

Parliament of Tasmania

Department of the
Legislative Council



Annual Report 2024-2025



Cover image: The escutcheon of the Legislative Council's Black Rod, which still bears Queen Victoria's VR cypher.

About this Report

This Report covers the activities of the Department of the Legislative Council of Tasmania for the reporting period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. It should be read in conjunction with the Annual Report of the Department of Legislature-General which provides corporate, risk management, compliance and other support to the Department of the Legislative Council, as well as the Department of the House of Assembly.

The financial statements within this Report were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, relevant Treasurer's Instructions and other authoritative requirements.

This Report is available online at:

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcannualreports>.



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Message from the Clerk

I take pleasure in presenting the Legislative Council's Annual Report for 2024-2025.

This reporting period saw an increase in the administrative and advisory work of the staff of the Legislative Council in supporting the Members of the Council in the discharge of their parliamentary and representative duties. A large part of this work can be attributed to a flow on affect from the increase to the size of the House of Assembly, and the minority government that was elected at the 2024 State election. This is consistent with trends that have been observed in other Australian Parliaments and highlights the vital role of professional and politically neutral parliamentary staff in supporting the operations of a democratic legislature.

Further, the Council's Committee Secretariat has also experienced a large increase in work. This was largely due to an increase in the number of Joint Committees, the referral of work to existing Committees by the Houses, as well as work arising from the increased scrutiny that an opposition and cross bench inevitably bring to bear on a minority government.

In order to meet the increased demand the Legislative Council created two new positions during this reporting period, welcoming James Reynolds as Committee Secretary and Karen Shirley as Parliamentary Officer supporting both the Chamber and Committee teams.

In addition, during this reporting period the Legislative Council farewelled the former Deputy Usher of the Black Rod, Ramona Long, who had provided invaluable support to the Council's Table Officers during her time with the Legislative Council. Following a recruitment process the position of Deputy Usher was filled by Kimbra McCormack who joined the Council from the Parliamentary Education Office.

Of particular note during this reporting period was the prorogation of the Parliament and dissolution of the House of Assembly on 11 June 2025. This followed a vote of no confidence in the Premier by the House of Assembly. The timing of this prorogation interrupted the normal budget process, with Supply Bills instead being passed to support the operations of government. This included a request for amendment by the Council being agreed by the House of Assembly before the end of the reporting period.

Through the reporting period, officers and staff of the Legislative Council have, with the assistance of new staff, risen to the challenges brought by increased workloads and continued to deliver services to a high standard, ensuring Legislative Council Members were supported in their parliamentary duties. I appreciate the hard work and commitment of the Council's staff, and the positive and professional manner in which they conduct themselves. I also express my appreciation to our colleagues in the House of Assembly and Legislature-General who have helped and supported the Council and its Members throughout the year.

In addition to the procedural aspects of my role I have continued to work collaboratively with the Clerk of the House of Assembly and the Legislature-General's new Executive Director on the important work of modernising the Parliament to ensure it is well placed to meet contemporary expectations of Members and staff. Similar work has also been undertaken within the Council itself, with the identification of corporate objectives that are

aligned with the Parliament's overall strategic direction. We look forward to reporting against these objectives in more detail in future Annual Reports.

C. L. Vickers
Clerk of the Legislative Council

Snapshot for 2024-2025

Sitting Time

209 hours across 44 days



Average sitting¹
5 hours 21 minutes

Longest sitting
9 hours 46 minutes



Bills

42 Bills agreed to by
both Houses



11 Bills returned to
House of Assembly
with Amendments



3 Bills not agreed to
by the Legislative
Council



12 Bills lapsed at
Prorogation



49 Briefings over 43
hours on 44 topics



372 documents
Tabled



45 Substantive
Motions



37 Divisions



Questions to Government

289 without Notice
24 on Notice



Petitions

3 conforming and 1 non-conforming

Total signatures: 12,565



Largest petition: 4,997
signatures



Committees

151 meetings



41 hearing days



29 Reports Tabled



¹ Excludes Quorum Calls and time spent in Briefings.

Overview of the Legislative Council

A Constituent part of the Parliament

The Legislative Council, together with the House of Assembly and Her Excellency the Governor, constitute the Parliament of Tasmania. Government is formed in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council, the Upper House, is often described as a house of review with an independent character.

The Council has a number of roles including the following:

- to examine the merits of legislation and pass law;
- to authorise the raising of revenue and the expenditure of State monies; and
- inquiry, scrutiny and to provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day.

The activity of the Legislative Council is to a considerable extent demand driven by the Government of the day, the Council itself, Committees and Members' electoral and associated responsibilities. The Department of the Legislative Council, which supports the operations of the Council, has no control over the number of Bills introduced, Committee inquiries held or any other decision or resolution as agreed by the Council.

The increase in the size of the House of Assembly following the 2024 State Election continues to have a flow on effect to the Legislative Council, with increased Chamber and Committee activity, and increasingly complex procedural matters arising in the course of proceedings.

Scrutiny of Executive

In modern times the role of the Legislative Council has expanded from being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself in the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government. This is achieved through a variety of means, both through Questions and Motions in the Chamber, as well through the work of the Legislative Council's Committee system.

Council Elections

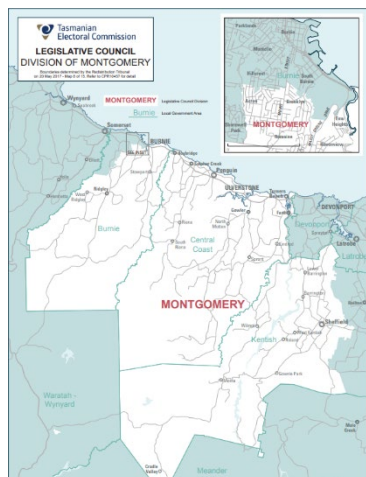
For Legislative Council elections, the State is divided into fifteen single Member electoral divisions. A full list of Members of the Legislative Council and their electorates, as of 30 June 2025, can be found in Appendix 1.

Elections are conducted in each of these electorates on a six-year periodic cycle. Elections for three Members are held in May one year, with elections for two Members held in May the following year and so on. There are never any general elections for the Council and the Council cannot be dissolved. More information on the period election cycle, including elections for upcoming years, can be found on the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's [website](#).

During this reporting period there were three periodic elections held on Saturday 24 May 2025, for the Electorates of Montgomery, Nelson and Pembroke. Under the *Constitution Act 1934* periodic elections are to be held on the first Saturday of May. The *Constitution Act 1934* also provides a mechanism that allows the Governor to fix another Saturday in May as the date for periodic elections. For 2025 the Legislative Council's

periodic elections were held later in May to avoid a clash with the federal election, which was held on Saturday 3 May 2025.

Electorate of Montgomery



© Tasmanian Electoral Commission

The Electorate of Montgomery is centred on Tasmania's Central Coast, taking in parts of the Burnie City municipal area, the towns of Ulverstone and Penguin and extending inland.

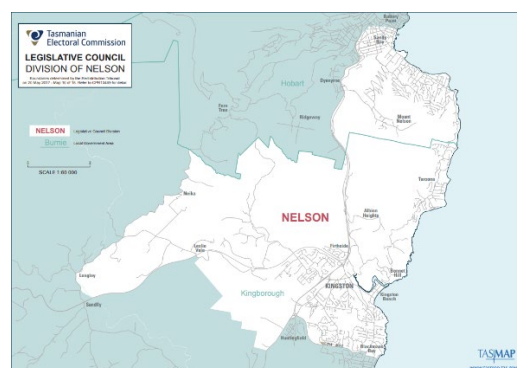
On 16 May 2024 the incumbent Member for Montgomery, the Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC, announced she would not be contesting the next election for the electorate of Montgomery. Mrs Hiscutt was first elected on 4 May 2013, and served as Leader of Government Business from March 2017.

Five candidates nominated for the 2025 period election for the electorate of Montgomery. Following the provisional distribution of preferences Mr Casey Hiscutt was declared as the new Member for Montgomery, with the declaration of the poll ceremony occurring on 30 May 2025.

Electorate of Nelson

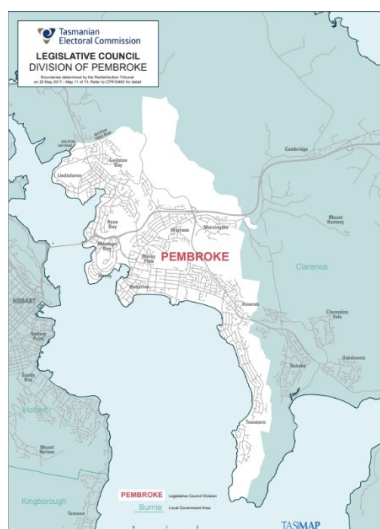
The Electorate of Nelson takes in a number of Hobart's southern suburbs, as well as northern parts of Kingsborough municipal area. At the time the writs were issued for the holding of the periodic election the Member for Nelson was the Hon Meg Webb MLC, who was first elected on 4 May 2019.

Three candidates nominated of the 2025 periodic election for the Electorate of Nelson. Following the counting of first preferences, Ms Webb was declared as having been returned as the Member for Nelson, with the declaration of the poll ceremony occurring on 30 May 2025.



© Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Electorate of Pembroke



© Tasmanian Electoral Commission

The Electorate of Pembroke is on Hobart's eastern shore, taking in a number of suburbs from the Clarence City municipal area. At the time the writs were issued for the holding of the period election the Member for Pembroke was the Hon Luke Edmunds MLC. Mr Edmunds was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council elected at a by-election in 2022 following the resignation of the former Member for Pembroke, Ms Jo Seijka.

Five candidates nominated for the 2025 periodic election for the Electorate of Pembroke. Following the provisional distribution of preferences, Mr Edmunds was declared as having been returned as Member for Pembroke, with the declaration of the poll ceremony occurring on 30 May 2025.

The Department of the Legislative Council

Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values

Purpose

To support & enable Parliamentary democracy in Tasmania.

Vision

Empowered people contributing excellence in Parliamentary administration.

Mission

To provide professional, impartial and trusted advice and support to Members of the Legislative Council to enable them to discharge their duties in the interests of the people of Tasmania.

Values



Respect

We treat others with dignity and courtesy while valuing their contribution.



Integrity

We value honesty and transparency, and act ethically and impartially.



Trust

We build trust and feel confident in each other to behave in a professional manner.



Inclusivity

We embrace and value difference and diversity.



Empowerment

We enable our people to take ownership of their work, while recognising and celebrating achievement.



Collaboration

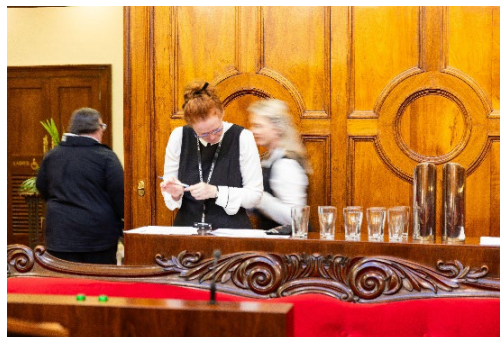
We value each other's skills and experiences, creating excellence by actively working together across the organisation.

Staff of the Department

The staff of the Department of the Legislative Council provide procedural, administrative and support services to assist the Members of the Legislative Council in performing their parliamentary duties in the Chamber, as members of the Council's Committees and as elected Members in their respective electorates.

These services include research and advice on parliamentary practice and procedure, the preparation of documents for use in the Chamber and Committees, and the provision of staff and resources to support Members in discharging both their Parliamentary and representative duties, including supporting them in their Electorates.

More information on the Department's organisational structure and staffing can be found at Appendix 3.



Staff preparing the Chamber for a sitting day.

Corporate Planning

During this reporting period the Parliament of Tasmania adopted five strategic objectives that will guide a whole-of-Parliament's approach to planning, resource allocation and decision making for the years 2024-2027.

In support of this the Department of the Legislative Council has established a Corporate Plan for 2024-2027 that outlines the corporate objectives of the Department and sets out key actions and activities the Department will undertake in support of the Parliament of Tasmania's strategic objectives for 2024-2027.

Parliament's Strategic Objectives	Department's Corporate Objectives
<i>Support Members of Parliament to undertake their Parliamentary duties</i> Ensuring that Members of the Tasmanian Parliament are supported to undertake their duties as Parliamentarians.	<i>Support Members of the Legislative Council</i> We ensure services provided to Members of the Legislative Council are of value and best support them to undertake their Parliamentary and representative roles and responsibilities.
<i>Encourage community engagement with the Tasmanian Parliament</i> Providing for clear and effective communication and engagement between the community and Parliament.	<i>Improve community engagement and information</i> We provide clear and accurate information for the benefit of the community and their understanding of the role of the Legislative Council, its Committees and Members.
<i>Maintain a strong and independent Parliament</i> Assuring institutional integrity so as to ensure Parliament can continue to play its role in Tasmania's democracy.	<i>Promote a strong and independent Legislative Council</i> We model best practice in ensuring we are accountable and responsible and make the most effective use of available resources. We promote the important review and oversight role of the Legislative Council and its Committees.
<i>Enhance workforce capability</i> Creating an inspiring culture, empowering the Parliament's employees and providing a safe and respectful workplace.	<i>Empower staff of the Department of the Legislative Council</i> We foster an environment that encourages motivation and provides opportunities for professional and personal growth.
<i>Drive modernisation of the Tasmanian Parliament</i> Adopting innovation, digitisation and modern technology and providing Members, staff and visitors with fit for purpose facilities that align with contemporary standards.	<i>Modernise our operations</i> We embrace opportunities to contemporise and update our practices and procedures.

Chamber and Related Matters

Briefings

Briefings for Members, for the most part arranged by the Leader of Government Bussiness' Office, have become one of the methods by which Members of the Council inform themselves of various matters being promoted by the Government or proposed Bills before the Parliament.



Briefings, although not formally part of the Standing Orders, have developed as a practice due to two factors: the political composition of the Legislative Council which, until recently, had a majority of independent Members; and the increased complexity of legislation. Due to the absence of any official caucusing by independent Members, there is often no consensus view developed prior to the debate in the Chamber. As a result, through the 1990s, Government briefings developed into an accepted mechanism to assist Government and Members to deal with complex or contentious issues.

Members are briefed by the various parties involved or interested in the issue; generally, this will include Ministers and their Government departments, professional associations, non-government organisations and service providers, grassroot and lobby groups and sometimes private individuals. Through these forums, Members can obtain information and clarification more quickly than could normally occur in the Chamber. Briefings have their advantages such as informality, the opportunity for frank discussions between Members and various presenters, expediting the passage of legislation, as well as clarifying aspects of a Bill or a proposal.

While Briefings offer these advantages, there are a number of aspects of the briefings process which should be noted. Firstly, it could be argued that a Briefing may not be viewed as a proceeding in Parliament and may not therefore be protected by parliamentary privilege. Secondly, they are conducted outside of the Chamber and accordingly are not formally recorded. This requires Members to be vigilant in ensuring any undertakings or explanations of the effect of clauses in legislation are reaffirmed in the public debate in the Chamber.

Briefings can sometimes take up a significant portion of a sitting day. Though Briefings occur prior to the sittings of the Council commencing for the day, on occasion sittings will be suspended to allow for unfinished Briefings to be completed, or where Members have requested further information prior to or even during, consideration of a Bill or other matter.

Briefings, although not compulsory, are well attended by Members. The trend in the use of briefings is unlikely to abate and continues to provide a valuable source of information to all Members in respect of Bills and other topics of interest that may be the subject of substantive debate or community interest. Of note, of the three Bills that were not supported by the Legislative Council during this reporting period, Members spent a total of five hours being briefed by various stakeholders to inform their final positions on those Bills before a vote was taken.

A list of Briefings attended by Members of the Legislative Council during this reporting period can be found in Appendix 6.

Chamber Operations

Private Members' Bills received from the House

A Private Member's Bill is a Bill introduced by a Member who is not a Minister, and usually a non-government Member. When these Bills are received from the House, a non-government Member typically takes carriage of them. In the case of Bills introduced in the House by a member of a political party, a member of the same party in the Council will take carriage of the Bill in the Council. Where the Private Member's Bill has been introduced by an independent Member, they will need to make arrangements with a Member of the Council to steer the Bill through the Upper House.

This reporting period has seen an increase in Private Members' Bills originating in the House of Assembly being dealt with by the Legislative Council. During 2024-2025 the following seven Private Members' Bills, introduced in the House of Assembly, were before the Legislative Council:

- Police Offences Amendment (Begging Repeal) Bill 2024
- Family Violence Amendment Bill 2024
- Work Health and Safety Amendment (Safer Workplaces) Bill 2024
- Family Violence Amendment (Protecting People and their Pets) Bill 2024
- Electoral Disclosure and Funding (Donation Disclosure) Amendment Bill 2024
- Custodial Inspector Amendment (Protection from Reprisal) Bill 2025
- Charter of Budget Responsibility Amendment Bill 2025

Though this list may appear short, it is significant when it is considered that between 2004 and 2024 only four Private Members' Bills introduced in the House of Assembly were received by the Legislative Council. In other words, during the last reporting period alone the Council dealt with almost double the number of Private Members' Bills that it had dealt with in the preceding 20 years.

Staff of the Legislative Council provide advice and assistance to non-government Members as to how to guide a Bill through the Legislative Council, as well as arrange for, and distributing copies of the Private Members' Bills to other Members of the Legislative Council. As such this increase demonstrates a flow on effect to the staff and Members of the Council from the changes to the size and composition of the House of Assembly.

Last sitting week of 2024 – planning themes

The subjects of planning and planning law have been highly topical in Tasmania in recent years, attracting a range of strong views. In this context the Government pursued a range of reforms that saw the majority of the time for government business during the last sitting week for 2024 allocated to the consideration of three planning-relating Bills:

- Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Supporting Development) Bill 2024
- Land Use Planning and Approvals (Stony Rise Development Approval) Bill 2024
- Land Use Planning and Approvals (Development Assessment Panels) Bill 2024

Members of the Legislative Council were provided Briefings on all three Bills by a range of stakeholders and interested parties, and received correspondence both in support of, and opposition to, the three Bills.

Of the three Bills, the Land Use Planning and Approvals (Development Assessment Panels) Bill 2024 was negatived at the Second reading stage, the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Supporting Development) Bill 2024 was returned to the House of Assembly with an amendment (which was subsequently agreed to), and the Land Use Planning and Approvals (Stony Rise Development Approval) Bill 2024 was passed unamended by the Council.

The debate on these Bills occurred against a backdrop of significant media and public interest and debate regarding the respective roles of State and Local Governments in planning, and they provide a good example of the Legislative Council fulfilling its House of Review function.

Joint sitting to fill senate vacancy

Under Australian law when the resignation of a Senator creates a vacancy, this vacancy is filled by a person chosen by the Parliament of the relevant State or Territory. In the case of a State with a bicameral Parliament, this is achieved through a resolution agreed to by a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

On 1 April 2025 the President advised the Legislative Council that he had received a letter from Her Excellency the Governor advising him that such a vacancy had occurred following the resignation of Senator Anne Urquart. Both Houses subsequently agreed that a joint sitting should occur on 27 May 2025 to fill this vacancy.

This joint sitting, held in the House of Assembly Chamber, was conducted in line with rules that had previously been agreed to by the Houses. On the nomination of the President, the Speaker was the Presiding Officer for the purpose of the joint sitting. By the unanimous agreement, Josh Dolega, nominated by the Hon Dean Winter MP, was appointed to the vacancy.

Request to amend a Supply Bill

Tasmania's Constitution, set out in the *Constitution Act 1934*, provides certain limits on the Legislative Council's powers to amend Bills dealing with the appropriation of money. This is common in bicameral Parliaments, the reasoning being it is a matter for the Executive to propose the appropriation of money and that it reflects the traditional function of an Upper House of one of review.

Following a successful motion of no confidence against the Premier in the House of Assembly, the Premier indicated that it was his intention to advise the Governor to call a

general election. As it was apparent the House would not pass Appropriation Bills for the 2025-2026 financial year prior to any such election, provision had to be made for the finances of the State until such time that the Parliament could pass a Budget.

As such, the Treasurer introduced two Supply Bills on 10 June 2025, with the intention being that they would be dealt with on one day by both Houses under the suspension of Standing Orders. There was support from Members of both Houses to achieve this outcome.

The Bills were introduced and passed swiftly through the House of Assembly. On being considered by the Legislative Council later that same day, an error was discovered in the section of the Bill that listed the monies to be allocated to one Government Agency.

As it was beyond the power of the Legislative Council to correct this error, the Council instead resolved to request that the House of Assembly make the necessary amendment, and returned the Bill to the House for that purpose. That request was agreed to by the House which subsequently made the relevant amendment.

This marked the first time that such a request was agreed to by the House of Assembly since 1980. Though the error identified was minor in nature and arose from an administrative oversight, this event provided a useful reminder to all involved of the respective roles and powers of two Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania.



The Legislative Council Chamber.

Committee Operations

Members of the Legislative Council participate both in Legislative Council Committees, as well as in Joint Committees made up of Members from both the Council and the House of Assembly.

Legislative Council Committees are supported by staff from the Legislative Council's Committee Secretariat, with support for the Parliament's Joint Committees shared between staff of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly.

The increase in size of the House of Assembly following the 2024 State Election, together with the subsequent change in composition of the membership of that House, has seen both an increase in the activity of existing Committees, as well as support for the creation of additional Joint Committees. This is consistent with the experience in other Australian jurisdictions following the election of a minority government.

This increase in activity by the Parliament's committees has an impact not just on the staff of the Committee Secretariat but also sees an increased demand on the services of Hansard, broadcasting as well as other supports provided by the Legislature-General.

Further information regarding both the Legislative Council Committees and Joint Committees, including membership, terms of reference and activities undertaken during the reporting period can be found on their respective webpages on the Parliament of Tasmania's website.



One of the Committee Rooms at Parliament House.

Legislative Council Committees

Select Committee on the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*

First established on 24 May 2022, and reestablished during subsequent Parliamentary Sessions, this Select Committee was tasked with inquiring into the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*, with the following terms of reference:

- (1) The constitution, functions and powers of the University;
- (2) The constitution, role, powers and obligations of the Council and Academic Senate;
- (3) The appropriateness of the Act to ensure accountable executive, fiscal and academic decision-making;
- (4) The appropriateness of the Act to protect and promote academic freedom, independence and autonomy; and
- (5) Any other matters incidental thereto.

This inquiry generated significant interest. The Select Committee's [Final Report](#) was tabled out of session on 23 December 2024. The Final Report contained 88 findings, with one overarching recommendation supported by 19 general recommendations.

Government Administration Committees

Since 2010, at the beginning of each Parliament, the Legislative Council has established two sessional Committees of its Members across a split of Government administration portfolios. These Sessional Committees can both receive referrals from the Council as well as conduct own-motion enquiries. The Committees are empowered to inquire into and report on administration, processes, practices and conduct of any department, agency, Government Business Enterprise, State-owned Company, or other entity relating to portfolios allocated to the respective Committees.

Further information on these committees, including Membership and portfolio allocation can be found on their webpages of the Parliament of Tasmania's website, together with further information related to the following inquiries.

Government Administration Committee A inquiries

Financial and Operational Performance of TasTAFE

On 16 November 2023, the Committee resolved to commence an inquiry into the financial and operational performance of TasTAFE.

The [Final Report](#) of the Committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 2 August 2024. The Committee made 15 findings and two recommendations. The [Government Response](#) was tabled on 19 November 2024.

Workers Compensation Insurance within the Racing Industry

On 27 November 2023, the Committee resolved to commence a Short Inquiry Process into matters related to workers compensation insurance within the racing industry.

The [Final Report](#) of the Committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 21 August 2024. The Committee made eight findings and one recommendation. The [Government Response](#) was tabled on 29 October 2024.

Operations of Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd

On 5 December 2023, Government Administration Committee A resolved to initiate a Short Inquiry Process into the operations of Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd (TasPorts).

The [Final Report](#) of the Committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 18 September 2024. The Committee made 36 findings and nine recommendations. As of the end of the reporting period the Government response had not been received.

Government Administration Committee B inquiries

Inquiry into Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention

First established in 27 October 2022, and re-established in subsequent Parliaments, Government Administration Committee B conducted an inquiry into Tasmanian corrective services and justice system matters related to adult imprisonment and youth detention.

The [Final Report](#) of the Committee was tabled in the Legislative Council on 2 April 2025. The Committee made 103 findings – 68 findings for adult imprisonment matters and 35 findings for youth detention matters. The Committee also made 46 recommendations, of which 34 recommendations related to adult imprisonment matters and 12 recommendations related to youth detention matters.

Inquiry into Homes Tasmania

On 12 December 2023 Government Administration Committee B resolved to establish an inquiry into matters related to Homes Tasmania.

The Committee tabled its Final Report on 12 March 2025 making five findings and no recommendations.

Budget Estimates Committees

Budget Estimates Committees for the 2025-2026 financial year, which would usually hold their hearings during this reporting period, did not meet. This was due to the prorogation of Parliament following the calling of a State Election in 2025 following a successful Motion of No Confidence in the Premier in the House of Assembly on 5 June 2025.

However, the holding of Budget Estimates Committee hearings for the 2024-2025 financial year were delayed due to the calling of an early election in 2024. As such those proceedings fell within this reporting period. On 10 September 2024 the Legislative Council agreed to the establishment of two Budget Estimates Committees to report into proposed expenditures contained in the 2024-2025 Budget Papers and Appropriation Bills 2024 (No. 1 and No. 2). Both Committees tabled their Reports out of Session by presenting them to the President on 10 October 2024.

Budget Estimates Committee A (2024)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 23 to 26 September 2024 into the portfolios then held by Hon Michael Ferguson MP, Hon Jo Palmer MLC, Hon Nick Duigan MLC, Hon Eric Abetz MP, Hon Nic Street MP and Hon Roger Jaensch MP.

Budget Estimates Committee B (2024)

This Committee conducted hearings over the period of 23 to 26 September 2024 into the portfolios then held by Hon Guy Barnett MP, Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Hon Jane Howlett MP and Hon Felix Ellis MP.

Government Business Scrutiny Committees

Each year the Legislative Council establishes two Government Scrutiny Committees. Government businesses and State-owned companies appear before the Council's Government Business Scrutiny Committees on a biennial basis, with approximately half of these companies appearing in any given year. During this reporting period the Government Business Scrutiny Committees were both established on 29 October 2024 and reported on 18 December 2024.

Government Business Scrutiny Committee A

On 3 December 2024, Committee A met and inquired into Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation, Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd, Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd and Aurora Energy Pty Ltd.

Government Business Scrutiny Committee B

On 4 December 2024, Committee B met and inquired into Tasmanian Railways Pty Ltd, TasRacing Pty Ltd, Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd, Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority and Motor Accidents Insurance Board.

Other Legislative Council Committees

In addition to these Committees the Legislative Council has two further Committees, which relate to Privileges and Standing Orders. The role of the Privileges Committee is to examine and report to the Council in relation to breaches of parliamentary privilege. The Standing Orders Committee is responsible for the Standing Orders and may inquire into and make recommendations as to any changes. Neither Committee met during this reporting period.

Joint Committees

Joint Committees are made up of Members from both Houses. These Committees can either be established by statute or by the agreement of both Houses.

Secretariat support for these Committees is shared between the two Houses of Parliament.

Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts Committee

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts is a Joint Committee established by the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*. It comprises three Members from each House, and is supported by staff from the Legislative Council.

The Committee's function is to inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances. The Committee may inquire into and report on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate.

The Committee produces its own Annual Reports that detail its activities, which can be found on the Committee's [website](#).

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works is established by *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. It comprises three Members from the House of Assembly and two Members from the Legislative Council. The Committee is supported by staff from the House of Assembly.

The functions of the Committee are set out in section 15 of the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. Its primary function is to report on proposed public works which are estimated to cost more than the statutory monetary threshold for construction works and works on road and bridges having regard to public value and expediency of the proposed work.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation is established by the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1969*. The Committee is comprised of three Members from each House. The Committee is supported by staff from the Legislative Council.

The Committee's functions are to examine every regulation made to ensure it is made in accordance with power of the principal Act and that the necessary regulation making processes have been complied with, in that certain matters such as the impact of the regulation on personal rights and liberties and the effects on competition and the economy have been considered in the subordinate legislation making process.

The Subordinate Legislation Committee also produces its own Annual Reports that detail its activities, which can be found on the Committee's [website](#).

Joint Standing Committee on Integrity

The *Integrity Commission Act 2009* establishes the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity consisting of three Members from each House. The Committee is supported by staff from the House of Assembly.

The Joint Standing Committee on Integrity monitors and reviews the performance of the Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General and the Custodial Inspector and reports to both Houses on any matters relevant to those entities. The Committee may refer matters to the Integrity Commission and provide advice and guidance, but it cannot undertake its own investigations into complaints that the Integrity Commission is investigating, review decisions about investigations or inquiries or make recommendations about particular investigations or inquiries.

The Integrity Committee also provides its own Annual Reports that detail its activities, which can be found on the Committee's [website](#).

Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality

In June 2022, both Houses agreed to the establishment of a Joint Gender and Equality Committee to inquire into and report upon a range of matters related to gender and equality. This Committee can have matters referred to it by either House, and can also conduct own motion inquiries.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the Fifty-First Parliament. The Committee is supported by staff of the House of Assembly.

Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight

In September 2022, the Houses agreed to the establishment of the Joint Sessional Workplace Culture Oversight Committee. This Committee is tasked with overseeing the implementation of recommendations contained in the *Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services*.

The Committee was re-established by the Houses at the commencement of the Fifty-First Parliament. The Committee is supported by staff of the Legislative Council.

Joint Sessional Committee – Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry

In June 2024, both Houses resolved that a Joint Sessional Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon matters related to the Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.

Staff of the Legislative Council provides secretariat support to this Committee.

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Following the 2024 State Election, both Houses agreed to the establishment of a Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters. The remit of this Committee is to inquire into matters relating to Tasmania's electoral laws, as well as any aspects of the administration, operation and conduct of the 2024 General Election of the House of Assembly and periodic election of Members of the Legislative Council.

This Committee is supported by staff of the House of Assembly.

Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters

In June 2024, the Houses agreed to the establishment of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters to inquire into and report upon a range of matters related to energy in Tasmania.

The House of Assembly provides secretariat support to this Committee.

Other Joint Committees

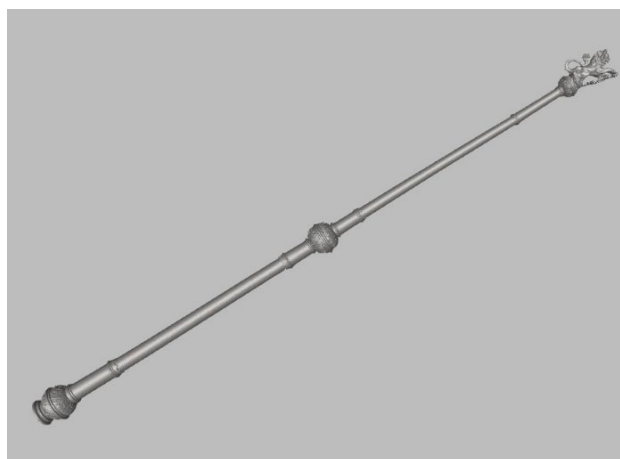
Two Joint Standing Sessional Committees are established under the Standing Orders of both Houses. These are the House Committee, which manages and controls the building of the Parliament, the Dining Room and the grounds of Parliament House; and the Library Committee, which supervises the activities of the Parliamentary Library.

Departmental Projects, Programs and Outreach for 2024-2025

3D printing of the Black Rod



Creating a 3D render of the Black Rod.



A 3D render of the Black Rod.

In 2026 the Legislative Council will commemorate its bicentenary. In anticipation of these celebrations, the Usher of the Black Rod commissioned two 3D replica Black Rods to be made; the first, a metal replica to be used in Legislative Council ceremonies, and the second, a plastic replica to be used in parliamentary education programs.

Not without some anxiety, the Usher of the Black Rod submitted the historically significant Tasmanian Black Rod as the model for replication. However the project was enormously successful, with Melbourne-based company Zeal 3D Printing creating two near-perfect replicas.

The final stage of the project involved professional cleaning of the Black Rod by Sargisons, a respected Hobart jeweller. Upon inspecting the Black Rod, Sargisons immediately identified an old and previously repaired crack that, to the untrained eye, was not apparent. Current Legislative Council staff, some of whom handle the Black Rod regularly, were surprised to learn it had ever been damaged. The crack and subsequent repair may have resulted in the Black Rod losing a degree of its structural integrity, leaving it vulnerable to possible further breakage. Now, with an exquisite replica at hand, the continued ceremonial use of the Black Rod is not in jeopardy.

Visits to the Chamber

Visitors to Parliament in general, and more specifically the Legislative Council, are interested in observing proceedings, viewing the Chamber and appreciating the history of the building. The Parliamentary Education Office conducts the majority of the visits, which consist of secondary and primary school groups. The work undertaken by the House of Assembly Education Office, House of Assembly and Legislative Council officers and attendants is acknowledged and appreciated by Members and staff of the Legislative Council.

The majority of other groups and visitors who visit the Parliament do so when the Houses are in session giving them a valuable insight into the debating activity that occurs on the Floor of both places.

Visitors to the Legislative Council during non-sitting times are personally conducted by House of Assembly parliamentary officers. During times when the Council is in session,

personal tours are not available as staff are required to perform other duties, however, at these times visitors have a unique opportunity to view proceedings in the Chamber as they happen.

Youth Parliament

During July 2024, the Parliament again hosted the YMCA Youth Parliament. This year's Youth Parliament included a visit by students to the Legislative Council Chamber where they met the President and staff of the Council and had the opportunity to use the Chamber of Legislative Council for their part of the program.

The Legislative Council was pleased to take part – the Youth Parliament program provides a unique opportunity for Tasmania's young people to come together, learn about the Parliamentary democracy and discuss issues that are important to them.

Official Visitors to the Legislative Council

During this reporting period the President received the following official visitors:

29 July 2024	His Excellency Mr Arto Haapea	Ambassador of Finland
18 September 2024	His Excellency Mr Anil Nayar	High Commissioner for Singapore
14 January 2025	Mr Tokuro Furuya	Consul-General of Japan in Melbourne
29 April 2025	His Excellency Mr Ufuk Gezer	Ambassador of Türkiye
18 June 2025	His Excellency Dr Siswo Pramono	Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia

Inter-Parliamentary Relations

Since 2007, the Parliament of Tasmania, under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), has been twinned with the Legislative Assembly of Samoa. The political circumstances in both Samoa and Tasmania have meant that it has not been possible to conduct any formal twinning activities during the reporting period.

During the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 2024, the Samoan Parliament entered into a memorandum of understanding with CPA, building on the existing relationship between the Legislative Assembly of Samoa and the CPA. The Memorandum of Understanding committed all partners to a series of activities under the auspices of a Technical Assistance Programme delivered over two years from November 2024 to November 2026. These activities are devised in partnership with the Legislative Assembly and align with the outcomes of the CPA's Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures Self-Assessment Report from June 2024. Tasmania has been invited to assist with the delivery of technical services.

The Programme will specifically focus on supporting the Recipient in four key areas:

- updating the Parliament's Standing Orders;
- drafting a Code of Conduct and Register of Interests scheme for Members;
- taking steps towards the establishment of a Parliamentary Service Commission; and
- providing support for improving the functionality of parliamentary committees.

Professional Development

ANZACATT professional development seminar

This year the annual ANZACATT professional development seminar was hosted by the New Zealand Parliament in January 2025. The theme of this year's seminar was Influencers and influencing the parliamentary environment.

Representatives from the Tasmanian Parliament joined colleagues from other Australian Parliaments, as well as a range of overseas Parliaments and legislatures, for three days of panels, presentations and discussions.



Attendees of the 2025 ANZACATT professional development seminar in New Zealand.

This annual gathering of Parliamentary staff is a valuable way to connect with colleagues from other jurisdictions and share knowledge and experience. A key takeaway from this year's conference is that Parliaments and legislatures from around the country and indeed the world are facing similar challenges – making these gatherings all the more important as a forum to share ideas and experiences.

Australasian Study of Parliament Group

The New Zealand Parliament was also the host for the annual conference of the Australian Study of Parliament Group for 2024. Whereas ANZACATT is an association of Parliamentary staff and focusses on professional development, ASPG's membership consists of parliamentarians, parliamentary officers, academics, teachers, journalists and students and is focused on encouraging and stimulating research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions.

The theme of this year's ASPG conference was Parliament's resilience in a changing world. Staff from the Tasmanian Parliament joined other ASPG members to hear from a range of

highly qualified speakers. Of particular interest was sessions addressing challenges faced by Parliaments in a rapidly changing digital world. Learnings from this conference will help inform the Tasmanian Parliament's approach to this challenge.

CPA UK Asia-Pacific PAC Regional Workshop

During this year a small group of representatives from the Tasmanian Parliament had the opportunity to attend this conference, hosted by Fiji's Parliament. Tasmania's Public Accounts Committee plays an increasingly important role in scrutinising the government of the day, and this workshop gave Members of that Committee, as well as its Secretary, the valuable opportunity to improve their capacity to scrutinise government finances, enhance transparency and accountability, fostering collaboration, while identifying areas for improvement.

Of note was the opportunity for Simon Scott, Secretary of Tasmania's Public Accounts Committee, to present to colleagues from around the world on the effective report writing, as well as recommendation tracking, and delivering effective briefings.

Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Course

ANZACATT offers, on an annual basis, the opportunity for Parliamentary staff from around Australia and New Zealand to undertake the Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Course. Currently conducted by the University of South Australia, the PLPP Course provides an important development opportunity for Parliamentary staff.

Involving online, in-person and written components, the PLPP gives staff the opportunity to hear from academics as well as Senior Parliamentary Officers on a range of important subjects relevant to their careers. During this reporting period several staff from the Tasmanian Parliament, including one Legislative Council staff member Simon Scott, completed the PLPP Course.

Electorate Officer Annual Conference

The Legislative Council's Electorate Officers fulfill a crucial role in supporting their Members, and play an important function as a link between the community and their elected representative. The annual Electorate Officer conference, hosted at the Tasmanian Parliament provides an opportunity for Electorate Officers based around Tasmania to gather and hear from a range of speakers.

This year Electorate Officers met at the Tasmanian Parliament on 9 and 10 December 2024. Among other activities Electorate Officers participated in discussions with senior Parliamentary Officers on matters arising from the *Motion for Respect Report*. The timing of this year's Conference also enabled Electorate Officers to attend the Premier's Christmas celebration – an annual event held to acknowledge and thank parliamentary staff for their work over the past year.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Members of the Legislative Council

Members of the Legislative Council as at 30 June 2025

Member	Electorate	Party
Armitage, Hon Rosemary Lois <i>Second Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	Launceston	Independent
Duigan, Hon Nicholas (Nick) John Henry <i>Minister for Energy and Renewables</i> <i>Minister for Sports and Events</i> <i>Minister for Parks and Environment</i>	Windermere	Liberal Party
Edmunds, Hon Luke Matthew	Pembroke	Australian Labor Party
Farrell, Hon Craig Maxwell <i>President</i>	Derwent	Australian Labor Party
Forrest, Hon Ruth Jane <i>Deputy President and Chair of Committees</i>	Murchison	Independent
Gaffney, Hon Michael (Mike) Victor	Mersey	Independent
Harriss, Hon Dean Andrew	Huon	Independent
Hiscutt, Hon Casey Keith Hiscutt	Montgomery	Independent
Lovell, Hon Sarah Elizabeth	Rumney	Australian Labor Party
O'Connor, Hon Cassandra (Cassy) Stanwell	Hobart	Tasmanian Greens
Palmer, Hon Joanne (Jo) Lesley <i>Minister for Education</i> <i>Minister for Disability Services</i> <i>Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence</i> <i>Acting Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council</i>	Rosevears	Liberal Party
Rattray, Hon Tania Verene <i>Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	McIntyre	Independent
Thomas, Hon Rebecca (Bec) Jane	Elwick	Independent
Vincent, Hon Kerry John <i>Minister for Infrastructure</i> <i>Minster for Local Government</i>	Prosser	Liberal Party
Webb, Hon Megan (Meg) Therese <i>Third Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	Nelson	Independent

Appendix 2 – Disclosure of Interests

The *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996* establishes a Register of Interests of Members in each House. The Register contains information on the pecuniary, property, gifts and other interests Members may have on an annual basis. New Members are required to lodge a primary return within three months of taking an oath of allegiance or affirmation of office.

On 6 August 2024, in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996*, the Clerk tabled from the Register of Members' Interests for 2023-2024, the Primary Returns of the Member for Elwick, the Member for Hobart and the Member for Prosser.

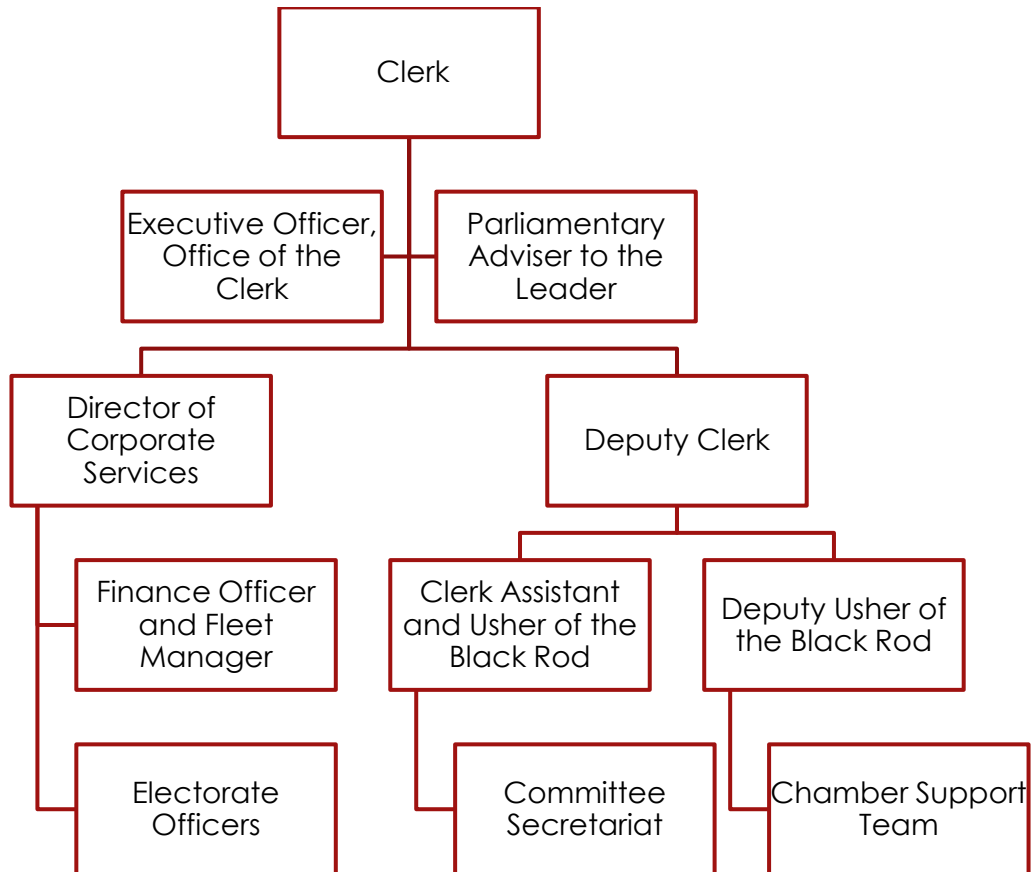
On 21 October 2024 in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996*, the Clerk tabled from the Register of Members' Interests for 2023-2024, the Annual Returns for the electorates of Derwent, Huon, Launceston, Mersey, Montgomery, Murchison, McIntyre, Nelson, Pembroke, Rosevears, Rumney and Windermere.

All Returns once Tabled are published on the Parliament's website at:

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcmembersinterests>.

Appendix 3 – The Department’s Organisational Structure, Governance and Office Roles

Organisational structure as at 30 June 2025



Governance

Hon Craig Farrell MLC, The President



The President is the principal office holder in the Legislative Council and is responsible for the maintenance of order in the Chamber during parliamentary sittings. The President is the representative of the Council in all matters, including dealings with the Governor and other dignitaries, and is responsible for conveying Bills which have been passed by the Parliament to the Governor for the Royal Assent.

The President is also responsible for the administration and smooth operation of the Legislative Council. He is a member of various committees which affect the running of Parliament and the maintenance of Parliament House and is responsible for the appointment of staff to the Department.

The President, the Hon Craig Farrell MLC, was first elected in 2019 having represented the Electorate of Derwent since 2011. He was re-elected as President in 2021.

Catherine Vickers, Clerk of the Legislative Council



In a modern Parliament the Clerk performs a number of functions.

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the correct procedure is observed during the passage of legislation and may be called upon to advise the President on the interpretation of Standing Orders and Parliamentary practice. In addition, the Clerk is the head of the Department and ultimately responsible for both the staff of the Department as well as the overall effective, efficient and economical financial management of the Department's resources. In addition, the Clerk is responsible, together with the Clerk of the House of Assembly

and supported by an Executive Director, for ensuring the effective administration and operation of the joint services of the Parliament.

Catherine Vickers first joined the Department in 2017 as Deputy Clerk, having previously served as Deputy Registrar of the Supreme Court. Catherine was appointed Acting Clerk in 2024 following the retirement of the incumbent, and was appointed permanently to the role later that year.

Other Senior Officers of the Council

Tim Mills, Deputy Clerk



The Clerk is assisted in their functions by the Deputy Clerk, who is expected to perform the functions of the Clerk of the Legislative Council in the Clerk's absence, or as directed, including deputising for the Clerk.

Tim Mills joined the Department in 2021 as Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod. He had previously held the role of Assistant Director (Administration of Justice) within the Department of Justice.

In 2024 Tim was appointed Acting Deputy Clerk and was appointed permanently to that role later that same year.

Craig Muir, Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod



The Usher of the Black Rod, at the direction of the President, has responsibility for the maintenance of order and security in the Chamber and the Legislative Council Parliamentary precinct. Jointly with the Sergeant at Arms, the Usher is also responsible for the security of the broader Parliamentary precinct. As Clerk Assistant the position is responsible for leading the Council's Committee Secretariat.

Craig Muir joined the Department as Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod in 2023, having previously served as Sergeant at Arms for the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory.

Roles of the Legislative Council's outputs

Clerk's Office (including Procedure support)

The Clerk's Office is responsible for the general management and oversight of the staff of the Department of the Legislative Council. The Office is also responsible for ensuring an accurate record of all proceedings and decisions of the Legislative Council are recorded. The Clerk, supported by staff, is also responsible for preparing the Bills that have passed both Houses of Parliament for the Royal Assent.

The Clerk's Office also provides procedural and related advice to the President, Chair of Committees and the Office of the Leader of Government Business, together with other elected Members. Advice provided focuses principally on the areas of parliamentary law, practice and procures involving proceedings in the Chamber and, where required, the work of Committees.

Committee Secretariat

Committee Secretariat staff provide support and advice to both Legislative Council and Joint Committees regarding parliamentary law, practice and procedure, and assist the Chair and other committee members in the production of reports for tabling in Parliament.

During the conduct of Committee inquiries, staff of the Committee Secretariat spend considerable amount of time on research, report writing and the management of ongoing inquiries. Committee Secretariat staff undertake extensive research, preparation of briefing notes, general administration, liaison with both the Executive Government, witnesses and specialist advisers.

Chamber Support Team

The Legislative Council Chamber Support Team exists to ensure the effective and efficient operational workings of the Chamber and to augment the broader administrative functions of the Legislative Council.

On sitting days this includes, but is not limited to, ensuring documentation such as Bills, Papers and amendments required by Members and Table Officers are correct and ready as needed. More broadly, the Chamber Support Team are responsible for the distribution, tracking and publication to the Parliament website of Bills, Parliamentary Papers and Tabled Papers.

Additionally, the Chamber Support Team provide administrative support to the Legislative Council Electorate Officers as they assist Members undertaking their duties as elected representatives.

Staffed by the Chamber Support Team, the Legislative Council Reception hours are from 9am to 5pm on non-sitting days and from 8:30am until adjournment on sitting days.

Corporate Services

The Council's Corporate Services provide corporate and other supports to both staff and Members of the Legislative Council. This includes financial and fleet management, as well as supporting Members on matters related to their electorate offices, including the recruitment of Electorate Offices as well as the negotiation of leases, office fit-outs and related matters.

Electorate Officers

It is essential that Members of the Legislative Council have access to high quality administrative and personal support to enable them to discharge their responsibilities to their constituents. The Department of the Legislative Council fills this need of all Members in their electorates by providing Electorate Officers for all Members of the Council.

The Legislative Council's Electorate Officers are a highly skilled and professional group of parliamentary employees who not only support elected Members in the discharge of their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities but also provide important and valuable assistance to many people in the community. Electorate Officers provide a range of supports to their Members, from assisting a Member's constituents with their enquiries, providing high level office and administrative support, as well as providing research support.

Appendix 4 – Compliance

Personal Information Protection Act 2004

The Department of the Legislative Council is committed to the protection of a person's privacy in the way the Department collects, uses or discloses personal information. When dealing with personal and sensitive information, the Department does so in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

No requests to access or amend personal information were received during the reporting period.

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002

It is a requirement for the Department of the Legislative Council to comply with the reporting requirements of section 86 of the above Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002.

Notwithstanding that the Legislative Council did not receive any disclosures or referred public interest disclosures or determined, referred or investigated any public interest disclosures, it is still mandatory to list the reporting categories detailed below.

The number and types of disclosures made to the relevant public body during the year and the number of disclosures determined to be a public interest disclosure.	None
The number of disclosures determined by the relevant public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate.	None
The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters that the relevant public body has declined to investigate during the year.	None
The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation.	None
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the relevant public body.	None

Right to Information Act 2009

The Legislative Council, as a constituent part of the Parliament, is excluded from the provisions of the *Right to Information Act 2009* by section 6 of that Act, unless the information relates to the administration of the Legislative Council.

The Legislative Council did not receive any requests under the *Right to Information Act 2009* during the reporting period.

Public Sector Superannuation Reform Act 2016

Superannuation Certification

I, Catherine Vickers, Clerk of the Legislative Council, hereby certify that the Legislative Council has met its obligations under the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992* (Cth).



Catherine Vickers
Clerk of the Legislative Council
26 September 2025

Appendix 5 – Selected statistics relating to sittings of the Legislative Council

		2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023	2021-2022
Sitting days		44 days	40 days	44 days	47 days
Hours sat	Total	209 hours	137 hours	192 hours	212 hours
	Government Business	114 hours	87 hours	137 hours	172 hours
	Private Members Business	95 hours	50 hours	55 hours	40 hours
Briefings	Total hours	43 hours	63 hours	30 hours	37 hours
	Number	49	41	30	39
Papers tabled		372	298	393	477
Questions	On Notice	24	53	39	19
	Without Notice ^a .	289	170	266	200
Bills	Received from the House	45	36	47	45
	Introduced in the Council	2	0	0	0
	Passed without amendment	31	16	24	32
	Passed with amendment	11	10	7	8
	Defeated	3	0	0	0
	Lapsed	12	3	0	0
Divisions		37	26	59	35
Petitions presented ^b .		4	1	4	4
Signatories to petitions ^b .		12,565	163	6,710	6,045
Substantive General Motions		44	29	41	29
Disallowance Motions		1	0	0	1
Sets of amendments circulated ^c .		23			
Notices of Motion processed ^c .		35			
Special Interest Matters collated ^c .		49			
Pages of Bills proofread for Royal Assent ^c .		1243 pages			

a. Does not include supplementary questions.

b. Includes non-conforming petitions.

c. This is the first year these statistics have been reported.

Appendix 6 – Legislative Council Briefing Topics

What follows is a list of topics, in alphabetical order, on which Members of the Legislative Council received Briefings during the 2024-2025 reporting period. Briefings can include presentations from a variety of sources, including government representations, community groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2024-2025) Bill 2025
Charities and Associations Law (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2024
Defamation Amendment Bill 2024
Disability Inclusion and Safeguarding Bill 2024
Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Bill 2025
Disallowance Motion (HEC Regulations 2024)
Electoral Amendment (Alternative Voting Procedures) Bill 2025
Electoral Amendment Bill 2024
Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Amendment Bill 2024
Expungement of Historic Offences Amendment Bill 2024
Family Violence Amendment (Protecting People and their Pets) Bill 2024
Family Violence Amendment Bill 2024
Farm Debt Mediation Bill 2024
Forestry (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2024
Health Miscellaneous Bill 2024
Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Bill 2024
Housing Proposal
Human Tissue Amendment Bill 2024
Industrial Hemp Amendment Bill 2024
Judicial Commissions Bill 2024
Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2024
Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill (No 2) 2024
Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025
Justice Miscellaneous (Commission of Inquiry) Bill 2024
Land Use Planning and Approvals (Development Assessment Panel) Bill 2024
Land Use Planning and Approvals (Stony Rise Development Approval) Bill 2024
Land Use Planning and Approvals (Supporting Development) Bill 2024
Legislative Council Sessional Committee Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters
Macquarie Point Precinct legislation
Motion to Disallow Environmental Standards for Tasmanian Marine Finfish Farming 2023
Police Offences Amendment (Begging Repeal) Bill 2024
Police Offences Amendment (Knives and Other Weapons) Bill 2025
Public Health Amendment (Vaping) Bill 2024
Racing Regulation and Integrity Bill 2024/Racing Regulation and Integrity (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2024
Residential Tenancy Amendment Bill 2024
Sentencing Amendment (Presumption of Mandatory Sentencing) Bill 2024
Sentencing Amendment (Presumptive Sentencing for Assaults on Frontline Workers) Bill 2024
Supply Bill (No. 1) 2025
Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Additional Jurisdictions) Bill 2024
Tasmanian Development Amendment Bill 2024
Taxation Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2024
Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024
Work Health and Safety Amendment (Safer Workplaces) Bill 2024
Youth Justice Facility Development Bill 2025

Appendix 7 – Committee Activity for 2024-2025 reporting period

Selected statistics for Committees supported by staff of the Legislative Council

Committee		Deliberative meetings ^{a.}	Hearing days ^{b.}	Reports tabled
Legislative Council Committees	Select Committee into the provisions of the <i>University of Tasmania Act 1992</i>	16	0	1
	Government Administration Committee A	19	3	3
	Government Administration Committee B	21	2	2
	Estimates Committee A	3	4	6
	Estimates Committee B	3	4	5
	Government Business Scrutiny Committee A	4	1	1
	Government Business Scrutiny Committee B	4	1	1
Joint Committees	Public Accounts Committee	37	15	7
	Subordinate Legislation Committee	8	0 ^{c.}	1
	Commission of Inquiry Committee	19	11	1
	Workplace Culture Oversight Committee	17	0 ^{d.}	1

a. Includes subcommittee meetings.

b. An individual hearing day can involve multiple witnesses or groups of witnesses.

c. The Subordinate Legislation Committee received six briefings from Departmental Officers.

d. The Workplace Culture Oversight does not conduct Hearings, rather it receives briefings from relevant parties during its meetings.

Reports tabled by Committees supported by staff of the Legislative Council

Legislative Council Committees

Select Committee into the provisions of the University of Tasmania Act 1992

- Final Report

Government Administration Committee A

- Inquiry into the operations of Tasports Pty Ltd
- Inquiry into the financial and operational performance of TasTAFE
- Inquiry into workers compensation insurance within the racing industry

Government Administration Committee B

- Inquiry into Tasmanian Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters
- Inquiry into Homes Tasmania

Estimates Committee A

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Michael Ferguson MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jo Palmer MLC
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Nick Duigan MLC
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Eric Abetz MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Nic Street MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Roger Jaensch MP

Estimates Committee B

- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Guy Barnett MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Felix Ellis MP
- Report into the Budget Estimates for the portfolios held by Hon Hane Howlett MP

Government Business Scrutiny Committee A

- Inquiry into Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation, Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd, Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Aurora Energy Pty Ltd

Government Business Scrutiny Committee B

- Inquiry into Tasmanian Railways Pty Ltd, TasRacing Pty Ltd, Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd, Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, Motor Accidents Insurance Board

Joint Committees

Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts Committee

- Annual Report 2023-2024
- Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's use of provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* to fund election commitments in 2021
- Statement of Understanding: Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Auditor-General of Tasmania
- Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.4 of 2019-20 – Rostering of Specialists in Tasmania's Major Hospitals
- Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.2 of 2015-16 – Capital Works Programming and Management
- Inquiry into the University of Tasmania's Financial Position
- Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Proposed Hobart Arts Entertainment and Sports Precinct Planning Process

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation

- Annual Report 2023-2024

Joint Sessional Committee – Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry Committee

- Interim Report - Government's response to Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings

Joint Sessional Committee on Workplace Culture Oversight

- Interim Report - Key actions and developments and progress of recommendations of the *Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services*



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Parliament

Legislative Council

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Legislative Council (the Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the statement of certification signed by the Clerk of the Council (the Clerk).

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council's as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) is in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

My audit is not designed to provide assurance on the accuracy and appropriateness of the budget information included in the financial statements.

Responsibilities of the Clerk for the Financial Statements

The Clerk is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the financial reporting requirements of the Section 42 (1) of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and for such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Clerk is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or the Clerk intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Clerk.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Clerk's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to

the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Clerk regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Thompson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Thompson
Auditor-General
Tasmanian Audit Office

29 September 2025
Hobart

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Statement of Certification

The accompanying Financial Statements of the Legislative Council are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with the Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2025 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Catherine Vickers

Clerk

26 September 2025

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Income from continuing operations				
Revenue from Government				
Appropriation revenue – operating		8,411	8,621	8,183
Total revenue from continuing operations	3.1	8,411	8,621	8,183
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	4.1	7,521	8,035	7,343
Depreciation	4.2	73	128	99
Supplies and consumables	4.3	902	711	651
Total expenses from continuing operations		8,496	8,874	8,093
Net result from continuing operations		(85)	(253)	90
Other comprehensive income				
Items that will not be reclassified to net result in subsequent periods				
Changes in property plant and equipment revaluation surplus	5.3	-	(26)	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	(26)	-
Total Comprehensive Result		(85)	(279)	90

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.1 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Assets				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	9.1	-	-	-
Receivables	5.1	51	45	80
<i>Non-financial assets</i>				
Other Assets	5.2	41	29	28
Plant and equipment	5.3	2,343	2,533	2,579
Total assets		2,435	2,607	2,687
Liabilities				
Payables	6.1	99	107	122
Employee benefit liabilities	6.2	910	1,165	949
Total liabilities		1,009	1,272	1,071
Net assets		1,426	1,335	1,616
Equity				
Reserves	8.1	848	822	850
Accumulated funds		578	513	766
Total equity		1,426	1,335	1,616

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.2 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
<i>Cash inflows</i>				
Appropriation receipts - operating		8,411	8,621	8,183
GST receipts		70	97	107
Total cash inflows		8,481	8,718	8,290
<i>Cash outflows</i>				
Employee benefits		(7509)	(7,807)	(7,311)
GST Payments		(70)	(97)	(107)
Supplies and consumables		(902)	(705)	(613)
Total cash outflows		(8,481)	(8,609)	(8,031)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	9.2	-	109	259
Cash flows from investing activities				
<i>Cash outflows</i>				
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets		-	(109)	(259)
Total cash outflows		-	(109)	(259)
Net cash from (used by) investing activities		-	(109)	(259)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	9.1	-	-	-

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.3 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2025

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2024	848	768	1,616
Net result	-	(253)	(253)
Other comprehensive result	(26)	-	(26)
Balance as at 30 June 2025	822	513	1,335

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2023	848	678	1,526
Net result	-	90	90
Balance as at 30 June 2024	848	768	1,616

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2025

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Note I Council Output Schedules

I.1 Output Group Information

Budget information refers to original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

Output Group 1 – Legislative Council Support Services

	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Income from continuing operations			
Revenue from appropriation	4,304	4,968	4,790
Total revenue from continuing operations	4,304	4,968	4,790
Expenses from continuing operations			
Employee benefits	3,414	4,413	3,961
Depreciation	73	128	99
Communications	-	77	95
Travel	-	125	90
Information technology	-	70	72
Other expenses	902	439	393
Total expenses from continuing operations	4,389	5,252	4,710
Net result	(85)	(284)	80
Expense by output			
Legislative Council Support Services	4,389	5,252	4,710
Total	4,389	5,252	4,710
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services		2,607	2,687
Total liabilities incurred for Legislative Council Support Services		(1,272)	(1,071)
Net assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services		1,335	1,616

Output Group 2 – Payments administered by the Legislative Council

	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Income from continuing operations			
Revenue from appropriation	4,107	3,653	3,393
Total revenue from continuing operations	4,107	3,653	3,393
Expenses from continuing operations			
Travel and Communication	440	177	142
Parliamentary salaries and allowances	3,474	3,126	2,972
Parliamentary travelling allowances	153	283	250
Parliamentary Committee fees and allowances	40	37	19
Total expenses from continuing operations	4,107	3,622	3,383
Net result	-	31	10
Expense by output			
Payments Administered by the Legislative Council	4,107	3,622	3,383
Total	4,107	3,622	3,383

1.2 Reconciliation of Total Output Groups Comprehensive Result to Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Total comprehensive result of Output Groups	(85)	(253)	90
Comprehensive result	(85)	(253)	90

1.3 Reconciliation of Total Output Groups Net Assets to Statement of Financial Position

	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Total net assets deployed for Output Groups	1,335	1,616
Net Assets	1,335	1,616

Note 2 Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

Budget information refers to original estimates as disclosed in the 2024-25 Budget Papers and is not subject to audit.

Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of Budget estimate and \$10,000.

2.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Depreciation	(a)	73	128	(55)	(75.3)
Supplies and consumables	(b)	902	711	191	21.2

Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income variances

(a) The increase in depreciation is due the value of depreciating assets increasing following capital works in Chamber and within the Legislative Council electorates.

(b) The decrease in supplies and consumables is due to a decrease in administrative expenditure relating operation costs in the 2025 financial year.

2.2 Statement of Financial Position

Budget estimates for the 2024-25 Statement of Financial Position were compiled prior to the completion of the actual outcomes for 2024-25. As a result, the actual variance from the Original Budget estimate will be impacted by the difference between estimated and actual opening balances for 2024-25. The following variance analysis therefore includes major movements between the 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2025 actual balances.

	Note	Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000	Actual Variance \$'000	Actual Variance %
Receivables	(a)	51	45	80	(35)	(43.8)
Payables	(b)	99	107	122	(15)	(12.3)
Employee Benefits	(c)	910	1,165	949	(216)	(22.8)

Notes to Statement of Financial Position variances

(a) The decrease in receivables is due to a decrease in outstanding invoices at the end of the financial year.

(b) The decrease in payables is due to the limited funding available to pay invoices at the end of last financial year.

(c) The increase in Employee Benefits Liabilities is due to an increase in staffing due to increased committee activity as a result of the hung Parliament.

2.3 Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
GST receipts and payments	(a)	70	97	(27)	(38.5)
Supplies and consumables	(b)	902	705	197	21.8

Notes to Statement of Cash Flows variances

- (a) The increase in GST payments is due to the increase in expenditure to capital works.
(b) The decrease in supplies and consumables is due a decrease in administrative expenditure relating operation costs in the 2025 financial year.

Note 3 Revenue

Income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when an increase in future economic benefit related to an increase in an asset or a decrease of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15.

3.1 Revenue from Government

Appropriations, whether operating or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Council gains control of the appropriated funds as they do not contain enforceable and sufficiently specific obligations as defined in AASB 15. Except for any amounts identified as carried forward, control arises in the period of appropriation.

Revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, unexpended appropriations rolled over under section 23 of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Items Reserved by Law.

Section 23 of the Financial Management Act allows for an unexpended appropriation at the end of the financial year, as determined by the Treasurer, to be issued and applied from the Public Account in the following financial year. The amount determined by the Treasurer must not exceed five per cent of an Agency's appropriation for the financial year.

The Budget information is based on original estimates and has not been subject to audit.

	2025 Budget \$'000	2025 Actual \$'000	2024 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations			
Appropriation revenue – operating			
Current year	4,744	4,991	4,790
Items Reserved by Law			
R003 Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (1)	3,474	3,421	3,124
R004 Travelling Allowances (1)	153	167	250
R005 Members' Committee Fees and Allowances (1)	40	42	19
Total revenue from Government from continuing operations	8,411	8,621	8,183
Total revenue from Government	8,411	8,621	8,183

(1) (Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012))

Note 4 Expenses

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

4.1 Employee benefits

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

(a) Employee expenses

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Wages and salaries	6,615	6,119
Annual leave	388	304
Long service leave	142	161
Fringe benefits tax	157	124
Superannuation – defined contribution scheme	664	560
Superannuation – defined benefit scheme	69	75
Total	8,035	7,343

Superannuation expenses relating to defined contribution schemes are paid directly to superannuation funds at a rate of 11.5 per cent (2023-24: 11 per cent) of salary, which is the Superannuation Guarantee rate set by the Australian Government. In addition, departments are also required to pay into the Public Account a “gap” payment equivalent to 3.45 per cent (2023-24: 3.45 per cent) of salary in respect of employees who are members of contribution schemes.

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefit schemes relate to payments into the Public Account. The amount of the payment is based on an employer contribution rate determined by the Treasurer, on the advice of the State Actuary. The current department contribution is 12.95 per cent (2023-24: 12.95 per cent) of salary.

(b) Remuneration of Key management personnel

2025	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			
	Salary	Other Benefits	Superannuation	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave	Termination Benefits	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk – Catherine Vickers	330	26	42	9	-	407
Deputy Clerk – Tim Mills	263	26	39	19	-	347
Usher of the Black Rod – Craig Muir	196	22	29	19	-	266
Total	789	74	110	47	-	1,020

2024	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			
	Salary	Other Benefits	Superannuation	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave	Termination Benefits	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk – David Pearce (1 – 19 July 2023)	24	1	3	(104)	91	15
Clerk – Catherine Vickers (20 July 2023)	304	21	38	74	-	437
Deputy Clerk – Catherine Vickers (1 – 19 July 2023)	13	1	2	-	-	16
Deputy Clerk – Tim Mills (4 September 2023)	204	14	28	28	-	274
Usher of the Black Rod – Craig Muir (6 November 2023)	128	3	17	15	-	163
Total	673	40	88	13	91	905

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the council, directly or indirectly.

Remuneration during 2024-25 for key personnel is set by the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898*. Remuneration and other terms of employment are specified in employment contracts. Remuneration includes salary, motor vehicle and other non-monetary benefits. Long-term employee expenses include long service leave and superannuation obligations.

Acting Arrangements

When members of key management personnel are unable to fulfil their duties, consideration is given to appoint other members of senior staff to their position during their period of absence. Individuals are considered members of key management personnel when acting arrangements are for more than a period of one month.

(c) Related party transactions

In accordance with AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, related party transactions are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor. The Clerk is required to determine the materiality of any related party transactions.

The Clerk is also required to determine if additional action is required to ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements of AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures*, including identification of related parties, identification of related party transactions and the adequacy of these disclosures.

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

4.2 Depreciation

All applicable Non-financial assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential.

Key estimate and judgement

Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually.

(a) Depreciation

	Major depreciation Period	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Furniture and fittings	10 years	30	32
Leasehold improvements	10 years	98	67
Total		128	99
Total depreciation		128	99

4.3 Supplies and consumables

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Audit fees – financial audit	23	20
Communications	77	95
Information technology	70	72
Travel and transport	126	90
Regional office support	88	70
Resource Support	106	77
Committee expenses	17	19
Consultancy	50	41
Meal allowance	19	14
Maintenance	2	13
Uniforms	2	7
Stationery	4	7
Insurance	45	38
Other supplies and consumables	82	88
Total	711	651

Audit fees paid or payable to the Tasmanian Audit Office for the audit of the Council's financial statements were \$23,000 (2023-24, \$18,500).

Note 5 Assets

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the Council and the asset has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

5.1 Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price. Receivables are recorded inclusive of GST (where applicable).

Receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Any subsequent changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised for all debt financial assets not held at fair value through profit and loss. The expected credit loss is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables, a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses is applied, with a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses recognised at each reporting date.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Receivables	45	80
Total	45	80
Settled within 12 months	45	80
Total	45	80

5.2 Other Assets

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Prepayments	29	28
Total	29	28
Recovered within 12 months	29	28
Total	29	28

5.3 Plant and equipment

(i) Valuation basis

Heritage assets comprising antique furniture, artworks and artefacts are recorded at fair value. All other Non-current physical assets, including work in progress, are recorded at historic cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. All assets within a class of assets are measured on the same basis.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of plant and equipment.

Fair value is based on the highest and best use of the asset. Unless there is an explicit Government policy to the contrary, the highest and best use of an asset is the current purpose for which the asset is being used or build occupied.

The recognised fair value of non-financial assets is classified according to the fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making these measurements.

Level 1 the fair value is calculated using quoted prices in active markets.

Level 2 the fair value is estimated using inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and

Level 3 the fair value is estimated using inputs for the assets or liability that are not based on observable market data.

(ii) Subsequent Costs

The cost of replacing part of an item of plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Council and its costs can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. The costs of day to day servicing of plant and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(iii) Asset recognition threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Council is \$10,000. Assets valued at less than \$10,000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are material in total). Antique furniture and artworks and artefacts are treated as discrete groups of assets and all items in these groups are recorded as non-current assets.

(iv) Revaluations

The Council has adopted a revaluation threshold of \$10,000.

Assets are grouped on the basis of having a similar nature or function in the operations of the Council.

Assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure they reflect fair value at balance date. Revaluations are shown on a fair value, five-year basis.

The latest revaluation as at 30 June 2025 were independently conducted. The valuer for Antique Furniture was Mr Mark Howard of Lauder and Howard Antiques and Fine Art and the Artworks and Artefacts valuer was Ms Trudi Curtis of Coville Gallery. The Antique Furniture revaluations were based on local and national auction results, proprietary online sales, consultation with qualified valuers and market experience. The Parliament artefacts have been valued at replacement cost. The Artwork revaluation was based on conformed values. Revaluations are shown on a gross basis where a replacement cost basis of valuation has been used. Asset revaluations based on a market basis have been disclosed on a net basis.

(v) Assets in respect of leases where the Council is the lessor

The Council leases motor vehicles under operating leases with rental payments payable monthly. Lease payments include lease and operating costs.

(a) Carrying amount

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Antique furniture		
At fair value	983	1,202
Total	983	1,202
Artworks and Artefacts		
At fair value	742	550
Total	742	550
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	689	580
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(297)	(199)
Total	392	381
Furniture and Fittings		
At cost	646	646
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(230)	(200)
Total	416	446
Computer equipment		
At cost	10	10
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(10)	(10)
Total	-	-
Total plant and equipment	2,533	2,579

(b) Reconciliation of movements

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below. Carrying value means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

2025	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	WIP	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July 2023	1,202	550	381	446	-	-	2,579
Additions	-	-	109	-	-	-	109
Depreciation	-	-	(98)	(30)	-	-	(128)
Revaluation increment / (decrement)	(219)	192	-	-	-	-	(26)
Carrying value at 30 June	983	742	392	416	-	-	2,533

2024	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	WIP	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July 2022	1,202	550	160	477	1	29	2,419
Additions	-	-	259	-	-	-	259
Depreciation	-	-	(67)	(31)	(1)	-	(99)
Transfers between asset classes	-	-	29	-	-	(29)	-
Carrying value at 30 June	1,202	550	381	446	-	-	2,579

(c) Level 3 significant valuation inputs and relationship to fair value

Description	Fair value at 30 June	Significant unobservable inputs used in valuation	Possible alternative values for level 3 inputs	Sensitivity of fair value to changes in level 3 inputs
	\$'000			
Antique Furniture	983	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing antique furniture is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values	Not applicable
Artwork and Artefacts	742	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing artwork and artefacts is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values.	Not applicable

Note 6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

6.1 Payables

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost, which due to the short settlement period, equates to face value, when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets and services.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Creditors	59	84
Accrued Expenses	48	38
Total	107	122
Settled within 12 months	107	122
Total	107	122

6.2 Employee benefit liabilities

Key estimate and judgement

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities expected to be realised within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee entitlements are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material.

A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Accrued salaries	130	95
Annual leave	421	336
Long service leave	614	518
Total	1,165	949
Expected to settle wholly within 12 months	644	518
Expected to settle wholly after 12 months	521	431
Total	1,165	949

6.3 Superannuation

(i) Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense when they fall due.

(ii) Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan.

Key estimate and judgement

The Council does not recognise a liability for the accruing superannuation benefits to Council employees. This liability is held centrally and is recognised with the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Note 7 Commitments and Contingencies

7.1 Schedule of Commitments

Commitments represent those contractual arrangements entered by the Council that are not reflected in the Statement of Financial Position. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST.

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position, excluding short term leases and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value, which are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
By type		
Commitments held with Finance-General		
Motor vehicle fleet (base usage charge)	318	408
Total Commitments held with Finance-General	318	408
Other commitments		
Photocopiers	70	65
Total other commitments	70	65
Total commitments (including GST)	388	473
By maturity		
Commitments held with Finance-General		
One year or less	221	210
From one to five years	97	198
Total Commitments held with Finance-General	318	408

Other commitments		
One year or less	24	23
From one to five years	46	42
Total Other commitments	70	65
Total Commitments (including GST)	388	473

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position due to uncertainty regarding any possible amount or timing of any possible underlying claim or obligation.

(a) Quantifiable contingencies

A quantifiable contingent asset is any possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

A quantifiable contingent liability is any possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or any present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. To the extent that any quantifiable contingencies are insured, details provided below are recorded net.

The Legislative Council has no contingent Assets and Liabilities.

Note 8 Reserves

8.1 Reserves

2025	Antiques, Artworks & Artifacts \$'000	Total \$'000
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	848	848
Revaluation increment/(decrement)	(26)	(26)
Balance at end of financial year	822	822
2024	Antiques, Artworks & Artifacts \$'000	Total \$'000
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	848	848
Balance at end of financial year	848	848

Note 9 Cash Flow Reconciliation

Cash means notes, coins, any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, as well as funds held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, being short term of three months or less and highly liquid. Deposits are recognised at amortised cost, being their face value.

9.1 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes the balance of the Specific Purpose Accounts held by the Council, and other cash held, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Specific Purpose Account balances		
Legislative Council operating account	-	-
Total	-	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	-	-

9.2 Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Net result	(253)	99
Depreciation	128	99
Decrease (increase) in Receivables	35	(29)
Decrease (increase) in Other assets	(1)	13
Increase (decrease) in Employee entitlements	215	54
Increase (decrease) in Payables	(15)	23
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	109	259

Note 10 Financial Instruments

10.1 Risk Exposures

(a) Risk management policies

The Council has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk; and
- liquidity risk.

The Clerk as the accountable authority has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Council's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Council, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

(b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Council if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account any collateral or other security.

The value of receivables as at 30 June is immaterial and with an expected loss rate of 0%. There is no history of impairment of receivables. The value of receivables is recorded at the gross carrying amount as at balance date, the carrying amount is not past due, in either year.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The Council does not have any significant exposure to liquidity risk.

The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Council by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position:

2025	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities							
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000	Undiscou nted Total \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
Financial liabilities								
Payables	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	107
Total	107	-	-	-	-	-	-	107

2024	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities							
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000	Undiscou nted Total \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
Financial liabilities								
Payables	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	122
Total	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	122

10.2 Categories of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2025 \$'000	2024 \$'000
Financial assets		
Cash and deposits	-	-
Receivables at amortised cost	45	80
Total	45	80
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	107	122
Total	107	122

Note 11 Events Occurring After Balance Date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which would have a material effect on the Council's financial statements as at 30 June 2025.

Note 12 Other Material Accounting Policy information and Judgements

12.1 Objectives and Funding

The Legislative Council is the Upper House of the Parliament and functions as a House of Review.

The role of the Members of the Legislative Council is twofold:

- To examine the merits of legislation from alternative perspectives and to authorise expenditure of State monies; and
- To provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day. In modern time, the Legislative Council has expanded from the base of being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself with the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government.

The overall objectives of the Legislative Council remain constant over time. Services may increase with parliamentary evolution, but are invariant in the medium term. The major objectives and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Legislative Council are to:

- Support the Legislative Council in its constitutional role;
- To provide an accurate retrieval and assessment system of precedent, law, history and parliamentary method necessary for the effective functioning of the Legislative Council and its Committees;
- Provide effective apolitical support including administrative, research, policy and procedural support and advice to the President of the Legislative Council and other elected Members;
- Ensure the effective custody of documents including journals, records and papers of the Legislative Council, the responsibility of which, in accordance with Standing Orders, is vested in the Clerk of the Legislative Council;
- Ensure the effective functioning of Standing, Sessional and Select Committees including the provision of adequate and appropriate resources;
- Accurately prepare and present legislation, once passed through both Houses, to Her Excellency the Governor for the Royal Assent;
- Promote public awareness of the purpose, functions and work of the Legislative Council;
- Maximise the potential of all staff through effective human resource practices; and
- Efficiently manage resources, both financial and human.

The Council is funded by Parliamentary appropriations and Reserved-by Law allocations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions.

12.2 Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- The Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.

The Financial Statements were signed by the Clerk on 26 September 2025

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as the AAS include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Council is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under the AAS that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are consistent with the previous year except for those changes outlined in Note 12.5.

The Financial Statements have been prepared as a going concern. The continued existence of the Council in its present form, undertaking its current activities, is dependent on continuing appropriations by Parliament for the Council's administration and activities.

The Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

12.3 Reporting Entity

The Financial Statements include all the controlled activities of the Council.

12.4 Functional and Presentation Currency

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Council's functional currency.

12.5 Changes in Accounting Policies

(a) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards

There were no new or revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that have a material impact on the reporting of the Legislative Council's operations for the current annual reporting period.

(b) Impact of new and revised Accounting Standards yet to be applied

The Legislative Council has considered the new accounting standards and assessed that they will not have a material impact on the financial statements once adopted in future reporting periods.

12.6 Comparative Figures

Comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect any changes in accounting policy or the adoption of new standards.

12.7 Rounding

All amounts in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated. As a consequence, rounded figures may not add to totals. Amounts less than \$500 are rounded to zero.

12.8 Taxation

The Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax.

12.9 Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, classified as operating cash flows.