



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 24 February 2022**

## **PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

### **Inquiries into the Tasmanian Government's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Hydro Tasmania and the termination of the Basslink Services Agreement**

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts has resolved to conduct a number of inquiries.

The Committee will undertake further inquiries into the Tasmanian Government's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The areas to be covered in the inquiries include measures taken by the Government, including relevant Public Health advice, to prepare for the State border re-opening on 15 December 2021, the return to school, the vaccination rollout, business support and the Covid-19 Tasmanian Check-in app.

The Committee will consider the financial and social impacts of these decisions and measures and report to Parliament on each area under inquiry separately to facilitate timely reporting.

The Committee will also inquire into the decision by Hydro Tasmania to terminate the Basslink Services Agreement (BSA) and the financial and other implications this may have for Hydro Tasmania.

The Inquiry Terms of Reference for each Inquiry are attached.

Information regarding the inquiry will be posted on the [Committee webpage](#) in due course.

ends

**For further information: Ruth Forrest MLC - 0419 879 524**



# INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE

## PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

### **Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic**

To inquire into and report upon the Tasmanian Government's continuing response to the COVID-19 pandemic (and any other matter incidental thereto) with particular emphasis on:

#### Reopening of the Tasmanian Border

1. the financial and public health measures taken by Government to prepare for the re-opening of the Tasmanian border to other mainland States on 15 December 2021;
2. the Public Health advice that supported the re-opening plan; and
3. the financial and social impacts associated with measures implemented to support the border re-opening including (but not limited to) impact on:
  - a. access to health services;
  - b. patient outcomes;
  - c. health professionals; and
  - d. the broader Tasmanian community and economy.

#### Return to School Plan

1. the financial and public health measures taken by Government to prepare for return to school for students and staff for the 2022 educational year;
2. the Public Health advice that supported the return to school plan;
3. the financial, social and educational impacts associated with measures implemented to support the return to school plan including (but not limited to) impact on:
  - a. students and educational outcomes;
  - b. parents and carers;
  - c. staff; and
  - d. the broader Tasmanian community and economy.

#### COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake and Rollout

1. the financial and public health measures taken by Government to support and encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake;
2. the Public Health advice that supported these measures including accessibility to vaccinations across all age cohorts;
3. the financial implications of the vaccine rollout to the State; and
4. the impact on employment in sectors where vaccination was mandated to continue employment.

### Targeted Financial Support Programs and Payments

1. the financial and public health measures taken by Government to support businesses impacted by COVID-19 since August 2021;
2. the financial impacts associated with these measures; and
3. the uptake, timeliness and adequacy of the financial support measures.

### COVID-19 Check-in App

1. the Government's role related to the Tasmanian COVID-19 Check-in App with regard to the application's:
  - a. development;
  - b. effectiveness;
  - c. use; and
  - d. associated costs
2. the Public Health advice that supported the use and development of the COVID-19 Check-in App;
3. the advice around the effectiveness and privacy considerations of the COVID-19 manual check in process; and
4. the future planning around tracking and tracing.



# **INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

## **PARLIAMENTARY JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

### **Inquiry into Hydro Tasmania and the termination of the Basslink Services Agreement**

To inquire into and report upon Hydro Tasmania's recent decision to terminate the Basslink Services Agreement with particular regard to the:

- timing of the decision;
- rationale behind the decision;
- impact on Hydro Tasmania's financial position; and
- potential future impact on Tasmania's energy security and fibre optic telecommunications.