

## DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

HON PETER GUTWEIN MP

### *Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2018-19) Bill*

\*check Hansard for delivery\*

Madam Speaker

The Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2018-19) Bill 2019 seeks to appropriate additional funding in the 2018-19 Budget year of \$217.9 million.

Of this amount, \$182.9 million was reflected in the 2018-19 Revised Estimates Report that was published in late January 2019. This additional funding relates to the vital Government service delivery areas of health, children, corrective services and infrastructure.

The Bill provides \$20 million in additional funding to support Out of Home Care services provided through the Department of Communities to support vulnerable children with complex needs. These services include those relating to clinical psychology assessment counselling, respite care, client education, child care and health.

As a Government, improving Tasmania's health system has been our highest priority. In order to continue this important task this Bill provides additional funding of:

- \$105 million to meet increased demand for services across the State for the Tasmanian Health Service and Ambulance Tasmania; and
- \$52.4 million for the Royal Hobart Hospital Redevelopment. It should be noted that, rather than represent a new allocation of funding, these funds reflect the bringing forward of funding previously included in the 2019-20 Budget year to reflect current expected project requirements.

The Bill also provides \$5.5 million of additional funding for the Tasmanian Prison Service. This funding reflects the current prisoner numbers and associated operational costs.

Madam Speaker

In addition to this expenditure that has previously been highlighted in the 2018-19 Revised Estimates Report, the Bill also includes an initial allocation of \$35 million to meet the significant costs that have been incurred in fighting the major bushfires that have occurred in a number of areas of the State in recent months.

Given the magnitude of these fires and the extensive firefighting resources that have been required to be deployed, the actual costs relating to the bushfires will not be known for some time. It is likely that the final costs will vary significantly from this initial allocation and that other funding will either need to be provided by way of a Request for Additional Funds in the current Budget year or be allocated in the 2019-20 Budget.

As honourable Members would be aware, the Government is able to seek support from the Australian Government in relation to some of the costs that have been incurred in fighting the bushfires. This future Australian Government funding will ultimately offset some of the additional costs that are currently reflected in this Bill.

Madam Speaker

The most recent Budget update provided in the 2018-19 Revised Estimates showed that, following the achievement of Net Operating Balance surpluses in the past two years, the Net Operating Balance continues to remain in surplus over the Budget and Forward Estimates period. This outcome includes the impact of the provision of significant additional funding to continue to increase the level of services provided by the Government to the Tasmanian community in a range of critical service delivery areas together with the impact of a substantial reduction in GST and State Taxation receipts over the Budget and Forward Estimates period.

The Government is looking forward to the tabling of the 2019-20 Budget that will see the continuation of the implementation of the Government's important Fiscal Strategy that has, since 2014-15 Budget, supported the delivery of improved services to the Tasmanian community while maintaining a commitment to prudent financial management.

I commend the Bill to the House.