

Tuesday 6 August 2019

The President, **Mr Farrell**, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Mouheneener People and read Prayers.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT

Ms Justin Meeker - Appointment

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, before proceeding with the business of the day, it is with pleasure that I formally and very warmly welcome Ms Justin Meeker to the staff of the Legislative Council. Justin has been appointed electorate officer to the member for Nelson. Justin holds a masters of business administration and a graduate certificate in government.

She has extensive experience in the public sector, including eight years of public administration in the office of Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and project and policy positions with the Tasmanian department for economic development and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. She has also undertaken short-term projects and roles for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. Justin will be observing proceedings in the Legislative Council today, including, I imagine, the extensive briefings we have as well.

On behalf of all members of the Legislative Council, I welcome Justin to this great organisation.

MOTION

Legislative Council Select Committee on AFL in Tasmania

[11.09 a.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) (by leave) - Mr President, I move -

That the member for Mersey, Mr Gaffney, be discharged from the Legislative Council Select Committee on AFL in Tasmania.

Mr GAFFNEY (Mersey) - Mr President, I believe we all appreciate the importance of committees, whether standing, sessional, joint or select, because they all contribute to the workings of the parliament. I believe committee inquiries need to be purposeful, efficient, effective and justifiable.

A great deal of time and effort is provided by members and staff in being part of any committee. It is recognised that some committees are more time-consuming than others. I chaired the Joint Select Committee on Future Gaming Markets; it received 150 submissions, many of which were lengthy and complex, some well over 200 pages long. They provided a substantial range of information for which the committee was then able to request stakeholder hearings and prepare a report. Some inquiries even provide interim reports for parliament, including stakeholder opinion, evidence, findings and recommendations.

Committee inquiries can be expensive. In the case of the gaming committee, with three members from both Houses, even coordinating such schedules can be a challenge. It was obvious that extra funding was required; the Government and Treasurer assisted.

To conduct select committee inquiries is expensive from both the financial and human resource perspective. To advertise the Legislative Council committee inquiry and terms of reference in Saturday's three regional papers costs, I have been informed, over \$5000. We have advertised the AFL committee inquiry twice.

Inquiries can be dissolved through a resolution of that committee. The Legislative Council firearms inquiry was dissolved, and rightly so, because the terms of reference, which were of the Government's making, changed once the inquiry had already commenced. That was untenable, but the other place then chose to hold a similar inquiry.

The majority of members on any committee inquiry can vote to dissolve an inquiry. This is relevant to the reason I chose to resign from the six-member AFL committee inquiry.

I take committee work very seriously, as do all members. When I was approached last year to be part of the committee, I informed the member for Windermere, and I think he may recall, that -

- (1) I had reservations regarding the Legislative Council undertaking an inquiry into AFL's future in Tasmania.
- (2) I was personally not in favour of a Tasmanian AFL team because I believe the current scenario of bringing AFL games to the north and the south and attracting visitors to support their teams is more than adequate in a state of our size and decentralised population.

However, I also believe that as a member of parliament it is my responsibility to participate in committee inquiries if approached. Standing order 173 is about the willingness of members to attend. Because the member for Windermere asked me, I said yes. The only other standing order that needs to be appreciated in this instance is 174, which states that any member who has a direct pecuniary interest in an inquiry should not make themselves available. That is a commonsense standing order.

Football is a sport I have experienced in many guises. I played in the senior statewide roster for both Hobart and New Norfolk in the 1980s. I was senior coach for the Latrobe Football Club in the NTFL; as a physical education teacher and junior football development officer, I have coached and organised numerous high school football teams. I have represented Tasmania in sport on a number of occasions, both as a player and a team manager, so I believe I could contribute to the inquiry.

Why then have I decided to resign from this inquiry?

When this inquiry was presented, very little was happening in that space. Indeed, in the honourable member's speech on 20 November 2018 proposing an inquiry, he said -

I am putting forward this information to show why we need a committee, why somebody needs to look at these issues and why a firm position needs to be put forward to get what we are entitled to - our own team in this state.

While a number of members spoke for and against the inquiry in July of last year, it was passed and the inquiry process was started. The original terms of reference were altered, however, once we had a committee meeting and they currently are -

- (1) The likely benefits to the broader Tasmanian economy and community from having a Tasmanian team in the AFL;
- (2) Whether or not the Tasmanian Taxpayer, or the AFL, should subsidise Melbourne based AFL Clubs playing in Tasmania;
- (3) The on-going support required to sustain a Tasmanian AFL team;
- (4) The possible solutions to the AFL's perception of Tasmania being geographically and politically divided;
- (5) The impact on the future participation rates in AFL in Tasmania of not having a Tasmanian team in the AFL;
- (6) If Tasmania were to establish an AFL team, when would it be the optimal time for it to commence; and
- (7) Any other matter incidental thereto.

Since we commenced our inquiry, two significant events have occurred.

First, the Government has established a football Tasmania board which, according to the Premier's correspondence, will work towards two primary goals: first, to grow grassroots football statewide and forge a pathway to Tasmanian AFL and AFLW teams; and, second, the Government will appoint an AFL project team that will report to the Government and consult with the board to develop a business case for a Tasmanian licence.

Neither of those entities were in play last year when the member for Windermere moved that we should have an inquiry. It appears that since the initial inception of the Legislative Council inquiry, two major entities in the AFL space have been instigated and financially supported by the Government.

It appears the Government has already determined a course of action, which is its right. However, we need to ask: why do we need to continue with the Legislative Council inquiry?

There is no need and it is an unnecessary burden on committee staff and the legislative coffers. I question the need for the Legislative Council inquiry to continue because all terms of reference were covered.

However, the committee decided to proceed. Not only was the advertisement placed in the papers, but many identified stakeholders were sent invitations to provide submissions. Indeed, in media releases by the Government, the AFL Legislative Council inquiry is rarely, if ever, mentioned.

I remember the chairperson being annoyed, and rightly so, about the Government's omission of the Legislative Council inquiry process.

My second concern is reasonably self-evident. The committee received a total of six submissions by the original deadline - a total of six submissions.

I thank the six people who forwarded their submissions, only two of which actually addressed all the terms of reference.

There were two submissions that were each half a page long. One was two pages long; two were four pages in length; and one submission was 46 pages long.

It would have been difficult to glean any conclusive evidence from a total of 57 pages of writing.

I was concerned there were not enough submissions for the inquiry to continue. However, to be fair to the process the committee decided to readvertise the inquiry and approximately three extra weeks was allowed for further submissions.

As we know, submissions are able to provide evidence to assist committee members reflect on the terms of reference and thus form a more evidence-based assessment of the issue. As with the gaming inquiry, I was open to reflect on the thoughts and opinions of others.

As you can see from the website, there are now 14 submissions in total. Of the eight newer ones, one was a six-page document; one of three pages; five were under two pages; and one was four lines.

I do not believe enough evidence has been submitted and I note the committee did not receive any submissions from AFL Tasmania, the Football Tasmania Board or the AFL Project Team.

That is not a criticism, but an observation.

One submission I found fascinating was the one that raised the number of participants in the top five sports played in Tasmania. Cricket has 17 180; basketball, 17 627; netball, 17 768; AFL, 24 275; and football, more commonly referred to as soccer, has 34 581 participants.

Material about the government funding discrepancies of those sports included in submission 14 is a very interesting read.

It is also unfortunate that sports like indoor volleyball, which would benefit from a Tasmanian team in the national league, did not figure in the top five sports.

In closing, if there were not a majority of members on a committee to close down an inquiry, the only option I have to object on principle to an inquiry I believe is unnecessary and will have little impact on the Government's decision-making processes regarding AFL is to resign.

Again, I firmly believe there is no need for the Legislative Council to continue because the decision to investigate all the terms of reference is already catered for in both the Football Tasmania Board and the AFL Project Team, and the meagre number of submissions received does not provide enough evidence for this inquiry to continue.

I believe if the committee inquiry were to continue, it would be a waste of funding and staff time, and the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Motion agreed to.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mr PRESIDENT - Honourable members, I welcome members of the Glenorchy Golden Years Club who are joining us in the Chamber today. They had morning tea in the President's office. I think you have been down to other place to watch the action there, and now to the Legislative Council. I am sure all members welcome you.

Members - Hear, hear.

SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS Glenorchy Golden Years Club

[11.20 a.m.]

Mr WILLIE (Elwick) - Mr President, before I start, I thank the members for Rosevears and Prosser, who allowed me to jump the queue this morning to deliver my speech first.

Mr President, today I welcome to the Chamber representatives from the Golden Years Club of Glenorchy. One of the good things about ageing is having more time for an active social life. The Glenorchy Golden Years Club is a place where its members can meet and have fun. Speaking from experience, it is a great place to make new friends, enjoy a new activity and catch up on community news.

The Golden Years Club has a history in the northern suburbs dating back to 1967 when the Moonah and Glenorchy Rotary clubs identified a need in our community for an over-60s group. With the help of several local community groups and businesses pitching in together, including Cadbury, the Claremont RSL and the Glenorchy Axemen's Club, a site was identified and construction of a building, bowling green and croquet green began.

From thereon, the club flourished and by the mid-1980s, under the presidency of Mollie Brooks, it boasted a membership of more than 500, which is quite outstanding. It is noted in the club's history that snooker was arguably the most popular activity offered by the club at the time. Those who wanted to play had to queue up alongside the table for a turn.

Perhaps it is a reflection of the changing times, but a few years on the club was suffering hardship. By the early 1990s, membership was declining. The club struggled to attract interest and once-popular activities ceased. However, newly appointed manager Marie Linton was determined that the club would once again become a voice for seniors within the community. Marie reflected on the success of the past and considered the popularity of the snooker table. Inspired, Marie set about raising funds for the purchase of a shoot and shuffle table. Soon, as for snooker in the 1980s, shoot and shuffle had a similar effect and membership grew.

The game was so popular that several official teams were established for competition. Today team photos are displayed proudly along the walls of the club. One team, made up of Doug Allen, Myra Triffett, Gloria Quinn and Audrey Hodge, was particularly skilled at the game and was invited to compete at the national shoot and shuffle championships. Needless to say, Golden Years members, and indeed the Glenorchy community, were ecstatic when the team returned as victors, being crowned the shoot and shuffle Australian champions.

Today the club is an integral part of our community, enjoying a healthy membership and offering a wide range of activities. Shoot and shuffle remains popular with many members. In addition, bowls, bingo, choir, cribbage and euchre, and many fundraising events throughout the year are all enjoyed by members. I must say fundraising morning teas at the Golden Years Club are high on my list of priorities.

Perhaps the most popular of all activities are the regular Monday and Tuesday lunches. Margaret Everett has been preparing the lunches at the club for over six years. She does an amazing job serving up delicious meals, with the help of Kim and her volunteers.

When inviting club members to the House today, Rob Stewart - who is here, and is also the president - was worried that he would not make it back to the club in time to serve up lunch. I know there will be some very unhappy people if lunch is late, so I will not talk for much longer. I certainly do not want it to be said that I was the reason for lunch being served cold.

Rob's concern reflects today's membership of the Golden Years Club. I am proud to be patron of a close-knit club, full of friendships and genuine caring. Since my involvement with the club, members have been most welcoming and supportive.

Welcome to parliament; I hope you have enjoyed your morning.

Members - Hear, hear.

John Opie House

[11.24 a.m.]

Ms HOWLETT (Prosser - Deputy Leader of Government Business in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, most members will be aware of Ronald McDonald House and what it does. John Opie House, for those who do not know, provides a similar service to adults who are undergoing medical treatment.

Although it is just around the corner on Murray Street, and in the member for Hobart's electorate, it is relevant and important to my constituents. I represent a rural area and many people have to travel into Hobart for medical treatment. I recently had the privilege of touring John Opie House with my colleagues, Senator Eric Abetz, Senator Claire Chandler and Alderman Simon Behrakis. We were amazed at the facilities this accommodation centre offers.

John Opie House was established 11 years ago and offers a home away from home at minimal cost. It costs about \$56 per night for patients and family members who need to travel to Hobart to access life-saving medical treatment. The facility is available to anyone in Tasmania who needs to travel for this reason. It is used by residents from as far north as King Island.

Ms Rattray - You cannot get much further north.

Ms HOWLETT - You cannot.

The only stipulation is that oncology patients must live 50 kilometres or more away. For other patients there is a radius stipulation of more than 75 kilometres.

The house consists of 24 beds and features modern, uplifting and very comfortable facilities, including a communal area for families to find comfort and support in their time of need. You can

imagine how important that is, as is being able to rest comfortably in your own space with your children. You can also talk to other members in the house.

John Opie House not only relieves patients and their carers of some of the financial burden caused by serious illness but, through these shared facilities, it also provides a strong support network for carers during uncertain times. This community support is seen as equally important to patients, carers and their families.

Last year John Opie House offered more than 5100 room nights to seriously ill patients and their carers from right across Tasmania. It clearly runs at full capacity most of the time. Most people using this facility are referred to it by social workers and other care professionals, along with welfare agencies such as the Salvation Army, Anglicare and Patient Travel Assistance Scheme.

John Opie House is run by the Fight Cancer Foundation, which was formed in 1989 as a bone marrow institute. The institute was formed by a small group of families devastated by leukaemia with the aim of establishing a donor register to give hope and save lives. The group was led by visionary John Opie AM, whose daughter Karen was diagnosed with acute leukaemia at the age of 21 and needed a bone marrow transplant. At that time, there was no bone marrow donor registry in Australia; however, Karen was very fortunate to find a compatible bone marrow match in her twin sister.

During that time, John met many families who were not so lucky and whose only option was to access very costly treatment overseas.

It is interesting to note that the Fight Cancer Foundation patrons include the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AC, along with patrons Hugh Jackman and his wife Deborra-Lee Furness. David Boon is also an ambassador.

John Opie House offers minimal-cost accommodation and relies largely on corporate sponsorship and local fundraising efforts to ensure its ongoing viability.

I recently attended a fundraising lunch at Frogmore Creek, one of the major sponsors of John Opie House, and I am pleased to advise that event raised \$39 000. I congratulate the small but very enthusiastic committee of volunteers who organised the event. It was a fantastic day and a record fundraising target was achieved.

In closing, I would like to pass my heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated staff at John Opie House - co-managers Helen Brocklehurst and Samantha Canizay and their staff. They are very kind, compassionate and caring people who go above and beyond in their roles to assist Tasmanians going through the toughest times, and for that I thank them.

Members, thank you for your time and interest in finding out. If you are interested in finding out more about John Opie House, they would love to hear from you.

Olympic Chef de Mission - Ian Chesterman

[11.30 a.m.]

Mr FINCH (Rosevears) - Mr President, 'You can do it in Tasmania'. You might remember the promotional slogan we used to have. Of course, you still can, and more. We have now moved on. You can do it from Tasmania. More and more people are based in Tasmania and can take advantage of broadband and, of course, cheap air services.

Who would have thought an important part of Australia's Olympic Games organisation would be based in Tasmania, in my electorate?

Ian Chesterman, who lives in Legana, is Chef de Mission of the Australian team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. He sent me an email the other day about his tasks -

The Australian Olympic Committee has a huge job to organise for a team of around 480 athletes from 35 sports and 300 support staff to attend Tokyo 2020.

My goal is to run an athlete-focussed team that allows each person, who has worked so hard to make it to Tokyo to produce their best on their most important day, their day of Olympic competition.

Tokyo provides a great backdrop for an Olympic Games and I know that the Japanese people are fully committed to making Tokyo in 2020 a fantastic celebration of sport and human endeavour.

I'm totally enjoying my role, moving around Australia to build strong relationships with all the sports and with many athletes.

The role is multi-faceted. It involves working with our Federal government and their departments, the Japan diplomatic representatives, sponsors, media, the International Olympic Committee, many other National Olympic Committees, our 35 national sporting federations and all our potential Olympians.

It's a great challenge but one I am enjoying immensely.

Ian Chesterman was first elected to the Australian Olympic Committee in 2001; he became Vice President in 2016. He was the chef de mission - that is, the head of the Australian delegation - at six Olympic Winter Games: 1998 - Nagano, Japan; 2002 - Salt Lake City, United States; 2006 - Turin, Italy; 2010 - Vancouver, Canada; 2014 - Sochi, Russia; and 2018 - Pyeongchang, South Korea. He was the general manager before that at the 1994 games held in Lillehammer, Norway.

Australia has won five gold, five silver and four bronze medals under Ian's leadership and has come of age as a winter sports nation.

Ian Chesterman was appointed as Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games in 2017, becoming the first Australian to head both the Summer and Winter Olympic teams and the first to lead a total of seven Olympic teams.

He was made a life member of the Australian Olympic Committee in May 2018. As I proudly mention, he lives in my electorate of Rosevears at Legana.

You can certainly do it from Tasmania. That is one of the reasons Tasmania's population is increasing.

People are coming here for our clean air, water, our outstanding natural environment and because they can work anywhere from here.

Bridestowe Lavender Farm

[11.34 a.m.]

Ms RATTRAY (McIntyre) - Mr President, I am going to talk about the Bridestowe Lavender Farm.

I received some very exciting news in early July from Bridestowe's owners, Robert and Jennifer Ravens and their son, James, now the manager of this highly successful tourist experience, the Bridestowe Estate in the McIntyre electorate. It is the home of those wonderful rows and rows of perfect lavender bushes that come into their own in majestic colour in January and February each year before the harvest commences in full swing. I actually wrote that myself, Mr President, I did not take it from anywhere. I thought that was quite good.

From what I was told by the Ravens family, in December last year, Google Asia, headquartered in Tokyo, asked if Bridestowe Estate would consider becoming the 'face' of its digital marketing campaign in Asia. It was selected on the basis of an Asia-wide survey of personalities, businesses and events across Asia. It was no mean feat in itself to be selected from an Asia-wide survey. It just goes to show how popular Bridestowe lavender and its array of products are, not to leave out our famous Bobbie the Bear.

The aim was to create a story that linked human values, environmental awareness, social media skills and impact on communities. By some strange coincidence, Bridestowe - in short, the Ravens family - had been working independently to increase awareness of Tasmania in Japan. Sadly, they had noticed there had been a continual decline in visitor numbers from Japan. So, with the same enthusiasm always displayed by the family, they went about creating a vision to regain visitors to the farm from Japan by linking Tasmanian produce with tourism.

Together with a little help from friends, the Ravens invited an acquaintance, Tokyo-based Japanese chef, restaurateur and media personality, Haru - shortened to Hal - Yamashita, to visit northern Tasmania and sample some of the best of northern Tasmania's produce. It was easy for Hal to accept because he has a passion for Tasmania and its potential. Meanwhile, Google had sent to Bridestowe a script for discussion and Robert had suggested, based on Hal's pending visit and their proximity to Tokyo, to consider integrating his visit into the storyline.

Robert explained that getting Google to change direction was a ponderous process. But finally it agreed and sent a team to Bridestowe Estate in December last year to coincide with Hal's visit. Filming took four days with a follow-up in January. The footage was assembled in Tokyo and Jennifer and Robert saw the director's cut in Tokyo in mid-June.

Jennifer and Robert just loved what they saw and begged them to release it. But no, it had to go through the whole Google approval process to ensure alignment with its brand values and marketing strategy, particularly in the digital space. It also had to compete with their other options gathered from around the globe. A few weeks later, Bridestowe received an exciting email from Google, confirming its immediate release worldwide.

It is a bit of a first for Bridestowe and the Ravens family and, I suspect, for Tasmania. To watch the video, you go to YouTube and search for 'Bridestowe'. The video is the first one on the list. When you watch the footage, you will be super impressed - just as I was - not just with the story and the scenery but also to learn that on their biggest day 2500 people visited the farm.

Congratulations to Robert, Jennifer, James and the team at Bridestowe. This unique Tasmanian business keeps punching above its weight and doing extraordinary things that not only promote this iconic product - the Bridestowe lavender - but also our fantastic state. A great story!

Westpac Rescue Helicopter

[11.39 a.m.]

Ms ARMITAGE (Launceston) - Mr President, today I speak about the exceptional efforts of our state's search and rescue services - the work done by Tasmania Police and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, which, I believe, has been on all our minds lately.

The recent news of the rescue of bushwalker Michael Bowman in July serves as an example of an extraordinary tale of survival against the odds, but represents just another day at the office for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew.

After nine days surviving in the unforgiving Lake St Clair environment, Mr Bowman was discovered and evacuated by the expert Westpac Rescue Helicopter team, which comprises Constable Andrew Oakden, First Class Constable Ingrid Pajak, flight paramedic Andy Summers and pilot Mark Allen.

Even with the significant media coverage around this story, I reiterate - and I am sure all members of the Council will agree - that the physical effort, mental fortitude and utter professionalism by this team, in addition to the rest of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service crew, is nothing short of exceptional.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service was introduced in 2000 and has occupied an increasingly significant presence as one of Tasmania's key search and rescue utilities. Managed under the auspices of the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management, I was very impressed by the work carried out by the crew. It is not always reported in the media. With services relating to maritime rescue, medical evacuations, bushwalker rescue and road trauma, it goes without saying the world-class crew goes through extensive training and ongoing professional development.

According to the Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management's 2017-18 annual report, 452 missions were flown by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter for a total of 751 flying hours. This was up from the previous year, from 384 missions and 748 flying hours. With a bit of basic maths, we can calculate this averages out to more than one mission a day.

Thursday, 18 January 2018 shows just what the team can do in one day, being called to attend five rescue missions across the state during a 24-hour period. According to the media release from Westpac Rescue Helicopter Tasmania, the following was managed.

At 7am, the helicopter attended a serious vehicle crash at Nugent. The driver was flown to the Royal Hobart Hospital in a serious, but stable condition.

At 12.30pm a Personal Locator Beacon was detected at the Leven River. Two people were winched from the area, with one being flown to the North West Regional Hospital.

At 4.30pm, the helicopter conducted a medivac of a person bitten by a Tiger snake in Strahan. The person was transported to the Royal Hobart in a stable condition.

Also at 4.30pm, another personal locator beacon was activated near Waratah. The second Westpac Rescue helicopter was despatched to rescue an adult and three children near Philosopher Falls. They were located and winched from the dense forest.

At 6.50pm, two people from Derby activated an emergency device from the Crossing River in Southwest Tasmania. The people became trapped in a gorge and they were rescued in a high-winch operation and taken to Hobart.

While we all hope that days like this never happen, the Westpac rescue crew trains constantly for this possibility. The outcomes of these rescue missions are a testament to the team's professionalism in the face of an extremely testing set of circumstances, through the hottest, and arguably the most uncomfortable, time of the year in Tasmania. The missions they have been completing in the winter of 2019 demonstrate their versatility and adaptability to hostile and changeable climates.

I have personal experience of the gratitude one feels to the Westpac helicopter crew as many years ago they provided the emergency evacuation of my husband to the Launceston General Hospital from a serious head-on motorcycle accident in the Scottsdale area. Without their help, it is reasonable to assume neither rider would have received the timely care they needed. Often, we take such services for granted, but it really hits home when you are involved and I sincerely thank them for all they do.

I commend the Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew on their work and their efforts and I wish them to know how valued they are to all Tasmanians, particularly those who have, or whose friends and family have had, close calls on the road or in the wilderness.

I and all others in this Chamber thank them for doing the important work they do. For the remainder of the year, I wish the Westpac Rescue Helicopter crew safe missions and I congratulate them on the positive outcomes they have already achieved to date.

MOTION

Residences, Tamar River, Deviot - Impact of Land Slippage

[11.44 a.m.]

Mr FINCH (Rosevears) - Mr President, I move -

That the Legislative Council -

- (1) Notes the impact on several residences fronting the Tamar River at Deviot as a result of landslip during the winter of 2016 which was one of the wettest winters in memory;
- (2) (a) Acknowledges the extensive and costly damage to property that has occurred, including the demolition of one family home; and

- (b) Acknowledges the extreme stress and anxiety that affected families have endured.
- (3) (a) Notes that an expert geotechnical consultant's report found that an active landslip problem was known publicly for some time; and
 - (b) Is concerned that neither official state geological survey maps nor the council's planning scheme had rated the risk as prohibitive.
- (4) Questions why planning and building approvals continued to be provided, including for the Deviot landslip properties.
- (5) Appreciates that the three-year wait for the five worst-affected Deviot families has been extremely difficult for them in not knowing whether the considerable investment in their homes will ever be realised.
- (6) (a) Notes that the consultant's report urges both the West Tamar Council and the Government 'to understand and respond to the financial, emotional and physical needs of the affected residents'; and
 - (b) Notes that precedent for compensation does exist in the areas of Lawrence Vale during the 1950s, Beauty Point in the West Tamar and the Rosetta landslip in Glenorchy; and
- (7) Urges the West Tamar Council and the Government, as a priority, to address and satisfactorily resolve this matter, including appropriate compensation for those properties seriously affected.

This is my first opportunity to present a report about the occurrences at Deviot. I particularly thank the Clerk for the advice and help he has given me in formulating this motion. I also thank the Chair of Committees, the member for Murchison, who provided guidance on the best way to present this case before parliament; the member for Windermere, who has allowed me this opportunity to present this motion ahead of his very important day here; and the member for Hobart, who brought this motion forward last Friday.

In moving the motion, I bring to members' attention a situation in my electorate of Rosevears in which a group of residents from Deviot, who are here today in the gallery, have each had their lives turned on their heads by an act of nature. It seems that both state government and local government have a case to answer.

In 2016, in the midst of one of the wettest winters in memory, five residents living near the Tamar River found themselves on top of a very serious landslip. Lateral movements of houses of up to 2 metres were recorded, which resulted in serious and extensive damage to property and untold stress and anxiety for the families concerned. In one case, the Dakings' family home, which had a bank mortgage over it, had to be demolished with the family having to relocate to Launceston. The mortgage continues to be repaid on a home that no longer exists.

It is a particularly dire situation for that family, but it is not dissimilar to the predicament all five families could face if Mother Nature decides to let loose with further giant landslips in future winters, possibly even this winter.

All five families have been living with uncertainty for the past three years. They each have the daily worry of having hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in their family homes which are now perhaps worthless. On top of that, they are spending large sums of money and suffering considerable mental stress and strain in a desperate effort to arrest the landslide and save their homes. In some cases, this remedial expenditure alone has been in the realm of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

What is most disconcerting about the awful situation confronting these families is that both the state government and the local West Tamar Council have known since the nineteenth century that there is a landslip risk in the area. The area is known as Brickmakers Point. It is so named because at the heart of the area are clay deposits that as early as 1855 were the basis of a busy brick-making and pottery business. It once boasted a capacity of 16 000 bricks per day. The business was known initially as the Springville Brickworks and then later as the Paton Brickworks.

The factory no longer exists, but it and the local clays it quarried are deeply etched in the recorded history of northern Tasmania. There was an agent for the factory in Launceston - Hobkirk & Son. The Launceston *Examiner* carried many stories and advertisements that put the brickworks family on the public record. In 1855, *The Examiner* boasted that Springville had 14 000 machine-made bricks for three shillings per thousand. It is recorded in history that those bricks were made for the Supply River ruins at Deviot in 1828 at Brickmakers Point. In other words, the slippery clays of the Brickmakers Point area have been public knowledge for well over 160 years. Yet, incredibly, in recent times, neither the state government or the West Tamar Council have provided explicit warnings to local property owners of the landslide risks that they pose.

Where such warnings exist elsewhere in Tasmania, they are flow-ons from regional maps produced by the Mines department, now Mineral Resources Tasmania, which show things such as the condition of subsoils.

The MRT maps are the reference point for surveyors, architects, state agencies and local governments, and have a specific function in guiding the formulation of parts of local councils' town planning schemes.

Town planning schemes lay out guidelines for developers on what they can and cannot do. They contain construction rules, warnings and strictures related to building codes. Someone wanting to build or extend their home has to first obtain planning approval and then building approval from their local council.

In planning their developments, property owners refer to their council's planning scheme, which, where it is applicable, will alert the applicant to things like landslide categorisation.

A council's planning scheme comes into effect only after it is approved by the state. The state's role is to make sure that the scheme has everything right, that it lines up with the building code, does not exceed the council's statutory authority and contains appropriate protections for developers and landowners with things such as landslide risk.

There have been many studies over the years by the state government's Mines department, now Mineral Resources Tasmania, including the subsoils of the area around Brickmakers Point.

The most prominent of these maps were drawn up in the 1960s and 1970s. The recently completed government-backed study of the 2016 landslip event by a reputable geotechnical consultancy, Pennington Geotechnics, made note of these studies -

Extensive government lead geological studies of landslide in the Tamar Valley were carried out in the 1960s and 1970s in response to a significant amount of landslide activity.

Unfortunately, these 1960s and 1970s maps fail to accurately categorise the land of the affected properties at Brickmakers Point. The significant landslip risk that existed was not recognised.

Instead of putting the area in the Zone V category, the mapmakers put it in a benign category of Class 2, described as -

Generally stable ground on 'soft' rocks, including very gentle slopes. Deep soil overlying hard rock, on gently sloping ground.

The consultant's report commented that 'Clearly these properties are not on "generally stable ground".'

This mistake by the state's mappers was largely responsible for the surprise experienced by residents at the time of the 2016 slip and the damage that it wrought on their homes.

The Pennington study went on to say that this erroneous information appears to have informed the actions of the West Tamar Council to not require any investigation into landslide, either for the development application, or the issuing of building licences for these properties -

Indeed, the current WTC planning scheme overlay dated 2012 for this area ... shows NO LANDSLIP Hazard for anywhere in Deviot.

That is what the report says.

Ms Forrest - Which seems extraordinary in itself.

Mr FINCH - Thank you. Yet it was the hazardous and slippery clays of the Brickmakers Point area that helped grease this disastrous landslip of 2016 and many others recorded over previous decades.

Using the deficient MRT maps and the state-approved WTC planning scheme, most of the landslip-damaged properties at Deviot have at some stage seen new homes built or existing homes extended.

The necessary planning and building permits were applied for and granted, with property owners comforted by the fact that the council was not sounding any alarm bells with respect to any risks, such as landslide.

Meanwhile, the real and serious risk of landslip remained hidden. A timebomb was in place and exploded in 2016.

Within the cohort of homes damaged by the 2016 event, some have been bought and sold with the new owners totally oblivious of any risks. When they inquired with the council as to whether there were outstanding work orders or unusual planning issues et cetera, they were assured there were none. No mention was made by council of serious landslip risks - after all the council's planning scheme showed there was none.

As previously mentioned, a study of the landslip was recently concluded, commissioned by a multidisciplinary steering committee comprising delegates from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mineral Resources Tasmania, the West Tamar Council and TasWater. A local, Trevor Grant, was appointed as the community representative. The study consultant appointed by the steering committee was Dr Derek Pennington, principal of Pennington Geotechnics Pty Ltd. His brief was to look at landslip in the wider Deviot area with particular emphasis on the Brickmakers Point event.

The Pennington draft report was handed down in early July and is now being finalised at the hands of the steering committee and the study's coordinator, the West Tamar Council. The report has confirmed many failings by both state and local government and has documented the sometimes-parlous situation that has engulfed affected residents.

Let me make a few observations. The report makes it clear an active landslip problem in the Brickmakers Point area was longstanding public knowledge. This predated the major landslip event of 2016 and predated many council planning and building approvals provided for the properties worst affected. The report says on page 3 that the properties included in this study are sited on nested historic landslides and that the 2016 event was a reactivation event.

This observation underscores the fact that to government, informed as it was by extensive archives of authoritative geological survey data sets, the event could not have come as a surprise. Historically, landslip was not an unusual occurrence.

Whilst the studies of the 1960s and 1970s failed to recognise specific landslide vulnerabilities for the Brickmakers Point area, it is clear they should have. There was ample anecdotal evidence on the public record this was the case.

The consultant's report provides a time-line of the landslide-related events going back to 1931. There are landslip references for 1946, the late 1950s, 1972, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1982 and 2003.

Commenting specifically on the MRT Landslide Advisory Maps drawn from the studies and compiled in the mid-1970s, the consultancy was at a loss to explain how the landslip risk went undetected.

Quoting from page 48, inexplicably, none of the landslides at Brickmakers Point were recognised at the time of mapping.

As if to underscore the tragic consequences of the omission by the government agency, Pennington wrote at page 46 -

Had this been correctly mapped as Class V, it would have served as a trigger for development applications in the WTC planning scheme.

It is arguable that from the 1970s through to the event of 2016, government was asleep at the wheel with regard to landslip, and an out-of-sight, out-of-mind culture was allowed to develop at the frontline planning and building approval process. To this end, the report noted on page 2 that the study's recommendations were not developed into building guidelines and regulations within state and local government legislation, instead councils pushed back on the landslide zoning advice and approvals were given where further assessment should have been required. Consequently, 'state building legislation failed to capture the need for specific requirements for construction in these areas'. Not only was government asleep at the wheel, but it seems to have also turned a blind eye to the bleeding obvious. The report provided the following explanation for the council's slumber over the 40 years from the 1970s through to 2016 -

With time, even the prior knowledge of the extent and potential for land sliding was lost by Councillors and planners, and inappropriate developments were approved, and the rational for appropriate planning lost.

In other words, complacency by both state and local government was exposing property owners to the multitude of risks that landslides presented. These risks became reality in the landslide event of 2016. The report noted several other areas where the local council and other government authorities contributed directly to the severe impacts of the 2016 event, including on page 3, 'Poor WTC and private road drainage leading to locally elevated ground water', and 'Watermain leaks due to landslide damaging pipes in the road corridor'. Pennington pointedly tied this substandard council and TasWater maintenance to the 2016 event. He said on page 29, 'It is highly likely that poor road drainage contributed to the remobilisation of the landslide'.

The Pennington report has made a series of recommendations. Some of the most relevant include, on page 4 -

Simply allowing development on landslip prone slopes must be reconsidered.

Recommendations contained in geotechnical reports must be followed as a condition of approval.

Improve road drainage management including the conduiting of water on the down slope towards the Tamar.

Tree planting of deep rooted species is encouraged and it is recommended that guidelines for revegetation are developed and made available. Removal of significant trees should be prohibited without consideration of groundwater impact and approval.

All these recommendations seem logical and necessary. The quicker they are implemented, the better.

Because of the unfortunate and arguably negligent actions of state and local government in the lead-up to the 2016 landslide event, the issue of compensation for the affected property owners has been raised. Because it was not within the scope of its terms of reference, the Pennington report did not discuss compensation. The report did not rule it out. Instead, it emphasises that compensation remains the responsibility of the West Tamar Council and the Tasmanian Government and, pointedly, urges both to understand and respond to the financial, emotional and physical needs of affected residents.

It is beyond doubt that the financial, emotional and physical needs of those seriously affected by the 2016 event are significant. They have many hundreds of thousands of dollars tied up in their properties, invested in good faith that the government would never grant planning and building approvals if significant risk of landslip existed. The case for WTC and the state Government to accept their responsibility with regard to compensation is compelling, given their action or inaction over many decades.

Property owners are left with properties that might be worthless or at best require hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair or stabilise them from the ongoing threat of landslide, a threat which is now clear to all. It was arguably government's asleep-at-the-wheel role in historic management of the landslip in the area which kept the risk of landslip hidden for so long. The precedent for state compensation to landowners for landslide events has been set: Lawrence Vale in the 1950s; Beauty Point in the West Tamar; and the Rosetta landslide in Glenorchy. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's Landslide Planning Report of August 2013 lists these and other precedents and estimates that around \$10 million has so far been paid out on the basis of 75 per cent of a property's value. The Brickmakers Point crisis would seem to be no less serious than those earlier occurrences. I feel that as a minimum the state should consider a similar scheme for affected properties.

For example, under the Rosetta Landslip Act 1992, key criteria decided compensation for affected residents included -

- properties rendered inhabitable by virtue of land movement
- property owners suffering or likely to suffer financial hardship as a result of landslip
- house doors et cetera unable to open/close as a result of the movement, thus unable to be secured and weatherproofed
- services such as water and electricity rendered unsafe because of land movement.

To varying degrees, all these criteria are in evidence with homes involved in the Brickmakers Point event of 2016. These home owners are looking to piece their lives back together as quickly as possible but already three years have elapsed and no practical responses have been delivered.

Now that the consultant's report is to hand and all the facts are before us, a prompt response from the state Government in conjunction with the West Tamar Council by way of appropriate compensation would seem very much in order.

Mr President and honourable members, I commend the motion to the House.

[12.07 p.m.]

Ms ARMITAGE (Launceston) - Mr President, I thank the member for Rosevears for bringing this motion forward. I must admit I had heard about this previously. I am really pleased to see that he has been able to bring it forward with this speed.

I am well aware of the Rosetta Landslip Act. I had a constituent with a similar issue. Unfortunately, theirs was a manmade landslip but I looked into the Rosetta Landslip Act quite considerably. The landslip issue I dealt with was at Blackstone. I am quite aware of the devastating impact on the people here and just how it affects you. I am sure the Chamber is aware that it is not only devastating for the home owners but their whole family life.

As the member for Rosevears said, it is not just the money. The money is one thing, but the mental anguish you continually go through is another. This has been going on for so long. I certainly hope the Government will put forward something like a Deviot landslip bill 2019. My argument would be that it has happened before and it could easily happen again.

In the case I dealt with, the difficulty was - and I am sure it is the same with the people from Deviot: Who do you sue? Where do you go? You go to the council. I am not sure of the response they have had, but in previous dealings with other similar issues, it comes back that you need to sue. Of course it is, but who do you sue? There are so many different people you can sue -

Mr Finch - An act of God.

Ms ARMITAGE - That is an act of God. But the building inspector says you can sue your engineer; they should have done soil testing. You can sue the council. You can sue the government. It becomes a situation where you really cannot sue anyone because the cost of suing is more stress, and is more cost and more mental anguish.

Unless you are personally involved - those of us here are fortunate enough not to be - I do not think we could understand the pain and the anguish felt by these families. I think we need to remember it is not just the home owners; it is their whole family. It has to affect you every day. It is like one of those things when you go to sleep and you wake up and all of a sudden you remember what is going on.

I feel very much for these people. I really appreciate the motion by the member for Rosevears. I think the Government and the council need to take some responsibility. As I said, I have dealt with something in a similar vein, but unfortunately we could not resolve it because it was a manmade landslip. The Treasurer did come onsite. I ask the member for Rosevears: has the Treasurer actually visited the area? He came and looked at the slide I was investigating for my constituent. To have members of parliament actually see the affected areas rather than read about them in documents and see what has happened - I give full credit to the Treasurer; in my case he came. I hope he will go to Deviot, if he has not already. It is good if members actually look at the problem. It was great the Treasurer, Mr Gutwein, was prepared to come onsite. Sometimes you have something in your mind, but when you meet with the families and see the houses, it makes such a difference, rather than just reading about it.

Like the member, I am disappointed the families have had to go through this for such a long time. I have been looking at the report and what came out was very clear. By labelling something Class II, if someone comes to build and looks at classifications, there is an understanding it is not landslip. Having been on Launceston Council for nine or 10 years, you understand the classifications, and if someone comes to build and look at classifications.

When I was in real estate, they were building in an area in Launceston not far from Lawrence Vale Road. I could not understand why they were building when it was a known landslip area and they were saying, 'Things are different now; you can build differently', but it was still identified that there had been landslip.

In this case, it was not even identified and people were totally unaware. It is really beyond the realms of comprehension as to what has happened there.

I certainly support this motion. I hope the Government and the local council do something if they can. I extend my greatest sympathy to those people because I can only imagine how they feel. It is hard for them and their families - how can you live life normally when all that stress is going on? I hope it is settled as soon as possible. I do not think any amount of compensation makes up for what they have gone or are going through and the stress and effects on their families.

I support the motion and hope this matter is resolved as quickly as possible.

[12.12 p.m.]

Ms SIEJKA (Pembroke) - Mr President, we support the motion. I know from personal experience because my family grew up in the Rosetta landslip area. I am aware of how stressful it is not knowing, and trying to work out what to do and all the things involved. I empathise with that. It is a very stressful and horrible situation to find yourself in.

I note the motion is very much in line with the recommendations made in the report, which is largely why I have no issue with supporting it. I urge the two parties to work together to resolve the matter as quickly as possible for all those concerned.

[12.13 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I thank the member for Rosevears for bringing this motion on. It does have devastating consequences for people, and you see how this affects people. As members here may be aware, the West Tamar Council initiated a project to understand and document the causes, extent and impacts of the Brickmakers Point landslide in Deviot in 2016, after this slip was reactivated subsequent to a period of very heavy rainfall.

The project was funded by the Australian Government's Natural Disaster Resilience Program in grants. It was run by the council with the support of a steering committee. The committee included officers from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Office of Security and Emergency Management, and Mineral Resources Tasmania in the Department of State Growth.

It is a matter of regret that due to unforeseen and unavoidable personal circumstances, it took significantly longer than expected for the consultant, Derek Pennington, principal of Pennington Geotechnics Pty Ltd, to complete the independent report. On 19 July 2019, the council released the draft report; if members are interested, the report is available on the West Tamar Council website.

The period for public comment on the report closed on 8 July and it is due to be considered by council on 20 August. The Government has established an interdepartmental committee to advise it. The IDC is working with the West Tamar Council to address these issues. The Government acknowledges and shares the concerns raised in this motion, noting that the issues raised in the motion are being addressed by the work being conducted by officials.

We support the motion.

[12.15 p.m.]

Mr VALENTINE (Hobart) - Mr President, I, too, acknowledge the stress that must be associated with not knowing whether your family home is going to bring value back to your family, and if it is in a landslip area.

I have not lived on landslip, so I do not appreciate the stress that can come as a result of that. I acknowledge the community members who have come today to listen to the debate. It is important they have the opportunity to be heard. Today is one of those opportunities.

Having been in local government for 20 years, I am aware of the problems and issues that can occur when making sure houses are constructed on stable lands.

In my own time on council there were many opportunities where geotechnical studies were required for potential developments, prior to the council making decisions.

It is interesting to hear the summation by the member for Rosevears about what has gone on and the time that has elapsed regarding the land that is the subject of this motion. It is unbelievable it has not come within the radar of the various levels of government.

The executive summary of the draft report says -

This study was initiated to understand the impact and causes of this landslide as a case study and to support the development of community strategies to manage landslide susceptible land that can be used to reduce the risk of future landslide activation.

That does not give a lot of comfort to those who might be living on top of unstable land.

It comes back to whether geotechnical surveys were requested prior to development and prior to any landslides occurring. Those sorts of things are information that councils use to make proper judgments on whether to approve developments.

Part 7 of the motion before us today urges the West Tamar Council and the Government, as a priority, to address and satisfactorily resolve this matter, including appropriate compensation for those properties seriously affected.

Is it consideration of appropriate compensation, or is it that compensation be paid? You might wish to address that in your summing up, member for Rosevears.

We have some information available and we can hear the concerns expressed, but whether we have all the information is another thing.

That part of your motion that urges West Tamar Council and the Government, as a priority, to address and satisfactorily resolve this matter, I do not have a problem with that part, '... including appropriate compensation for those properties seriously affected'.

Does that mean you are saying all landowners or house owners need to be compensated or when they go through and look at these individually, the ones that should be compensated are compensated? I want to get an understanding before voting on this particular motion.

Mr Finch - They were affected differently. One property owner's home virtually became a houseboat. It slipped away and went down the hill. For others, half the property went down there. Another property owner is constantly shoring up their property at great expense. One has just had everything shifted so now the doors and the verandas have all moved, causing gaps. One further up on the hill - I am not sure how badly affected it was, but certainly they had the worry and anguish

and have taken some remedial action. They are all at different levels of the requirement for compensation if this is the path down which the council and Government go.

Mr VALENTINE - And the potential for further landslip into the future, which might be a concern for not only these house owners, but also other properties close by?

Mr Finch - I imagine that would be part of the considerations the West Tamar Council and the state Government now have to go into.

Mr VALENTINE - As long as I understand the main impetus I will support the motion. It is one where we have to understand the level of stress and anxiety caused. If it were us, we would want some attention paid to it. No-one would be in the situation of wanting attention paid to this had they gone through the geotechnical studies before constructing these homes. Whether that has happened, I do not know; I do not know how old these houses are or how long they have been there. You may have mentioned it, but I did not pick it up.

Quite clearly there is a process and local government certainly has the responsibility of making sure any construction in their area is done according to the book. Each council is expected to enforce Building Code of Australia processes. Now, through third parties, building surveyors and the like, I understand there were some complexities in relation to how much responsibility comes back to the council.

Given what I have heard today and the answers provided by the member for Rosevears, I certainly support the motion. I hope there is a proper and reasonable resolution of concerns in the community.

[12.23 p.m.]

Mr FINCH (Rosevears) - Mr President, most of what needed to be said by me has been said. I thank the Government and members who have spoken in support of this motion. There is an understanding of the circumstances these families find themselves in, not only financially but also with their home life disrupted and their anguish and concern about the value of their properties being decimated. If we were in that position we would be putting our hand up. If we felt the responsibility lies elsewhere for the circumstance in which they find themselves, that would be supported by the Government and the West Tamar Council. Please understand: the West Tamar Council in this circumstance has been diligent in its work to connect to the community, to gain an understanding of this situation and to come to a resolution. Being meticulous about it has meant it has taken three years - a long time lag - but on reflection, an appropriate time to ensure the West Tamar Council and Government reach the correct decision as an outcome.

I thank the members for their support.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT (PREVENTION OF SALE OF SMOKING PRODUCTS TO UNDER-AGE PERSONS) BILL 2018 (No. 45)

Second Reading

Mr DEAN (Windermere - 2R) - Mr President, it is not my intention to proceed with my second reading at this time and I move -

That the debate stand adjourned.

This is for the purpose of moving into briefings, which will take place for the rest of the afternoon.

Debate adjourned.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) -
Mr President, I move -

That the sitting be suspended until the ringing of the division bells at 2.30 p.m.

This is for the purpose of briefings on the Public Health Amendment (Prevention of Sale of Smoking Products to Under-Age Persons) Bill.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.26 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Public Sector - Savings and Efficiency Measures

Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.31 p.m.]

On Wednesday, 17 July 2019 an article in *The Mercury* entitled 'public sector job cuts loom' said -

Treasury are concurrently working with agencies to identify savings which will be further considered by the Government in coming weeks.

- (1) What areas of savings have been identified?
- (2) What reporting of these savings or efficiency measures will be made?
- (3) When will these reports be made publicly available?

ANSWER

Mr President, I thank the member for Murchison for her question.

- (1) The Government continues to work with agencies to finalise the savings measures included in the 2019-20 budget papers. In relation to the areas of savings, the Government has made it clear that the focus will be on expenditure such as consultants, travel and advertising, vacancy control and natural employee attrition.

As an additional, \$15 million in returns from government businesses has been identified for the current financial year, the overall agency savings task announced in the Budget has been reduced to \$35 million for 2019-20.

- (2) As stated in the 2019-20 budget papers, the Government has committed to providing an update on savings measures for the first quarter of the 2019-20 financial year, and also in the 2019-20 Revised Estimates Report.
- (3) Please see the answers to (1) and (2).

Public Sector - Savings and Efficiency Measures

Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

It is a shame the Government does not answer the questions you ask. Maybe you need to spell out each one so they do not put an 'or' or an 'and' in it.

My second question was, 'What reporting of these savings or efficiency measures will be made?'

The Leader talked about the reporting of the savings measures, but the efficiency measures are just as important. When you have the Prime Minister of Australia saying that people just need to work harder, try telling that to a nurse in our hospitals.

I would like the Leader to answer the whole of my question (2). I am sure her adviser is noting this. It is very clearly there in black and white: How will the efficiency measures be reported?

Racing Industry - Proposed Consumption Tax

Ms RATTRAY question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.33 p.m.]

- (1) Can the Minister for Racing please advise what consultation has been undertaken with the racing industry in regard to the proposed introduction of the consumption tax?
- (2) What is the status and time line for the introduction of this tax?

ANSWER

Mr President, I thank the member for McIntyre for her question, and advise the member for Murchison that we will resubmit her question.

- (1) On behalf of the Minister for Racing, Ms Archer, I advise the member for McIntyre that the consultation process is ongoing. However, to date the Department of Treasury and Finance

has met with representatives of Tasracing and Tasmanian Racing Club, to assist in informing the Government's development of a point of consumption tax framework for Tasmania.

Direct comments have been received from the Greyhound Owners, Trainers and Breeders Association of Tasmania, and the department has consulted with Responsible Wagering Australia and a number of wagering service providers.

- (2) A bill to introduce Tasmania's point of consumption tax by amending the Gaming Control Act 1993 is currently being drafted and is expected to be tabled in parliament in November 2019, with the point of consumption tax to commence on 1 January 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, before I move that the Council do now adjourn, I remind honourable members of our briefing tomorrow with Land Information System Tasmania. Please meet outside the front doors at 9 a.m. We will walk because it only takes a few minutes to get around the corner.

Mr President, I move -

That the Council do now adjourn.

The Council adjourned at 2.35 p.m.