



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 12

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2025

- 1 **COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.
- 2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said: “We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the first inhabitants and the continuing custodians of this land.”
- 3 **PRAYERS AND REFLECTION.**— The President read Prayers.
- 4 **E-PETITION.**— Ms *O'Connor* brought up an E-Petition from 418 citizens of Tasmania calling on the Government to implement Coroner Webster’s recommendations regarding quad bike safety.  
*Ordered*, That the Petition be received. (Ms *O'Connor*)

5 **CORONER’S ORDER RELATING TO THE CORONIAL PROJECT INVESTIGATION INTO AUTOPSY SPECIMENS.**— Ms *Webb* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — In relation to the Coronial Project investigation into the autopsy specimens retained by the R. A. Rodda Museum of Pathology at the University of Tasmania, upon which the Coroner’s Office reported its findings on Thursday the 18 September 2025, can the Government:

- (1) Confirm the Coroner has issued an Order exempting all matters pertaining to the Coronial Project investigation exempt from release under the *Right to Information Act 2009*;
- (2) Detail:
  - (a) any reasons stated for the Order;
  - (b) whether the Coroner’s Order is still in place despite the publication of the Coronial Project investigation’s findings; and
  - (c) if so clarify if there is an expected date for the expiry or lifting of that Order; and
- (3) Recognising the exclusion provision of Section 6 of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, detail all instances over the previous 12 months where a court order has required an additional exemption of materials from the *Right to Information Act 2009*, and the duration of each of these earlier Orders.

The Leader answered:

- (1) I can confirm that this direction was issued by the Coroner, pursuant to section 53A of the *Coroners Act 1995*, on 27 June 2025.
- (2) On 4 November 2025, the Coroner’s Order of 27 June 2025 was revoked by the Court. This means the Order is no longer in effect.
- (3) The Department is not aware of any other instances with similar directions having impacted on the disclosure of information under the *Right to Information Act 2009* in the past 12 months. Any further inquiries regarding these matters should be directed to the relevant Court.

*Ordered*, That Ms *Rattray*, have leave to Table the Coroner's Direction of 4 November 2025 and have it incorporated into the Hansard record.

**6 LEAVE TO TABLE ANSWER TO QUESTION AND INCORPORATE ANSWER INTO HANSARD.**—*Ordered*, That Ms *Rattray* have leave to Table answer to Question No. 7 and have the answer incorporated into the Hansard record.

**7 MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM EXPENDITURE TO DATE.**— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government — Noting that the proposed Stadium at Macquarie Point has incurred public expenditure in planning, design and preparatory works despite the uncertainty associated with approval for its construction, and acknowledging the importance of understanding the expenditure to date and the progress stage the project is at, within established major project infrastructure planning and delivery processes can the Government:

- (1) Provide a total cost and itemised breakdown of how much funding the Macquarie Point Development Corporation and Government agencies have expended to date on activities associated with the proposed Stadium at Macquarie Point, including but not limited to project planning, site investigations, design development, stakeholder engagement, any related consultancy or advisory services, and any other costs?
- (2) Clarify the current stage of the project within the standard infrastructure delivery framework?
- (3) Advise if it is consistent with standard government infrastructure delivery practice for a project to progress to the current stage without having first obtained planning approval? Please provide other examples for comparison purposes.

The Leader answered:

- (1) In relation to project cost to date, as at the end of September 2025 the total spend is \$36.5M.

Given the stage of the project, the main spend has been on consultancies to inform the design and planning for the project which is required to respond to the Planning Process, reviews and enquiries. The costs, to the end of September, total \$33.1M for this component.

These include:

- Design – \$18.3M
- Construction and building surveying – \$0.75M
- Functional brief and related advisories – \$0.25M
- Legal and probity – \$3.6M
- Planning and environmental – \$2.4M
- Project management – \$5.1M
- Quantity Surveying – \$1.7M
- Other consultancies and disbursements - \$1M

The other \$3.4M of costs incurred are:

- Project resourcing – \$1.8M
- Site investigations – \$0.2M
- Application and approval costs – \$1.4M

It is important to note that these numbers don't reconcile to the state budget papers.

The Budget sets out the annual equity transfers that are provided to the Macquarie Point Development Corporation (MPDC). Equity transfers are currently undertaken in arrears, which results in a discrepancy between the cashflow and equity at any point, as the equity transfers run behind.

- (2) In relation to the Honourable Member's second question around the stage of the project, it is at 70 percent design development.

The design of the Multipurpose Stadium has been done in three distinct phases:

1. Concept Design
2. Schematic Design
3. Design Development

The concept design phase is the initial stage in which various concepts and options are developed and design principles are established.

Design drawings are typically detailed to a 1:500 scale. Developing too much detail is avoided at this stage to ensure the design can be efficiently altered and changed to balance competing objectives.

Following the completion of the concept design phase, the project commenced the schematic design. In schematic design, the overall design is refined, design drawings are typically detailed to a 1:200 scale. The focus is on ensuring the building functions as intended, meets the overall design brief and satisfies user requirements.

User groups were identified and formed including:

- AFL
- Cricket
- Rectangular Sports
- Broadcast
- Emergency Services
- Entertainment

The Design Development Phase commenced in November 2024 following the completion of the Schematic Design, starting with a peer review of the work to date. The Design Development phase is a crucial phase where the building brief and scope is confirmed and the design response is refined into more detailed plans, including material specifications, room layouts, and coordination of size and location of structural elements and building systems (mechanical, electrical). Drawings are developed to a scale that is appropriate to communicate the level of detail in the design including 1:100 scale plans and 1:50 and 1:20 for typical construction system build-up details.

The design recently reached the 70% design development milestone. As the level of detail progresses, the coordination of interfaces across various design elements increases as well. These are captured in a Building Information Model, or BIM, which provides a digital integrated model of the plans and designs.

The procurement method selected for the Stadium is a Design and Construct approach (often referred to as a D & C), where the State designs the project to a point and then hands over the final design stages and the construction to a contractor. This is common in complex infrastructure projects.

The design process has been taken to an advanced stage of 70% before handing over the final stages to the construction contractor.

The benefit of advancing the design by the State is that it provides greater cost certainty, provides control of key elements such as user requirements and accessibility, to adapt and manage change to evolving requirements and feedback cost effectively, and enables certainty for unique elements such as the roof; while still providing opportunity for industry expertise to inform the design. This balances risk and provides certainty to the construction sector that the design is fit for purpose and the market can focus on delivery.

Within a 'standard infrastructure delivery framework', this development stage can be described in the context of the Infrastructure Tasmania Project Assurance process.

This process is used to provide detailed and independent project reviews by a panel of relevant experts at stages throughout design and delivery for large infrastructure projects.

This framework provides a structured approach for the independent assessment of the health and viability of projects and programs.

Information on the Infrastructure Tasmania Project Assurance process is available on the Infrastructure Tasmanian website ([www.infrastructure.tas.gov.au/policy\\_and\\_advice/project\\_assurance\\_framework](http://www.infrastructure.tas.gov.au/policy_and_advice/project_assurance_framework)).

The Assurance Framework uses Gates to identify key stages in projects and readiness. The relevant Gates for the implementation of the project are:

- Procurement – Gate 3: Readiness for market; Gate 4: Tender evaluation
- Execute – Gate 5: Readiness for service
- Close – Gate 6: Benefits realisation

MPDC has been using this framework and will continue to do so.

The project has completed a Gate 3 review and subsequent health check.

Gate 3 is a procurement-readiness review before commencing the procurement process.

- (3) In response to The Honourable Member's final question in terms of whether the infrastructure delivery approach for this project is standard practice, in addition to noting the Project Assurance process outlined above, the use of a Design and Construct procurement methodology is a common process used for large scale projects of this nature.

For example, the Bridgwater Bridge used a two stage D&C program, and much of the road program is delivered using a D&C procurement model.

Commencing design work is important prior to seeking planning approval to make sure the design is fit for purpose, the area and form of the structure are well understood and accurate to ensure the approval being sought is informed as well as to inform cost estimates.

The design development of the Stadium is at 70%, which is more advanced than would be progressed before working with construction contractors in some of these examples.

The benefits and reasons for this have previously been noted.

In this particular case, advancing to 70% design and having detailed plans has been important to support the planning assessment process. An informed design is important for large scale infrastructure projects to enable suitable assessments to be undertaken to support the planning review. Without this work, the Government would not have been able to respond to the assessment queries and to address concerns such as illustrating, with the support of modelling, that the facility can be safely evacuated in eight minutes in the event of an emergency.

**8 PAPERS.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) Magistrates Court of Tasmania: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (2) Supreme Court of Tasmania: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (3) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (4) Office of the Public Guardian: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (5) *Mental Health Act 2013*: Report to the Minister for Justice on the Activities of Official Visitors: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (6) *Expungement of Historical Offences Act 2017*: Annual Report 2024-2025.
- (7) *Police Powers (Controlled Operations) Act 2006* (Tas): Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. Controlled operations annual report – 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
- (8) *Police Powers (Surveillance Devices) Act 2006* (Tas): Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. Surveillance devices annual report – 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
- (9) *Police Powers (Assumed Identities) Act 2006* (Tas): Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission. Assumed identities Annual Report 2024-25.

**9 REPORT OF THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTEGRITY.—**

Ms *Armitage* presented the Annual Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity.

*Ordered*, That the Report be received. (Ms *Armitage*)

*Ordered*, That the Report be printed. (Ms *Armitage*)

**10 BILL NO. 40.—** A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly doth agree to the Amendments made by the Legislative Council to the Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *amend the Residential Tenancy Act 1997*’.

*House of Assembly, 12 November 2025*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*

**11 BILL NO. 46.—** The Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Amendment Bill 2025.

**12 BILL NO. 46.—** A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill intituled, ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Dangerous Criminals and High Risk Offenders Act 2021*’.

*Legislative Council, 13 November 2025*

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

**13 BILL NO. 60.—** The Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Bill 2025 was read the Third time and passed.

**14 BILL NO. 60.—** A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill intituled, ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013*’.

*Legislative Council, 13 November 2025*

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

**15 BILL NO. 52.—** The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Terrorism Legislation (Extension) Bill 2025.

A Motion was made (Ms *Ratray*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 7 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

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The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council without Amendment.

*Ordered*, That the Third reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow. (Ms *Rattray*)

**16 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.**— *Ordered*, That Ms *Rattray* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

**17 ORDER OF BUSINESS.**— *Ordered*, That intervening business be postponed until after consideration of Order of the Day No. 5. (Ms *Rattray*)

**18 BILL NO. 45.**— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Poisons Amendment (Interstate Prescriptions) Bill 2025.

A Motion was made (Ms *Rattray*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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(In the Committee)

Ms *Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 15 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill to be reported without Amendment.

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The Council being resumed, Ms *Forrest* reported that the Committee had gone through the Bill, and directed her to report the same to the Council without Amendment.

*Ordered*, That the Third reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow. (Ms *Rattray*)

**19 BILL NO. 54.**— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025.

A Motion was made (Ms *Rattray*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

**20 SITTING SUSPENDED.**— It being 1.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

**21 QUESTION TIME.**— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were six Questions asked.

*Ordered*, That Ms *Rattray*, have leave to Table:

- (1) The final audited outcomes for Specific Purpose Accounts for 2024-25; and
- (2) Answers to Questions relating to the 2025-26 Budget delivered in November 2025 containing information about outputs, expenditure and revenue outcomes for:

- the Department of Treasury and Finance;
- the Infrastructure and Transport portfolio;
- the Housing and Planning portfolio;
- the Local Government portfolio; and
- the Charter of Budget Responsibility costing reports and election policy costing summary;

and have them incorporated into the Hansard record.

**22 BILL NO. 54.**— The Order of the Day was read for resuming the Debate on the Question, That the Commission for Children and Young People Bill 2025 be now read the Second time.

The Question was again proposed, and the Council resumed the Debate.

A Motion was made (*Ms Rattray*), and the Question proposed,

That the Debate be adjourned.

And the Question being put,

It passed in the Negative.

And the Question being put, That the Bill be read the Second time,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Bill was, accordingly, read the Second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole Council.

And the President having left the Chair, the Council resolved itself into the said Committee.

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(In the Committee)

*Ms Forrest* in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 36 agreed to.

Clauses 37 to 39 postponed.

Clauses 40 to 59 agreed to.

To report progress and seek leave to sit again.

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The Council being resumed, *Ms Forrest* reported that the Committee had made progress in the Bill, and that she was directed to move that the Committee may have leave to sit again.

*Resolved*, That the Council will, tomorrow, again resolve itself into the said Committee.

**23 BILL NO. 43.**— The Order of the Day was read for the Second reading of the Taxation and Related Legislation (First Home Owner and Payroll Relief) Bill 2025.

A Motion was made (*Ms Rattray*), and the Question was proposed, That the Bill be now read the Second time.

A Debate arose thereupon.

*Ordered*, That the Debate be adjourned. (*Ms Forrest*)

**24 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, 2 December 2025. (*Ms Rattray*)

A Motion was made (*Ms Rattray*) and the Question was proposed, That the Council do now adjourn.

A Debate arose thereupon.

*Ordered*, That Ms *O'Connor*, have leave to Table a letter from RSL Tasmania dated 12 November 2025 regarding the Hobart Cenotaph and the Macquarie Point Stadium Proposal.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Council adjourned at 4.13 o'clock p.m.

C.L. VICKERS, *Clerk of the Council*.

*Briefings:*

- *Poisons Amendment (Interstate Prescriptions) Bill 2025*
- *Taxation and Related Legislation (First Home Owner and Payroll Relief) Bill 2025*