'. They can have part-time and temporary work now. This is about taking away conditions of existing employees, reducing those conditions, which have been part of negotiated outcomes to stop higher wages. You are not going to be able to attract the staff that you want to for this. You are not going to be able to provide protection for the existing staff.

Frankly, once again, this amendment highlights what this bill is about. If you could explain to me what an independent review might look like and who might conduct it, that would be interesting.

Ms COURTNEY - As is already stated within the actual amendment itself, obviously someone who holds the appropriate qualification skills will perform the review. I would take

advice on the appropriate skill sets that would be required, given the circumstances at the time. I am not going to specify now whether it should be -

Ms O'Byrne - An education expert, an industrial relations expert, a training expert - because it means nothing.

Ms COURTNEY - I am not going to define or pre-empt the advice I might receive at that time about the appropriate mix of expertise that would be needed for those. Clearly, I would at the time seek that advice to make sure we did have the appropriate skills mix, noting the fact that TasTAFE delivers on a range of different training areas.

With regard to looking at an independent review, having skills in IR is obviously an important component, but skills around teaching, around responsiveness, around students are important aspects as well. I would at the time seek the appropriate advice.

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Chair, I understand this was Mr Willie's amendment. Is that right, Ms O'Byrne?

Ms O'Byrne - It was originally an amendment by Mr Gaffney, which was amended again to make the independent nature of the review a bit stronger. The original amendment was to do with the review process. I believe the subsequent amendment was to make the review independent, from what I can see of the documents.

Ms O'CONNOR - Notwithstanding our concerns about this legislation and the impact it will have on people who work at TasTAFE - and the fact that the Government or even the PESRAC report talks about having a more nimble TasTAFE - what that ultimately means is a more insecure workforce.

This amendment actually provides some robustness around the implementation of the legislation to turn TasTAFE into a GBE, because, even though we have no certainty over what the review will look like and how independent any one of these three steps will be, parliament will have an opportunity to examine the impact of the implementation of the legislation on TasTAFE and its operations. That is a positive, because we should be able to come back in here and examine the consequence of this legislation, which I still do not think the Government has made an argument for.

I listened very carefully to the minister's response on the second reading in this place when it went through the week before last. I have no doubt at all, Ms Courtney, that you passionately believe this is the right thing to do. I do not doubt that at all. I accept that from your perspective, you think this will lead to better training outcomes for anyone who is going to TasTAFE, but particularly for people in rural and regional areas.

I believe you believe that, but I do not see how turning the public training provider into a government business like Hydro, or Forestry Tasmania - where they can basically not face much scrutiny for the course of a year, and then appear before either an upper or lower House committee - where there is huge opacity in relation to the way GBEs operate. That is not a desirable path forward for our public training provider. I think this is a really sad day.

That said, from the Greens point of view, having these review mechanisms provides a measure of comfort. At least we can have a look at how this plays out for our treasured public

training provider, which has provided, over generations, incredible opportunities to people, and high-quality skills training. TasTAFE is a public training provider that is very dear to the people of Tasmania.

I heard what Ms O'Byrne said before about how it is too late once this is in place -

Ms O'Byrne - Yes, it is. They are not going to come back.

Ms O'CONNOR - It is never too late; do you know what I mean? In 2012, the former education minister Nick McKim restitched TasTAFE back together.

Ms O'Byrne - It is different when you have kicked everybody off on to Fair Work Australia. That is a different concept.

Ms O'CONNOR - There are huge problems here for the TasTAFE employees. I am very worried about it, but a future parliament may decide that it is no longer desirable or in the best interests of the people to have our public training provider as a government business. It is not as if this parliament is combined to the next parliament or the next government, so there is always hope for change. Having these review mechanisms means we at least get an iterative statutory process of being able to look at how this has rolled out.

It is my great hope that this turns out to be a success, but I am very worried about the people who work there, and I am worried about the diversity of course offerings if you have a GBE that is operating under cost-recovery processes, driven by industry agendas.

We support this amendment. It is a single amendment, because we want to see how this is impacting on TasTAFE and the people to whom it provides incredible opportunities for a good life.

Mr CHAIR - Since the gaming bill we have come across standing order 212, which means there is no debate on this question.

Council amendments to new clause A agreed to.

Reported that the Committee had resolved to agree to the Council amendments.

Question - That the resolution be agreed to - put.

Ms O'BYRNE (Bass) - Mr Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak on this. I appreciate that other members will have their view. We are about to pass what constitutes a fraud upon the Tasmanian community because this bill and the amendments we have just debated indicate to the community that the issues and concerns they may have with TAFE are fixed by this bill.

When the minister and Government members go out, they talk about wanting to change the nature of courses and the way the courses are done. This bill does not do that and the minister knows that because these courses are nationally accredited. Nothing changes in the provision of the high-quality courses that TAFE offers.

What does change is that the minister can shift TAFE to not be a provider of high-quality courses. The minister, through this act, can make sure that TAFE is basically a budget version of itself, providing short courses that might get people through the next six months, the next 12 months but does not provide nationally accredited recognition, does not provide course training that allows people to go out into industry with confidence that they can work anywhere else. The training that many employers have spoken to you about, minister, is making them do the one little piece of training that they might need for their industry but what that trainee or apprentice needs, what that members of the community needs, is a broad raft of skills so that they can go out and get a job somewhere else, that they can have skills that are nationally recognised.

This does not do what you have told the community it will do. You have told the community that these amendments to this bill will actually mean the training changes. The only way the training will change is if it is diminished.

There is nothing in your stated intent around this bill that could not be achieved under the existing framework that we are tearing up. We have to think about why TAFE matters. TAFE does matter. TAFE matters so much. For all the concerns that there have been about the growth in fly-by-night companies doing training, about the inconsistencies of training -

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Byrne, I have to interrupt you.

Ms O'BYRNE - It is to the legislation, it is about what the review will show on the amendment.

Mr SPEAKER - The question before the House is that the resolution be agreed to and that is the amendment. It is not a chance for another second reading speech.

Ms O'BYRNE - It is not that I am saying we should not agree to it and I think there is still a chance, because not all members turned up for a vote before. Maybe they will abstain again if there is a chance that we might not agree with this and that matters. It fundamentally matters because this bill is about industrial relations, it is about attacking workers and it is a frightening thing. I do not think we should agree to the bill, the motion that is before the House.

Mr SPEAKER - Again, it is not a chance to have a second reading. It is about the amendments that have come back from the upper House. Please stick to that.

Ms O'BYRNE - The amendments talk about industrial relations review and I am talking about the impact of the industrial relations review, which in six years will show that you have diminished the working conditions of people. I do not think by the time we get there that they will be the only public servants that have been diminished, because this bill is tolling the bell for public sector workers all across our state. I heard the Premier say 'we want the public sector to be nimble, to be flexible', like you want TAFE to be nimble and flexible. The only way this Government knows how to do that is to carve those workers out of the state public sector.

This is the beginning of an industrial relations war. This is the beginning of an attack on public servants - public servants who work here in this building, public servants who are working for the minister and public servants across the state. That is what we are seeing today.

When this bill passes, as I imagine it inevitably will if the Government can get its numbers sorted again today, then what you are doing, minister, is destroying something that matters to Tasmanians.

I will not reflect on the Speaker while he is in the Chair but I do know that when people talk about TAFE, the reason they go to TAFE is because they believe in TAFE. For all of the growth of the fly-by-night companies, people in our community think that if they go to TAFE they get a qualification that means something, that is tangible, real and transportable. This bill is out to destroy all of that.

The member who spoke before, Ms O'Connor, said that she truly believed that the minister thought this would fix the problems that she has identified. That may be the case and that is actually more concerning. It is more concerning that you, as the minister, do not know what you are doing. Either you know what you are doing and that is a reprehensible and appalling thing which you will have to hang your head in shame over, or you do not know and that frightens me. I would expect anyone sitting on a Government bench to understand the implications of legislation. The legislative reform you are driving through this House now, if this bill passes in the next few minutes, is a terrible outcome.

For TAFE it is a terrible outcome, for the people who work there, who have committed their lives to teaching there, who are passionate about the careers they teach in and it is a terrible outcome for those people seeking training that is meaningful and transportable. You run around and say, 'I am delivering on what the industry wants'. You are delivering on what you have told the industry you can deliver them, which is not true. It is farcical. It is not true. You have perpetrated a fraud with this legislation and I truly hope members vote against it now.

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, I do not disagree with anything Ms O'Byrne just said. We are deeply worried about what the dismantling of TasTAFE in its current form as a public provider will mean for people who need skills and training, and life opportunities.

This is on the minister now to prove us wrong. This is on the minister to fulfil the commitments that she made in her closing to the second reading in this place a couple of weeks ago. The minister needs to be TasTAFE's greatest defender. As Education minister, this is a really sad legacy to have on your record.

What is happening here, and will happen shortly, is that Tasmania's accessible, largely affordable public training provider, with its highly skilled and dedicated staff, is being dismantled. We have no certainty over what that will mean for course offerings. We have some certainty over what that will mean for staff, which is less job security.

We will be watching this very closely and I am sure Ms O'Byrne will too. It is good to see some passion from Labor on legislation coming through this House. I wish we had seen it on the future gaming markets legislation, but you cannot have everything in life.

With those closing comments, I urge the minister to recognise how very dear and important TasTAFE is to the Tasmanian community, and to make sure that her stated commitment to the future of TasTAFE as a public provider is solid and believable. We are still not convinced and we think this is a very sad day for skills and training in Tasmania.

Ms COURTNEY (Bass - Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth) - Mr Speaker, I will keep my comments brief. I have been Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth for around six months now. It has been an extraordinary journey of learning of not just the portfolio but truly understanding the value of TasTAFE in the Tasmanian community. I can assure members in this House, the Tasmanian community, the people that work at TasTAFE and students current and future, that we are committed to making TasTAFE stronger. We are committed to TasTAFE being a strong public provider, underpinned by 80 per cent of our skills budget.

I am excited about the future of TasTAFE. I am looking forward to working with the board, management and staff all across Tasmania and, importantly, as we work, to be able to serve Tasmanian students. That is the very core of this; making sure that our students have pathways into jobs.

I appreciate the significant feedback we have had from industry and I thank the members from PESRAC who ultimately consulted with the people of Tasmania over a long period of time to ensure that we could get this legislation.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to enter into debate and I do not think that is appropriate now. But, I want to briefly reflect that I was disappointed that Ms O'Byrne referred to a war. What I am looking at is making TasTAFE stronger. Ms O'Connor, in her contribution, talked about proving someone wrong. I want to prove that this is the right legislation by TasTAFE being stronger and that when we have the reviews in 30 months and six years' time, this will be proven to be the thing that ensures more Tasmanians have access to a public provider of VET education that is providing high-quality training for them and ensuring they have pathways into jobs.

I look forward to working positively and engaging in a constructive way with teachers, industry and staff to make sure that TasTAFE can remain strong. TasTAFE needs to have a strong future here in Tasmania for the prosperity of our state as well as the prosperity of our communities. I believe that can be achieved through this. I am looking forward to working constructively with all to be able to achieve that.

Before I sit down, I would like to thank a number of people. An extraordinary and substantive amount of work has been conducted, particularly in the second half of this year, from the Department of State Growth, Alex Paterson, Sophie Reid, Sarah Patterson, Shona Prior, ably led by Ange Conway, who has been extraordinary. These ladies have worked so hard to deliver on what the Government tasked them to do. They have done so with good will. Each of them also believes in the provision of the public provider of TasTAFE in Tasmania. I am really grateful for the work they have done.

Kate Woodward and OPC have also worked very hard to bring this to this place and I thank them. I would also like to thank my team in my office, Kyle Lowe, Carole Rodger and Chris Edwards. I usually would not thank them on the floor of parliament but they have all worked incredibly hard to be able to achieve this. Carole has given up a week that is very special to her to be able to be here to support me.

Mr SPEAKER - The question is that the resolution be agreed to.

The House divided -

AYES 12

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Ms Courtney
Mr Ellis (Teller)
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Mr Jaensch
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Street
Mr Tucker

NOES 12

Dr Broad (Teller)
Ms Butler
Ms Dow
Ms Finlay
Ms Haddad
Ms Johnston
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms O'Connor
Ms White
Mr Winter
Dr Woodruff

Mr SPEAKER - The results of the division, Ayes 12, Noes 12, therefore in accordance with standing order 167, I cast my vote with the Ayes.

Resolution agreed to.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

[6.10 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the House be suspended until the ringing of the division bells.

The House suspended from 6.10 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Christmas Greetings

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Premier) - First of all, Mr Speaker, I would like to recognise all of my parliamentary colleagues on all sides and the work that everyone has done this year, and especially acknowledge everyone's family and children. This is a difficult job and all of us make sacrifices to be here. It is our families and kids that at times pay the price for the work we do.

As our second year facing the challenges of COVID-19 comes to a close, it is opportune to reflect on why we are all here. The reason, very simply, is to represent Tasmanians to the best of our ability and to ensure that we do the very best for our communities.

Just like last year, this year has, unfortunately, been dominated by the many challenges of the pandemic. I have read innumerable times people saying that they thought 2020 was tough but then 2021 came along. It has been very challenging in many ways.

Last year when I provided a contribution on this, the last day of parliament, I finished my contribution by respectfully asking Tasmanians to please follow the rules. Then, with unbounded optimism that only the upcoming season of hope and joy could bring, I said, 'I sincerely hope that by next Christmas, I will never be saying that again'. Unfortunately, we are still asking people to follow the rules.

It is going to be a challenging summer, there is no doubt at all about that, and we will all have to work through a range of things. I simply ask all members to focus on assisting our communities in the weeks and months coming up, and I know that everyone will.

I know that many Tasmanians are looking forward to our borders reopening on 15 December because it will mean reconnecting with people they have not seen for a long time. Other people are anxious and concerned about what it means, as I think we are all acutely aware. We have had the very fortunate position of being a COVID-19-free state and we now have to manage through that next phase.

Alongside the challenges we have had this year, the business of parliament has carried on. None of this would have been possible without the support of the staff in this place, the staff who support us and make each sitting possible and have themselves risen to the occasion in this second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff have all been flexible, and have quickly adapted to the new COVID-normal around this place. Who would have thought we would have QR codes sitting alongside the portraits of former Speakers on the walls of this place?

I thank each and every one of the staff who have helped us again this year. I know that I will miss people, as happens every year, but in particular I thank the Clerk, Mr Donnelly; the Deputy Clerk, Ms Ross; the Clerk-Assistant and Sergeant-at-Arms, Ms Hesford; Second Clerk-Assistant, Ms Murphy, and Ms Morrison, our Clerk of Papers.

To our parliamentary officers and assistants, Charles, Scott, Rosie, Kiah, Mary and Kristy, thank you. Kristy, a great choice of football team in the West Coast Eagles. Good on you. To all the members of our security team for keeping us safe throughout this year.

Thank you to our parliamentary education team, Kimbra and Colette. They do a fantastic job with the schools when they come in. It is brilliant.

To Peter Hancox, who celebrates 30 years of service this year, and the team at IT and Broadcasting: Brett, Ben, Jason, Chris, Angus, Rob, James and Kate, thank you very much.

To the maintenance and cleaning team, Brendan, Gaye, Andrea, Angela, Asmita and Shane, thank you for looking after our offices.

To Mandie and Jacqui, and the chefs John and Simon in the dining room, thank you very much for the work you do. To Jo, who is just such a pleasure every day, and her team, Christine, Renee, Jade and Jessica, in the bistro, thank you for keeping the wolves from the door.

To Marijana and the Parliamentary Library team, and Bryan and the members of the research team, thank you to each and every one of you.

To the Hansard team, Helen, Katrina, James and I think around 30 staff - I will not name them all - those who subedit and work on the transcription services, thank you.

To my own office and electorate staff, my team led by Andrew Finch, thank you all very much for your hard work this year. I say a special thank you to Courtney Greatbatch, who works in my electorate office in Launceston. She has done a fantastic job this year under the difficult circumstances in terms of the level of response she has needed to manage into that office. I thank her very much for doing that.

I thank Robyn, who runs my diary and has just been fantastic and has managed so many things so well, and the support that Mandy provides to both her and Andrew.

I pay special thanks to the ministerial drivers, permanent and casual, who take such good care of us on the roads, especially my driver, Shane. Unfortunately, he is a Carlton supporter but we will let that go. Rex, Greg, Phil, Hedley, Rick, Garry, Stephen, Ray, Paul, Scott, Cameron, Chris, Russell, Ken, Scott, Roger, Jeff and Barry, thank you all, for those of us fortunate enough to be able to avail of your service. We are very appreciative and may you have a safe and happy Christmas.

I thank my Cabinet colleagues and my entire PLP. This has been a challenging year for all of us and I sincerely thank them.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for your very good ongoing stewardship of this place.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr GUTWEIN - I want to take a personal moment to thank Mandy, my wife, for her ongoing love and support, and give a shout out to my kids, Milly and Finn. If anyone is listening to Chilli FM on Monday morning for the morning show, Milly is having her first crack at being a DJ.

Ms O'Connor - Hear, hear, that's cool.

Mr Ferguson - That is cool.

Mr GUTWEIN - She is very pleased.

I want to thank all Tasmanians, especially for the way they have engaged over the last 20 months. It has been fantastic and I wish them all a merry Christmas.

I thought I might do something just a little different tonight in finishing. For 20 years I have been coming to this. Premiers, leaders of the opposition and other parties have done a sterling job of thanking people. I hope that I can add my name to that list.

I have a poem that I will share if you will indulge me. It is titled 'T'was the Last Day of Parliament' -

Ms White - Did you write it?

Mr GUTWEIN - I wrote some of it, yes. I have my hand in a lot of things.

T'was the last day of parliament and we look back on this place
The work that has been done, all that we faced
From keeping Tassie safe, to business support
And a vaccine program for the target cohort

Despite some in this House and their strong indignation
We have taken action on climate, we are leading the nation
And if Santa's sleigh breaks and under threat from the looters,
All is okay, because we have now got e-scooters.

There were moments of fun, I am sure you will recall
Jane's cartwheel for one and Shelt's trampoline fall
Babies no longer are strangers in here
We welcomed them in and this was the year.

We have each had a voice and didn't we use it
Some were quite eloquent, not many abused it
Some proffered wisdom, some just proposed,
Some were responsible, others opposed.

We all work hard, some even fell ill
So look after yourselves and take time to chill
So stick up the tinsel, sit back and relax
Our borders are opening, so please get the vaxx.

Have a merry Christmas everyone.

Christmas Greetings

[8.11 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons - Leader of the Opposition) - Thank you, Mr Speaker, and thank you to the Premier. You have raised the bar. I do not think I will be able to match your poem, but I will join you in thanking the many hard workers in this parliament who have supported us throughout the course of this year as we draw to an end.

What a year it was. Some say that variety is the spice of life. I am not sure who they are but I would like a word with them. This year has presented challenges for all of us. I want to acknowledge that despite our political differences, we are all human. Despite how things may seem on the surface, we can never be sure about how someone is going, how they are feeling and how they might be dealing with the pressures in their lives. We have seen some of those things present throughout the course of this year.

For every member in this place, I would say there have been added pressures to that this year. There has been the omnipresent threat of COVID-19 and while we have not seen community transmission in Tasmania, for me the thought of it is always in the back of my mind. I am sure that is the case, especially for you Premier and members of your Government.

With borders set to reopen next month, there are many who are feeling anxious about what that will mean for our community.

I want to put on the record, our thanks to the director of Public Health, the State Health Commander and the State Controller who have had some of the biggest and toughest jobs in the state and who have provided incredible leadership for Tasmania.

For those of us in this place, we dealt with an early election this year. Thank you for that, Premier. That saw the membership of this House change. It has meant that every one of us has been through a campaign. Even though that might seem like a lifetime ago, there is no doubt that those things combined with the general pressures of day-to-day matters that we deal with in this place have added extra stresses.

I hope that members get to spend some time with the people who they love as we come to the conclusion of parliament this year and to recharge and prepare for what might be an even more challenging year next year. We simply do not know.

I sincerely wish everyone a happy Christmas. I join with you, Premier, in acknowledging people who work in this place. I sincerely hope I do not miss anybody. I notice that some of the names you shared are different from some of the names I have to acknowledge. I am sure we could probably address that by saying we thank very much everyone who works here.

In particular, I acknowledge the Clerk of the House, Mr Donnelly, Deputy Clerk, Laura Ross, Steph, Fiona and Colleen who supports you; parliamentary assistants Rosie, Kristy, Mary, Kiah and Ali; parliamentary officers Scott, Charles and the fellow who pays us all, Adrian Munnings; education officers, Kimbra and Colette; Peter Hancox and his team in computing and electronic services. Thirty years is an extraordinary amount of time to dedicate to working in this place. I congratulate Peter on that and thank him and his team for all of their assistance when things do not go quite right with our IT services. They are always incredibly helpful.

Catering - thank you very much to Mandie and your team and Jo and your team. They are here very long hours but always making sure that we have the nutrition and the liquid that we need to keep us going and doing our job.

Utility officers, Gaye, Shane, Angela and Asmita, as well as Brendan in Building and Facilities, the Library team with Marijana, the research team, with Bryan heading that, and the Hansard team as well.

The Security team are here all the time and doing additional checks. I would just like to acknowledge the hours they have put in to make sure we are able to do our job safely.

In particular, I recognise and acknowledge the hard work of my staff. For them, the challenges of this year have been very great. I am incredibly grateful to each of them for their work ethic, dedication, commitment both to the Labor Party and to the work of this place and the support they have shown one another and to our PLP, both during the campaign and after.

In particular, I acknowledge my chief of staff, Mel James, who came into the role about one week before the election was called and has really found her feet very quickly and been an incredible support to all of us. I know she will be watching because she is in this building well before most people and stays well after most people leave. She is an incredible person. Thank you very much, Mel, for joining our team.

To Pam, to Chris, Daniel, Bron, Karelle, Marcus, Kate, Amina, thank you very much for the support you provide to our PLP and of course, to my electorate office staff.

Penny Goodland has been my electorate officer for nearly eight years and she will be finishing up at the end of this year. She has been an extraordinary asset, not just to me, but to the community and the electorate of Lyons. She is very well known and she does an amazing job. She has been outstanding and I am going to miss her terribly. I wish she was not leaving but after eight years as an electorate officer, with the limited support they have, it is a big task. She has already had lots of other job opportunities with the skill set that she possesses. I know that she will be fine. Thank you very much, Penny. You have been incredible to me and the work that you have done to support our community has helped to change people's lives for the better. I thank you very much.

I would also like to thank Kate, who works part-time in my office and my volunteers, Rosemary and Jody. We have a fabulous intern working with us at the moment. His name is Joe Birch. Some of you may have come across him. He has been an ambassador for the Commissioner for Children and Young People. He is a wonderful young man in our community and is doing an excellent job.

Mr Speaker, merry Christmas to you and to your family and to everyone here. It has been a very busy year and as you pointed out, Premier, when you think about where we thought we might be this time last year, how wrong we were. While we have been very lucky, you just never know what is around the corner. So please take the time to look after yourself and spend time with your family. We need to make sure that our Government has strong leadership to guide us through what is to come.

Christmas Greetings

[8.19 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, it is a great pleasure to rise on the adjournment every year at this time and say thank you to the people who we work with, to help us be our best selves in this job. We have had a really massive year, we can all agree on that.

I was just reflecting, when Ms White was talking earlier, about a conversation I had with our mutual friend, Duncan Kerr, on the weekend about the unrest in Melbourne over COVID-19 and vaccinations. He made the observation that one of the reasons we have steered our way through the pandemic here with relative community calm is because there was that signal sent to the community about the three leaders working together to keep Tasmanians safe. That has been a really important part of why we do not have that unrest and unease in our community. I want to acknowledge the Premier's leadership and collaboration on this, and also Ms White's as well. We disagree on a whole range of other things, but on this we have been rock-solid, and it has been really appreciated by the community.

It has been a massive year. We had an election a year early and we are all back here. There have been low points. I regard the passage of the future gaming markets legislation as one of parliament's deeply low points, but I am so glad that today we had the opportunity to debate the work of Professors Warner and McCormack, that was initiated by the Premier and

gave us that moment where we could speak as one in support of true reconciliation and working with Aboriginal Tasmanians on a much better future for this island.

I also thank everyone in this building who provides such sterling service. I do worry that I will leave some names out as well. I think we all have slightly different lists.

I personally thank, on behalf of Dr Woodruff and I, and all the Greens team, the wonderful Clerk, Shane Donnelly, who I have always said is an island of calm in a sea of madness. Thank you so much for your sage and open approach, and the advice that you give us, which I always trust. Thank you also Laura Ross, Stephanie Hesford, Fiona Murphy, Colleen Donovan, Ali Morrison - Clerk of Papers, who I have known for nearly 30 years, Scott Hennessy, Charles Casimaty, our wonderful attendants Kristy Lang, Rosie Brown, Kiah Charles and Mary De Groot, and Adrian Munnings, who I think of fondly every fortnight.

The Legislature-General staff: Anna McCarthy, Kate Duggan, Brendan Boon - 'the fixer', Shane Watterson, Gaye Batchelor, Angela McCreghan, Asmita Sharma, and Andrea Romeo.

Our education office, has transformed this place and its outreach into schools and communities. I acknowledge the work of the Speaker previous to the previous Speaker, Ms Archer, who really amped up the work of the Parliamentary Education Office. As a result, generations of children are coming into this place, learning how not to behave - but they are also learning some really important things about the workings of democracy, and how laws are made. It is because of Ms Archer's time as Speaker that we have that strengthened Parliamentary Education Office, and I am deeply appreciative of that.

In the Parliamentary Library - Marijana Bacic, Deb Jensen, Helen Richardson, Sara Ravanat, Sue Knowler, Krystal King, Louise Kemsley. The mighty brains in this building, Bryan Stait, Cassandra Hennessy, Catriona Ross, Jayne McPherson, Kate Roberts, Luke Vieceli, Tran Huynh - who is actually Jade, who also works in the dining room and at the Vietnamese Kitchen in Salamanca. You want to talk about a big brain and a mighty work ethic? That is Jade.

In the computer services and broadcast section, Peter Hancox - congratulations on 30 years of forbearance - Brett Godfrey, Chris Machin, Ben Hughes, James Sly, Jason Hergert, Adon Voss, Angus McIlhenny and Rob Huck.

The people who nourish us: Mandie Donnelly, Jacqui Kozakiewicz, John Glinatsis, Simon Hull, Rob Greg, Jo - we love you, Jo Smallhorn, Christine O'Sullivan, Jade, Renee Hale and Jess Stewart.

Our Hansard staff, our interpreters. I thank Helen Allmich, Katrina Haig and James Reynolds for your patience and your diligence. And across Hansard, Roey Johnson, Gaye Mitchell, Lynne Rush, Shae Huddleston, Andrea Romero - who has just had a beautiful baby, Maximo, Danielle Milic, Alana Balcombe, Anne Baker; Margaret Peters, Jo Bull, Karen Cuzzucoli, Kaye Toohey, Anne-Marie Nuttall, Stella Beswick, Debra Melksham, Glenda Radcliffe, my darling friend; and Suzanne McKay. Our sub-editors, also my darling friend, Kate Stewart, Michael DuBois, Loretta Thompson, Christine Ward, Helen Moore, Jenny Morgan, Andrew Smithies, Margot Dawson, Damian Bester, Katri Hilden and Gabrielle Rish.

The people who keep us safe in here every day. Every day when we walk in and go past security the sunshine that comes out of security people is a really start to the day. I really want to thank Greg Phillips, Syed Abuzar; Benjamin Hakim; Tamanna Sharma; David Holland; Kyriakos Resvanis; Damien McKay; Hugh Tucker and Maneesha Thakur.

I really deeply want to thank my beautiful Greens team, the people I work with every day. My very dear friend, Rosalie, who is a Greens champion and my partner in crime. I am very proud to work with Rosalie in this place; our chief of staff, the wonderful and dangerous Alice Giblin; our policy and parliamentary genius, Thomas Whitton; our mighty campaigner, Steve Wright; our diligent and wonderful adviser to Rosalie, Will Greer; my electorate assistant who has brought order to my life for the first time in 54 years, Millie Knott; Callie Buchwald who is just a beautiful person who works for Rosalie and is really bright and gives me hope in the future of the Greens; beautiful Sandy Bowden who works for me a day a week.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for not naming me again and for keeping a measure of order in the House. I know it is a really hard job and we give you a really hard time but in a way that is just us doing our jobs.

I also thank the Chair of Committees and the Deputy Chairs of Committees. I know you do your best in here in the Chair and quite often that is quite good.

In closing, I felt really frustrated during the pokies debate and it changed things in me. I heard this rumour this week that one of our colleagues in the major parties was sick, and I hope that rumour is not true, but it really brought things into perspective because I genuinely care about you people. I want you to be well and I want us together to do good things in this place.

To our colleagues on the Government benches, on Labor benches, our new Independent here who has been a ray of sunshine in this place: I know you are all here because you were elected because you want to do the right thing by the people of Tasmania. I know that is a genuine ambition inside you. I acknowledge that. I hope that everyone over the summer break stays safe, surrounds themselves with friends and family and laughter and love.

It is going to be challenging from the 15 December. Part of being leaders in our community we will hopefully maintain that level of cohesion and care, without being glib about it, so we need to work on what that might look like.

I also thank the media, the journalists who come here every day and try to make sense of the operations of this House and the issues that arise. Sometimes we get frustrated with them but I think we have a fantastic crop of journalists and camera operators and producers in Tasmania. Many of them could work on the mainland for much more money but they choose to stay here and we are really lucky for it.

To everyone in this place, look after yourselves over the break. Have a good rest. Stay safe and we will see you on 1 March.

Christmas Greetings

[8.29 p.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Mr Speaker, as the Leader has acknowledged this year has been a massive year. I think I have done every major life-changing event you could possibly do this year.

It is an absolute pleasure to have joined you all in this House in May this year and I rise tonight to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome in this place. I acknowledge that it is a somewhat unusual circumstance to have a true independent in this place. I genuinely appreciate the effort that everyone has made to accommodate me on behalf of the people of Clark, and I thank each and every member in this place for that.

Without the resources of a party behind me, and being the first independent member elected to this place for a number of decades, this building could easily become a lonely place but it is not that at all. I acknowledge and particularly thank all the wonderful staff who assist, guide and greet me every day. Seeing their smiling faces, stopping for a chat about all sorts of things, helping me out in all manner of things, truly makes my job far more enjoyable and much easier.

To all the Clerks in attendance, thank you so much for putting up with my constant questions and badgering about procedures and things like that. I really appreciate your wise advice.

To the cleaners, researchers and library staff, thank you so much for all your help and kindness you have extended to me, over the last few months in particular. I appreciate it.

To the IT staff, bless you for your patience with me. I am completely computer-illiterate. You have been amazing and you have supported me so wonderfully. Thank you so much.

The dining and bistro staff, it has been a delight to get to know you, although I am personally holding Jo responsible for the fact that she has been sneaking me chocolates quite regularly and I need to walk a few more k's every night to try to work them off, so I am watching you, Jo, for next year.

To the extended Hansard team, thank you so much. I am in awe of your ability to decipher my mumblings. Thank you very much for all you do.

To the wonderful Parliamentary Education Office, to Kimbra and Collette, thank you so much for letting me participate and giving me the opportunity to meet with the most amazing young people that we have in this state. It is a real pleasure to be able to do that on a regular basis.

Thank you to the security team for the way in which you welcome me every day. I agree with the Leader of the Greens that it is absolutely sunshine when you walk in here and see their smiling faces and their warm welcomes. You have made me feel such a special and important part of this place.

I would also like to publicly acknowledge and thank my wonderful staff and volunteer - to Duncan, Peter and Finlay. It is genuinely a privilege to work with all three of you, even

though we make an awful lawn bowls team. You will notice that from January next year, I will be in training for the competition later next year. All three of you deeply care about the people of Clark like I do and I love that we get to go home every night, knowing that we have done our very best to help those in need and to make Tasmania a little better.

I thank also the wonderful people right across Tasmania because it has been a challenging year. You have worked so hard to keep Tasmanians safe, and I acknowledge the leadership of the Premier in that regard and thank him personally for that as well.

Finally, on a personal note, I could not be where I am today or have survived 2021 without the love and support of the two most precious people in my life, my gorgeous children Harry and Lucy. I know they are watching at the moment and I take this formal opportunity to thank them. I love you guys.

Mr Speaker, I wish all this place a very merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2022 and hopefully make a positive difference in the lives of people who are lucky enough to call this beautiful island of ours home. Merry Christmas, Mr Speaker.

Christmas Greetings

[8.33 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I want to end on a happy thought which came to me while people were speaking. This has been a very hard year for many people in Tasmania and it has been a challenging year for us as legislators. Some of the bills have been very tense.

I want to take us back to March and the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation that we passed. This parliament is capable of passing the absolute best and that was an opportunity that we have not seen before for people to seriously work very hard together in the best interests of Tasmanians. That gives me hope that we have capacity as a Chamber, as a parliament, to be able to do that work and that certainly is what I will be aiming to play my part in doing next year.

Before we finish, I want to give a shout out to the people who do the work every day, keeping us safe and who will be working between now and when we come back. That is ambulance workers, SES, police, firefighters, volunteer and paid, and there are people working in hospitals keeping us safe, mental health carers, neighbourhood houses. These are all the people who do the busy work and who are always there between now and when we return in March, making sure that people in need and people in desperate circumstances will be supported. To those people, I thank them and hope they get some time off over Christmas.

The House adjourned at 8.35 p.m.

Appendix 1

Question on Notice No. 7

Notices of Question

Name: Anita Dow MP

Questions:

- I In relation to the Recruitment of health system personnel, how many of the 180 additional health workforce positions announced in June as part of the 30-Day Plan have been fulfilled.

Answered by: Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Minister for Health

Answers:

Between 30 June 2021 and 6 October 2021, the health workforce grew by approximately 205 FTE. The nursing workforce in particular increased by approximately 65 full time equivalent staff.

This includes staffing to support the Government's elective surgery program as identified in the Statewide Elective Surgery Four-Year Plan 2021-25 (the Plan), released on 17 August 2021.

- Staffing have been employed to open ward 3D at the Launceston General Hospital (action 1.2 in the Plan).
- Staffing have been employed to expand capacity of the Short Stay Surgical Unit at the Launceston General Hospital (action 1.3 in the Plan).
- Staffing have been employed to increase medical bed capacity at the North West Regional Hospital (action 1.11 in the Plan).
- Staffing have been employed to increase to 23 general medical beds on ward 2A at the Royal Hobart Hospital (action 1.20 in the Plan).
- Staffing have been employed to open the new Trauma and Acute Surgical Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital (action 1.21 in the Plan).

Recruitment is ongoing with more health staff coming on board during October and more staff due to commence in the coming weeks.

A number of positions are also being filled through our regular graduate recruitment campaigns, with additional medical staff to commence in early January 2022 and our graduate nurses commencing from late January 2022.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health

Appendix 2

Question on Notice No. 9

Notices of Question

Name: Michelle O'Byrne MP

Questions: - Q9

- 1 Have any people received diagnostic laparoscopy in our public hospitals for the identification or treatment of endometriosis, and if so, how many in:
(a) 2019,
(b) 2020, and
(c) 2021 to date?
- 2 Is there a wait time for diagnostic laparoscopy in the public health system, and if so, what is this wait time by hospital?
- 3 Is there a wait time for diagnostic laparoscopy for the identification, or treatment of, endometriosis in the public health system, and if so, what is the wait time by hospital? (14 October 2021)

Answered by: Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
Minister for Health

Answers:

- 1 I am advised the number of elective surgery procedures completed for laparoscopy for endometriosis in the four major public hospitals is as follows:
(a) 2019: 112 procedures
(b) 2020: 91 procedures
(c) 2021 (01 Jan - 11 Nov): 109 procedures
- 2 All states and territories operate waiting lists for management of elective surgery and clinicians categorise patients on these wait lists according to the assessed clinical need. Consequently all elective surgery procedures will have a wait time.

Table 1. Average (median) wait time in days for patients on the elective surgery wait list for a laparoscopy, at 11 Nov 2021

	Category 1 (Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 30 days	Category 2 (Semi-Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 90 days	Category 3 (Non-Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 365 days	All Categories
LGH	13	179	271	170
MCH	-	52	38	45
NWRH	22	73	222	143
RHH	23	240	441	339

Average wait times for Category 1 patients is within clinically recommended times of 30 days.

3 Table 2. Average (median) wait time in days for patients on the elective surgery wait list for a laparoscopy for endometriosis, at 11 Nov 2021

	Category 1 (Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 30 days	Category 2 (Semi-Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 90 days	Category 3 (Non-Urgent) clinically advisable to be seen within 365 days	All Categories
LGH	21	113	147	113
MCH	-	-	38	38
NWRH	-	64	149	87
RHH	-	245	319	251

Average wait times for Category 1 patients and Category 3 patients were within clinically recommended times of 30 days and 365 days respectively.

Appendix 3

Question on Notice No. 5

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. 5 of 2021 House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Roger Jaensch MP, Minister for
Environment

QUESTION 5:

In relation to staffing of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE), are there any policy officers employed by DPIPWE who have responsibility for ensuring the marine environment remains healthy, who do not also have responsibilities related to fisheries and/or aquaculture, and if so, how many?

ANSWER:

The protection of the marine environment is delivered in a holistic manner by DPIPWE utilising the expertise of multiple divisions. I am advised this includes staff in Policy and Projects, Parks and Wildlife Service planning and assessment, Marine Resources, Natural and Cultural Heritage and EPA Tasmania who provide independent advice to industry, development proponents, regulators, and other stakeholders, on the management of our marine environment.

It is too simplistic to separate fisheries and aquaculture management from ensuring a healthy marine environment.

All DPIPWE Marine Resources Division officers, in delivering the objects of the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*, have core responsibilities for healthy marine environments, viz (S.7):

- (a) increase the community's understanding of the integrity of the ecosystem upon which fisheries depend; and
- (b) provide and maintain sustainability of living marine resources; and
- (c) take account of a corresponding law; and
- (d) take account of the community's needs in respect of living marine resources; and
- (e) take account of the community's interests in living marine resources.

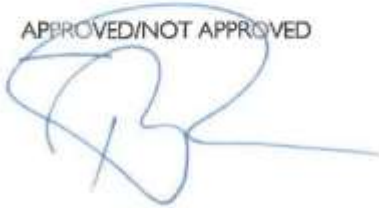
While DPIPWE staff support direct habitat management activities such as control of the long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus*), other work supports local and whole of ecosystem level management through the education and permitting of indigenous, recreational, commercial fishers and the regulation of marine farming activities.

Currently as EPA Tasmania is a Division of DPIPWE, it is appropriate to include staff who provide policy input to marine environment matters. Excluding those staff directly involved in the regulation of the salmon industry, staff in the Water Section provide advice in relation to application of the State Policy on Water Quality Management, including for marine waters.

DPIPWE also works with Federal and State agencies and local organisations to ensure that marine environments are protected. For example, DPIPWE maintains a service agreement with Tasmania Police to protect marine environments from illegal fishing, which is a major threat to healthy marine environments.

DPIPWE, through its partnership with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) at the University of Tasmania, also funds and actively participates in a significant body of multi-disciplinary marine research that underpins the sustainable management of marine resources for a diversity of uses.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Environment

Date: 18 November 2021

Appendix 4

Question on Notice No. 12

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. 12 of 2021 House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Woodruff

ANSWERED BY: Minister for Environment

QUESTION:

Dr Woodruff to ask the Minister for Environment – in relation to the Burrunan Dolphin (*Tursiops australis*):

- (1) What is the protection status of the Burrunan Dolphin?
- (2) Has the protection status of this species been evaluated, and if so, who evaluated it, and when?
- (3) Have any measures been taken to protect this species, and if so, what are these measures?

(28 October 2021)

ANSWER:

- (1) All cetaceans (whales and dolphins), regardless of species, are listed as Protected under Schedule 2 of the *Tasmanian Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010* and are subject to the protections of the *Whales Protection Act 1988*.
- (2) I am advised that the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment is not aware of any specific evaluation of the protection status of the Burranan dolphin.
- (3) No specific measures have been taken to protect the species. However, all dolphins are protected with various penalties applying under existing legislation, including the *Nature Conservation Act 2002*, *Wildlife (General) Regulations 2010*, and *Whales Protection Act 1988*.

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED



Hon Roger Jaensch MP

Minister for Environment

Date: 17/11/21

Appendix 5

Question on Notice No. 8

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. 8 of 2021 House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Michelle O'Byrne MP

ANSWERED BY: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

QUESTION 8:

In relation to the following support services; the Family Violence Counselling Service; Engender Equality; the Sexual Support Service; Laurel House; Yemaya; and the North West Relationship Abuse of an Intimate Nature Program (RAIN):

8 (1) Is there a wait time for support from these organisations, and if so, what is the average wait time for people seeking support from these organisations for the financial years;

(a) 2018 – 2019;

(b) 2019 – 2020;

(c) 2020 – 2021, and

(d) 2021 to date?

(2) Are there a waiting list for these organisations, and if so, how many individuals are on these waiting lists for the financial years;

(a) 2018 – 2019;

(b) 2019 – 2020;

(c) 2020 – 2021, and

(d) 2021 to date? (14 October 2021)

ANSWER:

(1) Average wait time for Engender Equality, Sexual Assault Support Service, Laurel House, Yemaya and RAIN (noting funding is under the Minister for Community Services and Development).

There are no wait times for the Family Violence Counselling Support Service (FVCSS) Adult Program. Average wait time for the Children and Young Person's Program (CHYPP) FVCSS reported below:

Organisation	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021 – current
Median days on Referral Assessment Completed (RAC) status for CHYPP FVCSS	178	90	189	49 ¹
Engender Equality	Average of 29 days	Average of 33 days	Average of 36 days	Average of 35 days ²
Sexual Assault Support Service	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Average wait time between 30-44 days ²
Laurel House	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Average wait time 22 days, but up to 50 days ²
Yemaya	14 days	Up to 21 days	21-30 days	21-30 days ²
RAIN	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil ²

(2) The Family Violence Counselling Support Service Adult Program does not have a wait list.

For remaining services, number of individuals on wait lists:

Organisation	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021 – current
FVCSS – Children with CHYPP status 'referral assessment completed'	46	86	94	93 ¹
Engender Equality	174	163	158	84 ²
Sexual Assault Support Service	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	70 ²
Laurel House	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	Was not required to report wait lists	53 ²
Yemaya	70	78	84 ³	14 ³
RAIN	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil ²

1 The 'current' figure for children with CHYPP status RAC (state-wide) is as at 9 November 2021.

2 The 'current' figures for Engender Equality, Sexual Assault Support Service, Laurel House, Yemaya and RAIN are as at 14 October 2021.

3 Yemaya reported a total of 84 clients (over the year) waited for a service, with 20 waiting at the end of 30 June 2021.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Jacqui Petrusma MP
Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

Date: 25th November 2021

Appendix 6

Question on Notice No. 4

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Questions No. 4 and 5 of 2021

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP, Minister for Parks

QUESTION 4:

In relation to staffing of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE): (1) Are there any marine park rangers currently employed by DPIPWE, and if so, how many? (2) Is there a proportion of the State Budget allocation for Parks and Wildlife Management (Output 8.1 - \$74.9 million) that is dedicated to marine conservation, and if so, what proportion?

ANSWER:

As at 18 November 2021, there are 458 staff currently employed by the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, all of whom may participate in work supporting marine area managements. For example, Parks and Wildlife Service staff regularly participate in marine wildlife rescue work, marine strandings, marine area compliance, and monitoring visitor activities in relation to reserved areas of the marine environment. The primary source of dedicated output funding for marine conservation is provided through Output Group 3 and through the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Environment.

Marine resource conservation and management is delivered through multiple DPIPWE divisions in addition to the Parks and Wildlife Service, including the Natural Cultural and Heritage Division, Marine Resources, Biosecurity Tasmania, and the Environment Protection Authority.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP
Minister for Parks

Date: November 2021