



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2024 - 2025

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 54

THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025

- 1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE. - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.
- 3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION. – The Speaker read Prayers.
- 4 WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PREMIER. – The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned Debate on the Question proposed on Wednesday, 4 June 2025 —That the House:—
 - (1) Agrees the Premier, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP's budget mismanagement is doing significant long-term damage to Tasmania.
 - (2) Does not support the Premier's plan to privatise public assets.
 - (3) Has no faith in the Premier's ability to deliver major projects following the Spirit of Tasmania fiasco.
 - (4) Further has no confidence in the Premier, the Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP.

And the Question being again proposed;
The House resumed the said adjourned Debate.

- 5 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. - At One o'clock the Speaker left the Chair.
At half-past Two o'clock the Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair.

- 6 WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PREMIER. – And the Question being again proposed.

The House resumed the debate.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

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AYES 17

Ms Badger
Mr Bayley
Dr Broad
Ms Brown
Ms Burnet
Ms Butler
Ms Dow
Mr Farrell
Ms Finlay
Mr Garland
Ms Haddad
Ms Johnston
Ms Rosol
Mr Willie
Mr Winter
Dr Woodruff
Mr Jenner (Teller)

NOES 17

Mr Abetz
Mr Barnett
Mr Behrakis
Mr Ellis
Mr Fairs
Mr Ferguson
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Pentland
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Mr Wood
Mrs Beswick (Teller)

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The result of the division is ayes, 17, noes, 17, which requires a casting vote. May I ask members to resume their seats?”

Given the significance of the vote before us and the media commentary on the role of the Speaker in this deciding vote, I will take the opportunity to provide reasons for the practice of the exercise of the Speaker's casting vote. Standing Order 167 obliges the Speaker, or any other presiding officer as the case may be, to vote upon a question put to the House to resolve the matter after a division has resulted in an equality of votes.

The Standing Order is also prescribed in section 25 of the *Constitution Act 1934*. The Westminster practice, and that of some other jurisdictions, is that in order to avoid any imputation upon their impartiality, it is usual for the Speaker, when practical, to vote in such a manner as to not make the decision of the House final, and to explain their reasons, which are entered into the journal. The Westminster principles are for the Speaker to vote in such a way that the Speaker remains impartial and independent of their political affiliation; to vote in such a manner as to not make the decision of the House final; and, where no discussion is possible, decisions should not be taken except by majority on the floor of the House.

Notwithstanding the principles outlined above, Erskine May also provides that the Speaker is at liberty to vote like any other member according to their conscience, without assigning a reason. As noted in the companion to the Standing Orders, second edition, page 181, given the proportional representation of parties and the relatively small membership of the House, and therefore the greater likelihood of the Speaker being in a position of casting a vote, consideration of the pure application of the Westminster tradition has, in practice in this place, been heavily weighted by the political practicalities in the consideration of the direction of the casting vote.

For this reason, the political culture of the House and its practices differ significantly from most other jurisdictions, and particularly the Commons, where the occasions on which a Speaker is required to give a casting vote are rare. The House of Assembly of the 41st Parliament, from 1989 to 1992, provided an equality of votes on the floor. During that parliament, the Speaker, a member of the Labor Party, cast his vote with that party on every occasion, including a want of confidence vote which brought about a change of government.

Similarly, in the 50th Parliament, from 2021 to 2023, the Speaker, a member of the Liberal Party, cast his vote with that party on every occasion, including on votes to protect the government and individual members from censure and from want of confidence motions.

I have voted with my party since assuming the Chair in 2024. I am a member of the Labor Party. When I was elected to this position, it was made clear to this House and the public that, despite no longer attending the caucus and strategy meetings at the Labor Party, I would always vote with them. No one in this Chamber could realistically expect me to provide confidence to a Liberal government. No one would

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expect me to turn my back on the rules of a party that I have believed in my entire life and been a member of for longer than some members of this Chamber have actually been alive. Unlike some members of this Chamber, I have always believed in the values of my party, the party of which I am a member. My membership of the Labor Party is not purely expedient or opportunistic, it is governed by lifelong-held values. That will not change.

As I provide my casting vote today, I do so in the knowledge that regardless of the outcome of today's vote, the stability of this parliament is fundamentally under question. If I was not in the Chair and the government had held this position, the vote would have been won on the floor.

Notwithstanding the considerations of the Premier and Lieutenant-Governor in this process, the die is cast and the state is on the inexorable path to another early election. The Budget before this House faces almost insurmountable challenges in both its form and its timing. As a result, I have sought advice on the issue of supply in the event this Budget is not passed. I have been advised that in the absence of the approval of the appropriation bills currently before this House, alternate arrangements need to be established to fund government services beyond 1 July 2025. I am sure no one in this House would like to see a situation where payments are not made to government employees or there is a failure to fund service delivery or the organisations that provide them.

While there are automatic supply provisions in the *Financial Management Act 2016*, they are limited to approximately two months of service delivery. Given the current uncertainty, it is considered that two months' supply will not be sufficient. As such, it is imperative that parliament resumes so it can consider and approve appropriate supply bills to fund government services before 1 July 2025. These bills would not countenance unforeseen circumstances on matters not encompassed already in the 2024-25 Budget; they act only as a continuation of the status quo. They will also have limitations on the flow of funds under contractual obligations. Passing of a supply bill, however, must be a priority.

I am also very mindful that the future of the AFL teams will be tested by the decisions and actions of the next few weeks. I support the team. I took one of the first business cases to the AFL as minister. To say the pathway to the team has been poorly handled is an understatement, but members of this House should not underestimate the passion that Tasmanians have for their team.

I am further aware of the impact to the people of Tasmania at potentially being thrust back into an election cycle so quickly. For some, it may very well be the third election in a matter of months.

Members, the events and contributions on this debate and the matters leading up to it have also caused me to reflect on my own tenure and the challenge of being an opposition Speaker. I have been a member of parliament since 1998 with the federal and state parliaments. I have served in this House for almost 20 years. I have been witness to many situations which highlight the need for a functioning democratic process in this place. For our society to work, our parliament has to be able to function.

The obligation to remain true to lifelong values, to honour the trust placed in me by the people who voted for me as a Labor member, to give my loyalty to my party whilst also ensuring that the independence of the role of the Speaker in the House is maintained and the powers conferred upon me whilst in the role are fairly dispensed, comes with an inherent conflict. I have tried to do this and to do it well. I have taken the respectful conduct and efficient operation of this place as my greatest obligation as Speaker. I hope the next Speaker continues to do so.

However, votes like the one before us now have highlighted the moral and practical challenges presented by the conflict between the intent of the Standing Orders, the independence of the Speaker's role, and the political practicalities of parliament. I have reflected not only on my appointment as Speaker, but my continuing future in this House, and I will have more to say about that in the coming days.

I apologise for this rather lengthy contribution and hope that members understand that an explanation of my thinking was necessary. I remind members again of their obligation and imperative to ensure that the state's financial obligations are met, given the circumstances we now find ourselves in, and that we need to meet again to pass either a budget or a supply budget with some urgency.

With the vote before us today, under the provisions of Standing Order 167 and with reference to the commitment given when I was elected to the Chair, I cast my vote with the ayes. The ayes have it."

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So it was resolved in the Affirmative.

7 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. – At four o'clock p.m., the Speaker announced that she would resume the Chair at the ringing of the Division Bells.

And the House having continued to sit after midnight.

FRIDAY, 6 JUNE 2025

And the House having continued to sit after midnight.

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE 2025

And the House having continued to sit after midnight.

SUNDAY, 8 JUNE 2025

And the House having continued to sit after midnight.

MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2025

And the House having continued to sit after midnight.

TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025

At Ten o'clock a.m., the Speaker resumed the Chair.

8 LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - *Ordered*, That the Minister for Transport have leave to move a Motion without Notice for the suspension of Standing Orders to enable the Order of the Business for the Remainder of Today's sitting. (The Minister for Transport)

9 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS. – *Ordered*, That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the Order of Business for this Day's sitting from being as follows:

- (a) Introduction of Bills;
- (b) Government Business.

10 MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. – The Speaker read the following Message from Her Excellency the Governor:-

MESSAGE.

BARBARA BAKER, *Governor*.

In accordance with the provisions of section 38 of the Constitution Act 1934 (25 Geo. V No. 94), the Governor recommends to the House of Assembly the payment out of the Public Account of the sum four billion, five hundred and eighty three million, four hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$4 583 430 000) for the purposes set forth in Schedule 1 to the Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025.

Government House, Hobart.

11 MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. – The Speaker read the following Message from Her Excellency the Governor:-

MESSAGE.

BARBARA BAKER, *Governor*.

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In accordance with the provisions of section 38 of the Constitution Act 1934 (25 Geo. V No. 94), the Governor recommends to the House of Assembly the payment out of the Public Account of the sum twenty-nine million, five hundred and ninety-eight thousand dollars (\$29 598 000) for the purposes set forth in Schedule 1 to the Supply Bill (No. 2) 2025.

Government House, Hobart.

12 BILL No. 32. – The Treasurer presented -

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026” (Bill No. 32)

And Mr *Barnett* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for at later hour.

13 BILL NO. 33. – The Treasurer presented -

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$29 598 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government in respect of Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026” (Bill No. 33)

And Mr *Barnett* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for a later hour.

14 BILL NO. 32. - The Supply Bill (No.1) 2025 was, according to Order, read the Second time, and in accordance with Standing Orders, there being no Member wishing to speak to the Clauses in the Committee of the whole House;

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the Third time.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Third time.

15 BILL NO. 32. - A Message to the Legislative Council. -

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled “A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 10 June 2025.

MICHELLE O’BYRNE, *Speaker.*

16 BILL NO. 33. - The Supply Bill (No.2) 2025 was, according to Order, read the Second time, and in accordance with Standing Orders, there being no Member wishing to speak to the Clauses in the Committee of the whole House;

Ordered, That the Bill be now read the Third time.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Third time.

17 BILL NO. 33. - A Message to the Legislative Council. -

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled “A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$29 598 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government in respect of Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”

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to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

House of Assembly, 10 June 2025.

MICHELLE O'BYRNE, *Speaker.*

18 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. – At thirty-nine minutes past Ten o'clock a.m., the Speaker announced that she would resume the Chair at the ringing of the Division Bells.

At nineteen minutes past Four o'clock p.m., the Speaker resumed the Chair.

19 BILL NO. 33 - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has agreed, without Request to a Bill, intituled - "A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$29 598 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government in respect of Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026",

Now returns the same to the House of Assembly

Legislative Council, 10 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

20 BILL NO. 32 - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having taken into consideration a Bill intituled –

"A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026",

begs now to return the same to the House of Assembly, with Request that the House of Assembly make therein the following amendment:

Schedule 1, item 10, in respect of the Operating Services for the Premier, by deleting "28 862" and substituting "26 862".

Legislative Council, 10 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

Ordered, That the said Message be taken into consideration forthwith. (The Treasurer)

21 BILL NO. 32. - The House, according to Order, proceeded to take into consideration the Request for Amendment made by the Legislative Council to the Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025.

(In the Committee)

Request, Schedule 1 (page 9)

That the House of Assembly be requested to amend item 10, in respect of the Operating Services for the Premier, by deleting "28 862" and substituting "26 862".

Request to make Amendment agreed to.

Resolution to be reported.

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The House being resumed, Mr *Street* reported that the Committee had considered the Request to it referred, and had come to a certain Resolution which was read as follows:-

To agree to make the Amendment requested by the Council.

Resolved, That the said Resolution be agreed to. (The Treasurer)

22 BILL NO. 32. - A Message to the Legislative Council:-

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly has made the Amendment requested by the Legislative Council to the Bill intituled-

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”.

House of Assembly, 10 June 2025.

MICHELLE O’BYRNE, *Speaker*.

23 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. – At twenty-five minutes past Four o'clock p.m., the Speaker announced that she would resume the Chair at the ringing of the Division Bells.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House*.

MEMBERS. - All present during the day.

BILL NO. 42 of 2024. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill, intituled – “A Bill for an Act to amend the Defamation Act 2005”.

Legislative Council, 3 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President*.

BILL NO. 15. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill, intituled – “A Bill for an Act to amend the Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001”.

Legislative Council, 3 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President*.

BILL NO. 10. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill, intituled – “A Bill for an Act to amend the Magistrates Court Act 1987, the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 and the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act 1932”.

Legislative Council, 3 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President*.

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COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has made the following appointments to Committee:-

Ms *Webb* to serve on the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity; the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Electoral Matters; and the Joint Sessional Committee on the Final report of the Commission of Inquiry; and

Mr *Edmunds* to serve on the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts; the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality; the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters; and the Joint Committee of both Houses to manage the Parliamentary Library.

Legislative Council, 4 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has appointed Mr *Hiscutt* to serve on the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation, in accordance with Section 3 of the Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969 (No. 44).

Legislative Council, 4 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has today Resolved that Ministers from the House of Assembly previously given leave to appear before and give evidence to the Estimates Committee be discharged.

Legislative Council, 5 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

BILL NO. 32. - A Message from the Legislative Council -

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has agreed, without to a Bill, intituled –

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”,

as amended by the House of Assembly following the Legislative Council’s Request and now returns the same to the House.

Legislative Council, 10 June 2025.

C.M. FARRELL, *President.*

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Parliament of Tasmania should be prorogued, I, THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and

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over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, exercising the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution Act 1934, hereby prorogue the Parliament effective from 7:00 pm on this day.

GIVEN under my hand, at Hobart, in Tasmania on 11 June 2025.

BARBARA BAKER, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,
JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is expedient that the House of Assembly of the Parliament of Tasmania should be dissolved, I, THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, exercising the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution Act 1934, hereby dissolve the said House of Assembly effective from 7.11 pm this day.

GIVEN under my hand, at Hobart, in Tasmania on 11 June 2025.

BARBARA BAKER, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,
JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier.

MESSAGE.

BARBARA BAKER, *Governor*.

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$29 598 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government in respect of Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”. (Bill No. 33 (*Act No. 15 of 2025*))

“A Bill for an Act to make interim provision for the appropriation of \$4 583 430 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2026”. (Bill No. 32 (*Act No. 16 of 2025*))

having been presented to the Governor for the Royal Assent, she has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bills.

Government House, Hobart, 13 June 2025.

MESSAGE.

BARBARA BAKER, *Governor*.

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Police Offences Act 1935 and the Police Offences Regulations 2024”. (Bill No. 3 (*Act No. 10 of 2025*))

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993”. (Bill No. 12 (*Act No. 11 of 2025*))

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Defamation Act 2005”. (Bill No. 42 of 2024 (*Act No. 12 of 2025*))

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“A Bill for an Act to amend the Magistrates Court Act 1987, the Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 and the Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act 1932”. (Bill No. 10 (*Act No. 13 of 2025*))

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001”. (Bill No. 15 (*Act No. 14 of 2025*))

having been presented to the Governor for the Royal Assent, she has, in the name and on behalf of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bills.

Government House, Hobart, 16 June 2025.