

## Legislation Fact Sheet

### Government Business (Sale Reforms) Bill 2025

- The Government Business (Sale Reforms) Bill 2025 will give effect to the Government's commitment to introduce legislation requiring two-thirds majority support of the Parliament before any Government business can be sold.
- The Bill amends the following Acts:
  - *Electricity Companies Act 1997*
  - *Electricity Reform Act 2012*
  - *Government Business Enterprises Act 1995*
  - *Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003*
  - *Irrigation Company Act 2011*
  - *Metro Tasmania Act 1997*
  - *Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009*
  - *Rail Company Act 2009*
  - *Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005*
  - *TT-Line Arrangements Act 1993*
- To implement the policy for Government Business Enterprises (GBEs), an amendment to the *Government Business Enterprises Act 1995* has been drafted to require that any proposed sale of a GBE can only be progressed in accordance with the existing *Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003*. The provisions in the Government Business Enterprises Sale Act have then been strengthened to require that at least a two-thirds majority approval of each House of Parliament is required for a GBE to be sold under that Act.
- To implement the policy for State-owned Companies (SOCs), a range of amendments to the Portfolio Acts of each company have been drafted. The amendments take into consideration the already existing provisions for each SOC and then strengthen the provisions in relation to the sale of shares of the company.
- For those SOC's whose Portfolio Act already contains a limitation on the sale of shares or a restriction on who can own the shares (Aurora Energy, Metro Tasmania, Tasmanian Irrigation, Tasracing, Tasmanian Networks and TT-Line Company), the amendments provide further clarity and additional protection. The legislation will provide that a member cannot sell their shares and there will also be a new requirement that at least a two-thirds majority approval of each House of Parliament will be required before the section providing this protection can be repealed or amended.

- For those SOCs whose Portfolio Act already contemplated the sale of shares in the company (Tasmanian Railway and Tasmanian Ports Corporation), the amendments strengthen the approval process and will require approval from at least a two-thirds majority of each House of Parliament before the shares can be sold.
- In the case of Aurora Energy, there is a specific provision that currently allows the Treasurer to sell the retail business of Aurora Energy. This was legislated as part of the previous electricity reform process. The amendments to the *Electricity Reform Act 2012* proposed in the Bill provide that at least a two-thirds majority approval of each House of Parliament is required before the Treasurer can sell the retail business of Aurora Energy. This protection is in addition to the limitation on the members for selling shares in Aurora Energy.