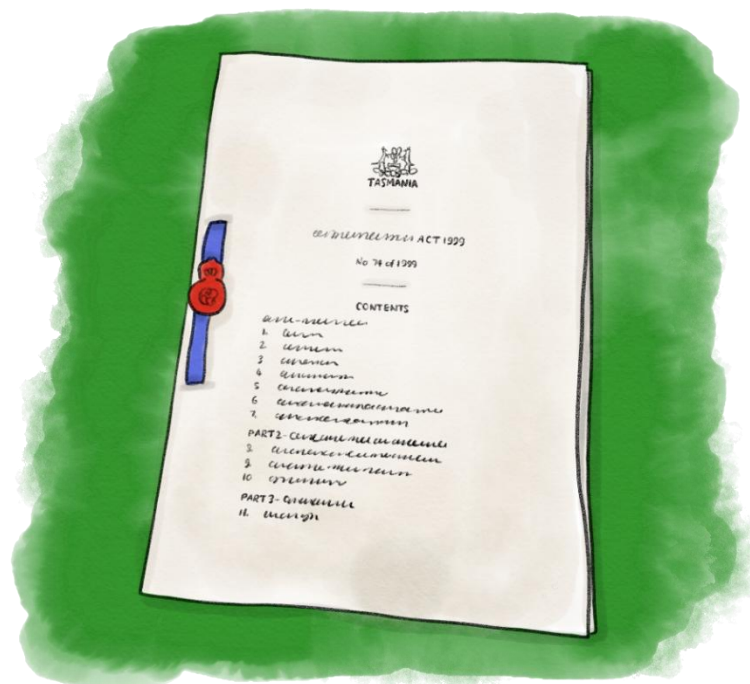


# House of Assembly – Classroom role-play

## Student Scripts

### The Veterinary (Vet) Fees Bill

A Bill for an Act for Tasmanian veterinarians to receive government subsidies for the treatment of Tasmanian native animals



# ROLE-PLAY CAST LIST

The role-play incorporates scripted and unscripted parts. The scripted roles are as per the table below. Excluding the Presiding Officer and Officers of the Parliament, all students as Members of Parliament may make their own contribution during the Second Reading debate.

	Role	Member of Parliament	Quantity of scripted contribution	Option for personal contribution
Presiding Officer	Speaker of the House of Assembly	✓	☆☆☆	✗
Officers of the Parliament	Clerk of the House of Assembly ( <i>pronounced Clark</i> )	✗	☆☆	✗
	Sergeant-at-Arms	✗	☆	✗
Government Members	Premier of Tasmania	✓	☆☆	✓
	Minister for Primary Industries	✓	☆☆☆	✓
	Member for Braddon	✓	☆☆	✓
	Member for Bass	✓	☆☆	✓
	Government Whip	✓	nil	✓
Opposition Members	Leader of the Opposition	✓	☆☆	✓
	Shadow Minister for Primary Industries	✓	☆☆	✓
	Member for Lyons	✓	☆☆	✓
	Opposition Whip	✓	☆	✓
Crossbench Members	Member for Franklin	✓	☆☆☆	✓
	Member for Clark	✓	☆☆	✓

# CLERK

## YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

*Optional action: When instructed by your teacher, ring the bell for a few seconds.*

*When everyone is settled, stand up and clearly say:*

**Members of Parliament and visitors to the House of Assembly,  
please stand in silence for the Speaker's Procession.**

*Stay standing until the Speaker instructs everyone to be seated.*

*The Speaker will call upon you to read aloud the Standing Orders or rules of the House.  
Stand up and say:*

- 1. Always act in a respectful manner and follow the Speaker's instructions.**
- 2. Stand up to speak but only begin speaking when the Speaker asks you to.**
- 3. All speeches are directed to the Speaker. Therefore, you need to begin your speech with Speaker.**
- 4. Except for the Minister responsible for the Bill, during the Second Reading you may only speak once.**
- 5. When you speak, you are speaking on behalf of the thousands of Tasmanians you represent.**

*Sit down.*

*After the first vote on the Bill, the Speaker will ask you to read the title of the Bill for the first time. Stand and say:*

**A Bill for an Act for Tasmanian veterinarians to receive government subsidies for the treatment of Tasmanian native animals.**

*Sit down.*

---

*At the end of the Second Reading debate, the Opposition will request a Division or a formal vote. The Speaker asks you to ring the bells. If you have a bell, ring it for a few seconds.*

*If the Bill passes the Second Reading (i.e. 'Ayes' win), the Speaker will ask you to read the Bill for a second time. Stand and say:*

**A Bill for an Act for Tasmanian veterinarians to receive government subsidies for the treatment of Tasmanian native animals.**

*Sit down.*

---

*If the Bill passes the Third Reading, the Speaker will ask you to read the Bill for a third time. Stand and say:*

**A Bill for an Act for Tasmanian veterinarians to receive government subsidies for the treatment of Tasmanian native animals.**

*Sit down.*

---

*When the Speaker says 'The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day', stand and say:*

**Everyone stand up.**

*Everyone in the room stands while the Sergeant-at-Arms collects the Mace and leads the Speaker out of the room.*

# SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

## YOU ARE A PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER

*Stand in front of the Speaker, inside the main entrance of the room. If you have a Mace, place the head/top of the Mace on your right shoulder.*

*Once the Clerk has asked everyone to stand, announce the Speaker in a loud voice. Say:*

### **The Speaker.**

*Lead the Speaker to their Chair. Place the Mace on the table in front of the Speaker's Chair with the head pointing towards the Government. Stand at your seat until the Speaker tells everyone to sit.*

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*Towards the end of the Second Reading, the Opposition will request a Division or a formal vote on the Bill. The Speaker will say 'Sergeant-at-Arms lock the doors.' Go to the main door of the room, and pretend to lock it and guard it. Once the result of the Division is announced by the Speaker, return to your seat.*

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*At the end of the role-play, the Speaker will say 'The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day' and the Clerk will ask everyone to stand. While the Clerk is speaking, collect the Mace and carrying it over your right shoulder, lead the Speaker to the door.*



# SPEAKER'S OATH

## SPEAKER'S SCRIPT

*When asked by an adult, stand and say:*

**It is a great honour to be selected as Speaker and I accept the position. I wish to thank the Members of the House of Assembly for trusting me with this great responsibility.**

**I will ensure that we are all following the rules of the House.**

**I will treat all Members fairly and in a respectful manner.**

**During our time in the House of Assembly, please refer to me as Speaker.**

*Then sit down.*

# SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

## YOU ARE THE PRESIDING OFFICER

*After the Sergeant-at-Arms announces you, follow them to your seat. Remain standing and say:*

**We thank and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people for caring for this land on which we meet today.**

*Sit down.*

*Say:*

**Everyone, please sit down** *(pause while everyone takes their seat).*

*Pronunciation Tip: 'Clerk' is pronounced the same as the family name Clark.*

**The Standing Orders are the written rules of the House of Assembly. The Clerk will now read some of them to us.**

*The Clerk stands and reads the Standing Orders. When the Clerk has finished, say:*

**Thank you Clerk. The House of Assembly will now begin its work for the day. Does any Member of the House of Assembly have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?**

*The Minister stands and calls out to you. You reply:*

**I call the Minister for Primary Industries to introduce the Bill.**

*Once the Minister has presented the Bill, say:*

**We will now have our first vote on the Bill. This vote determines if we wish to allocate time in the House of Assembly to debate this**



**Bill. I remind Members it is a sign of a healthy democracy to debate issues, even if we disagree on them.**

**The question is, “Should the Bill be now read for a First time?”**

**Those who agree say ‘Aye’** *(wait for Members to say ‘aye’).*

**Those who disagree say ‘No’** *(wait for Members to say ‘no’).*

**I think the ‘Ayes’ have the most votes** *(pause).* **The ‘Ayes’ have it.**

**Clerk, read the title of the Bill for the First time.**

*The Clerk stands and reads the title of the Bill. When the Clerk is finished, say:*

**Members, the Second Reading is the most important stage of debate. It is when we discuss the main ideas of the Bill. I wish to hear arguments supporting the Bill, arguments opposing the Bill and ways to improve the Bill. By participating in thoughtful debate, the House of Assembly will make the best possible laws for the people of Tasmania.**

**I call the Minister for Primary Industries to begin the Second Reading.**

*The Minister stands and delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Shadow Minister for Primary Industries.**

*The Shadow Minister delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Member for Franklin.**

*The Member for Franklin delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Premier of Tasmania.**

*The Premier delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Leader of the Opposition.**

*The Leader of the Opposition delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Member for Braddon.**

*The Member for Braddon delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Member for Clark.**

*The Member for Clark delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Member for Lyons.**

*The Member for Lyons delivers their speech. When they have finished, say:*

**I call the Member for Bass.**

*The Member for Bass delivers their speech. You now invite other Members to join in the debate. Say:*

**Would any other Member of the House of Assembly like to speak about this Bill?**

**Stand if you wish to speak** *(wait for Members to stand).*

*Pick whoever stood first. Say:*

**I call the Member for \_\_\_\_\_** *(say their name)* \_\_\_\_\_ .

*Many students may wish to speak, so keep calling them one at a time. When everyone that wishes to speak has done so, say:*

**To conclude the debate, I call the Minister for Primary Industries to reply to the Members' speeches.**

*The Minister stands and delivers their reply speech. When they have finished, say:*

**We will now have our second vote on this Bill.**

**The question is, "Should the Bill be now read for a Second time?"**

**Those who agree say 'Aye'** *(wait for Members to say 'aye').*

**Those who disagree say 'No'** *(wait for Members to say 'no').*

**I think the 'Ayes' have the most votes but I may need to check the result with a Division. Opposition Whip, would you like a Division?**

*The Opposition Whip answers you, requesting a division. When they have finished speaking, say:*

**A Division is required.**

**Clerk, ring the bells** *(If you are using bells, pause while the Clerk rings them).*

**Clerk, stop the bells.**

**Sergeant-at-Arms lock the doors** *(pause while the Sergeant-at-Arms pretends to lock the doors).*

**The question is, "Should the Bill be now read a Second time?"**

**Those who agree with this Bill, move to the right of the Speaker's Chair.**

**Those who disagree with this Bill, move to the left of the Speaker's Chair.**

*Pause while all Members move to either side of the room.*

**Government Whip and Opposition Whip, count all the Members on your side of the Chamber, and then come and tell me the numbers.**

The Government Whip and the Opposition Whip will tell you their numbers and you announce the results. With **one** of the following statements:

(If the Ayes win say):



**The result of the Division is:**

**Ayes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number)    **Noes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number).

**Therefore, the 'Ayes' have it. So far, the Bill is agreed to.**

**Clerk, read the title of the Bill a Second time.**

*Clerk reads the title of the Bill.*

**OR**



(If the Noes win say):

**The result of the Division is:**

**Ayes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number)    **Noes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number).

**Therefore, the 'Noes' have it. The Bill is defeated.**

**As the Bill has not passed, the House of Assembly will no longer debate it. There is no change to the existing Tasmanian laws.**

*Clerk does not read the title of the Bill. Skip to the adjournment, marked with an asterix \*.*

**OR**



(If the votes are tied):

**The result of the Division is:**

**Ayes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number)    **Noes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number).

**The result of the Division is a tie. Under *Standing Order Number 167*, to break a tie, the Speaker shall give a casting vote.**

**Therefore, with my vote included, the result of the Division is now:**

**Ayes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number) **Noes** \_\_\_\_\_ (say number).

**Therefore, the 'Ayes/Noes' have it.**

**The Bill is/is not agreed to.**

**(If the 'Ayes' win) Clerk, read the title of the Bill a Second time.**

**(If the 'Noes' win) Skip to the adjournment, marked with an asterix .**

*Clerk does/does not read the title of the Bill.*

*If the Bill passes the Second Reading, ask if the Members wish to move into Committee Stage by saying:*

**Members may wish to suggest some amendments or changes to the Bill. However, this can only happen during Committee stage of a Bill debate. Therefore, does the House of Assembly wish to go into Committee of the whole House?**

*The Shadow Minister replies. Then the Member for Franklin replies. When they have finished, say:*

**We will now finish our work on the Vet Fees Bill by voting on it for the third and final time.**

**The question is, "Should the Bill be now read for a Third time?"**

**Those who agree say 'Aye'** (wait for Members to say 'aye').

**Those who disagree say 'No'** (wait for Members to say 'no').

**I think the 'Ayes' have the most votes** (pause). **The 'Ayes' have it.**

**Clerk, read the title of the Bill a Third time.**

*The Clerk stands to read the title of the Bill.*

*Say:*

**The Bill has passed the House of Assembly. I will ask the Clerk to send the Bill to the Legislative Council for further debate.**

*The House of Assembly concludes work for the day with the Adjournment from the Speaker.*

*Say:*

**\*The House of Assembly has now finished our work for the day.**

*The Clerk asks everyone to stand up. Stand up and follow the Sergeant-at-Arms to the door.*

# MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

*When the Speaker asks, 'Does any Member of the House of Assembly have a Bill to introduce to Parliament?' stand up and call out:*

**Speaker.**

*Remain standing.*

*When the Speaker says 'I call the Minister for Primary Industries to introduce the Bill' you say:*

**Speaker,  
I present the Vet Fees Bill.**

*Sit down.*

After the Clerk reads the title of the Bill for the first time, the Speaker will call you to begin the Second Reading. Stand up and say:

**Speaker,**

**It is my pleasure to introduce this essential Bill to the House of Assembly. This Government wants to protect Tasmanian native animals and we are taking steps to do so. This Bill is one of the many steps on our action plan.**

**Tasmania is home to thousands of native animals. Did you know that Tasmania has 8 different bat species, 5 species of possums, 3 species of snakes and 11 species of frogs?**

**Sadly, we know that animals sometimes need the care of a vet. However, the cost of caring for an unwell animal can be very expensive, so this Government is going to pay Tasmanian vets \$500 for the treatment of a sick, injured or orphaned Tasmanian native**

**animal. Under this Bill, vets can access some financial support while they treat these unique creatures.**

**A new government office will be established to oversee this important work. This office will be known as the “Office of Animal Affairs” and will be under the responsibility of the Minister for Primary Industries.**

**Tasmanians want to save Tasmanian native animals, so I ask all Members of the House of Assembly to vote for this Bill.**

*Sit down.*

*At the end of the Second Reading, you will be called by the Speaker to deliver your reply speech. Stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**Thank you to all the House of Assembly Members who spoke during the debate on this important Bill. As Members of Parliament, it is our job to speak in this Chamber on behalf of the Tasmanians we represent.**

**I would like to start by thanking the hundreds of Tasmanians that care for sick and orphaned Tasmanian animals every single day. These wonderful people are real heroes.**

**During the debate, I heard some thoughtful contributions and I heard some good questions. Let me answer those questions. I was asked to increase the subsidy to cover all the vet fees, and I was asked to expand the subsidy to volunteers caring for sick, injured or orphaned animals. As much as I want to do both of these things, we could be overspending on the Bill. The Government must always be able to pay for essential services like schools and hospitals.**



**However, the Government is committed to reviewing the spending on this Bill in three years' time. Once we know exactly how much it costs, we can look at expanding it to include wildlife volunteer carers and increasing the payment.**

**Saving endangered animals is a complex problem but we can take positive action now by supporting this Bill. I ask the House of Assembly that we now have our second vote on the Bill.**

*Sit down.*



# SHADOW MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**The Opposition also wants to save Tasmanian native animals but we have some concerns about this Bill in its current form.**

**The Opposition wants to stop the growing number of animals listed on the extinct and threatened species lists. While we agree with the goal of this Bill, we do not think it goes far enough. The Opposition believes that \$500 for each animal treatment is simply not enough money. It costs thousands and thousands of dollars to nurse an animal back to full health. We are calling on the Tasmanian Government to pay all the vet fees related to the care of Tasmanian native animals.**

**So while the Opposition agrees with the goal of the Bill, we call on the Minister to make some changes or amendments to it.**

*Sit down.*

---

*If the Bill passes the Second Reading, the Speaker will ask, 'Does the House of Assembly wish to go into Committee of the whole House?' Stand up and say:*

**No thank you Speaker,**

**At the moment, we will accept the Premier's promise to review the cost of this Bill in three years' time. So the Opposition does not want to move into Committee because we do not want to make any changes to the Bill at the moment.**

*Sit down.*



# MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CROSSBENCH

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**Tasmanian animals need laws that protect them. So the crossbench is listening very carefully to the debate to help us decide if this Bill does that. We want to protect all Tasmanian native animals, so we are pleased that the Government is taking this step to support vets caring for our precious wildlife, but we also agree with the Opposition. The Government should cover all of the vet fees. \$500 will not pay for an operation. \$500 will not pay for medicines. \$500 will not pay for animal food during treatment. What price can you put on the survival of a precious animal?**

**We will most likely support the Bill but would like to see the subsidy increased.**

*Sit down.*

---

*If the Bill passes the Second Reading, the Speaker will ask, 'Does the House of Assembly wish to go into Committee of the whole House?' The Shadow Minister will answer first. Then stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**Like the Opposition, the crossbench does not want to move into Committee. We do not see the value in amending the Bill now but look forward to reviewing it in the future.**

*Sit down.*



# PREMIER OF TASMANIA

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**It is pleasing to know that all Members of the House of Assembly want to save Tasmanian animals. The Government would like to pay vets more, but we need to be very careful with our budget. We still have to pay for schools, hospitals, libraries, national parks and other essential services for Tasmania.**

**As a compromise, the Government will calculate the cost of these vet fees over the next three years, and, if we can afford it, we will then increase the payments to vets. The Parliament of Tasmania can update Tasmanian laws when needed. Laws are not set in concrete!**

**I encourage all Members of the House of Assembly to agree to the Bill now.**

*Sit down.*





# LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**This Bill does not go far enough. The Opposition wants to do all we can to save Tasmanian native animals. There are many strategies we can put in place to help our native animals. If we were in Government, we would be looking at every possible way to save Tasmanian animals. We would:**

- 1. Increase funding to animal breeding programs**
- 2. Build barriers on road edges to reduce roadkill**
- 3. Tighten laws to protect Tasmanian native animals**
- 4. Expand Tasmania's national parks**
- 5. Stop the excessive clearing of native habitat**

**Aside from this Bill, can the Minister please explain what other solutions the Government has to save Tasmanian animals?**

*Sit down.*



# MEMBER FOR BRADDON

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**I'm pleased the Leader of the Opposition mentioned the need for funding Tasmanian native animal breeding programs, because this Government is already doing exactly that. I would like to draw the House's attention to the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot. There are less than 50 of these rare and beautiful parrots left in the wild, making it one of the most threatened species in Australia. Without captive breeding programs and the release of new birds into the wild, the Orange-bellied Parrot will not survive.**

**Every Member of this House wants to save Tasmanian native animals, so instead of arguing about this Bill, let's pass it so the new law can be put to work.**

*Sit down.*



# MEMBER FOR CLARK

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CROSSBENCH

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**I want the best possible outcomes for Tasmanian native animals, so I will support this Bill. I doubt \$500 will completely cover the cost of the animal treatment, but it should help. Vets have enough to worry about when caring for animals, without having to worry about money too.**

*Sit down.*



# MEMBER FOR LYONS

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**Of course the Opposition supports Government funding of captive animal breeding programs, like the one for the Orange-bellied Parrot. If we win Government at the next House of Assembly election, we will continue this important program.**

**But let's focus on the Vet Fees Bill. If the Government is not willing to increase the subsidy, is there any way we could expand the subsidy to include wildlife carers? We know that there are hundreds of Tasmanians working as volunteers in the care of sick, injured and orphaned Tasmanian animals. Many of these kind volunteers have to pay for animal food, blankets, heating and medicine. They may have to take time off paid work when caring for animals, so they also need the \$500 subsidy.**

**I support the Bill but would like to see it expanded to include wildlife volunteers.**

*Sit down.*





# MEMBER FOR BASS

YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

*When called upon by the Speaker, stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**It is quite clear from the contributions that I have heard so far, that we all agree with the goal of this Bill. That is, saving Tasmanian native animals. However, the Tasmanian Government has to provide other essential services like hospitals, schools, police, firefighters and ambulance officers. This all costs the Tasmanian Government millions of dollars each year. While the Government would like to spend more on the Vet Fees Bill, we must be financially responsible and not overspend on one project.**

**I encourage all Members of the House of Assembly to vote for this Bill.**

*Sit down.*



# OPPOSITION WHIP

## YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION

*When the Speaker says, 'I think the Ayes have the most votes but I may need to check the result with a Division. Opposition Whip, would you like a Division?' Stand up and say:*

**Speaker,**

**The Opposition would like a Division because we want to know exactly how many Members, and which Members of the House of Assembly are voting for and against the Bill. Thank you.**

*Sit down.*

---

*During the Division, Members will move to either the left side or right side of the room. Then the Speaker will say, 'Government Whip and Opposition Whip, count all the Members on your side of the Chamber, and then come and tell me the numbers.'*

*Count everyone on your side. Don't forget to count yourself!*

*Walk to the Speaker and tell them the number.*



# GOVERNMENT WHIP

## YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT

*During the Division, Members will move to either the left side or right side of the room. Then the Speaker will say, 'Government Whip and Opposition Whip, count all the Members on your side of the Chamber, and then come and tell me the numbers.'*

*Count everyone on your side. Don't forget to count yourself!*

*Walk to the Speaker and tell them the number.*

