



Annual Report 2015-2016



**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA**



TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2016

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 30 OF
THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND AUDIT ACT 1990

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
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PUBLIC AWARENESS

THE CHAMBER

During the year a variety of groups and individuals are introduced to the Parliament and in particular the Legislative Council through conducted tours. The majority of the groups conducted through the Parliament during the year consisted of secondary and primary school groups.

The majority of groups and other visitors who visited the Parliament did so when the Houses were in session giving them a valuable insight into the debating activity that occurs on the floor of both Houses. The public gallery in the Council is available at all times for this purpose.

Visitors to the Legislative Council during non-sitting times have been and will continue to be personally conducted through the Parliament by parliamentary officers. During times when the Council is in session personal tours are more difficult with staff being required to perform other duties, however, at these times visitors may view proceedings in the Chamber.

OFFICE HOURS

The Legislative Council is open weekdays, excluding public holidays, between 8.30 am and 5.00 pm on non-sitting days, and from 8.30 am until the adjournment of the House on sitting days.

SITTING DAYS

The Legislative Council normally meets at 11.00 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during scheduled sitting weeks.

Visitors may attend the sittings at any time and observe proceedings from the public gallery.

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A HOUSE OF REVIEW

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Council of Tasmania was established in 1825 as a unicameral legislature following the separation of Van Diemen's Land from New South Wales.

On 3 December of that year, Governor Darling of New South Wales proclaimed Van Diemen's Land as a separate colony, and simultaneously the first Legislative Council was created consisting of six nominee Members and the Lieut.-Governor, Colonel George Arthur.

The continuing prosperity and population growth of the colony were reflected by the increase in membership of the Council. In 1828, as a result of an Imperial Act, the Council was increased to 15 nominee Members (6 official and 8 unofficial) with the Governor as Presiding Officer.

In 1851, the Legislative Council Membership was further increased to a total of 24 Members. 16 Members were elected by restricted franchise and 8 Members were nominated by the Governor, who ceased to be a Member. From 1850 until 1856 the Presiding Officer in the Council was known as the Speaker. The Members elected Sir Richard Dry as the first incumbent of that position. In 1856 the title of the Presiding Officer changed from that of Speaker to President.

During the 1840s the British Colonial Office argued that the penal transportation system should continue. The colonists argued against any further influx of convicts and believed that their interests would be better served by a form of representative government for the colony. Although the Governor temporarily resolved this crisis, agitation for a more representative style of government grew stronger. The efforts of the colonists were rewarded with the proclamation of an act to permit the introduction of a bicameral, representative Parliament on 24 October 1856. The first elections were held in 1856 and the first Session of the new Parliament was opened on 2 December in that year.

When a bicameral Parliamentary system was discussed in the 1850s a Select Committee of the Council was appointed in 1853 to draw up proposals. The Committee, charged with producing a constitution for the State of Tasmania, stated in the explanatory introduction to their report - *"A Legislative Upper Chamber is recommended to guard against hasty and ill-considered legislation by ensuring due deliberation previous to the adoption of any measure. This necessarily imparts a very different character to the Legislative Council from that which the Assembly will possess. The instincts of the Assembly will be movement - progress - innovation; generally of a useful character, but subject to the defects incidental even to improvement when suddenly introduced. The instincts of the more conservative Council will be caution - deliberation - resistance to change if not fully proved to be beneficial"*.

Throughout the life of the Legislative Council, Tasmanian electors have to a very large extent, preserved the independent nature of their Upper House. The Legislative Council is neither a rubber stamp for decisions of the Government in the Lower House, nor an alternative Opposition.

Both Houses of the Parliament had adjournment periods cut short during the 1998 sitting year by a Proclamation issued by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the then Premier, the Honourable Tony Rundle MHA, in order that the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council assemble primarily for the purpose of considering a Bill entitled the *Parliamentary Reform Bill 1998* (subsequently Act No. 31 of 1998). Both Houses resumed sitting on Wednesday, 22 July 1998.

Prior to the introduction of this Bill there had been introduced and debated in the Parliament, during the preceding few years, several Bills relating to the structure and operation of the Tasmanian Parliament. Provisions debated included changes to Legislative Council boundaries, the Council's powers in relation to Budget and Supply Bills; the numbers of Members in both Houses including a proposal to conduct a referendum on the future structure of the Parliament.

However, prior to the introduction of the *Parliamentary Reform Bill 1998* only legislative provisions relating to changes to Legislative Council boundaries including some validating legislation had successfully passed both Houses.

Having been introduced into the House of Assembly by the then Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Jim Bacon MHA (subsequently Premier as a result of Labor's victory in the State election held on 29 August 1998), the Parliamentary Reform Bill which provided for the reduction in the number of Members in both Houses of the Parliament passed the House of Assembly on 22 July 1998.

The Bill was read the First time in the Legislative Council on that same day and passed through all stages by the morning of 23 July 1998. The Bill received the Royal Assent on 27 July 1998. As soon as the Royal Assent had been given the Premier sought, and was granted, a General Election for the House of Assembly. The Assembly was dissolved and the subsequent election held on 29 August 1998 returned 25 Members to that House.

The amending provisions of the Legislation affected principally the *Constitution Act 1934*, the *Electoral Act 1985* and the *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995*, with respect to the constitution of both the Assembly and the Council and the process by which a Redistribution Tribunal would determine the transitional arrangements to implement the redistribution of the State in respect of the Legislative Council, by providing for a reduction in the number of Members from 19 to 15.

The transition determination of the Redistribution Tribunal appointed in accordance with provisions contained in the *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995* was made on 26 May 1999.

The determination cited as the *Legislative Council (Transition Arrangements) Determination 1999 inter alia* allocated Members to the fifteen new Council electoral divisions which were determined by a redistribution of the State Legislative Council boundaries on 6 February 1999 and established a new periodical election cycle. An allocated Member was taken to have been elected for and to represent the Council division to which they were allocated.

The term of the four unallocated Members of the Council was reduced so that those Members ceased to be Members of the Council on 1 July 1999.

From that time the Legislative Council has consisted of 15 elected Members.

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.

The Legislative Council as the Upper House of the Parliament of Tasmania can be described as democratic with an independent character. The role of the Council is three-fold:

- (i) to authorize the raising of revenue and the expenditure of State monies;
- (ii) to examine the merits of legislation; and
- (iii) to provide a Parliamentary check on the Government of the day. In modern times the role of the Legislative Council has expanded from the base of 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.

The Department of the Legislative Council provides procedural, administrative and support services to assist the Members of the Legislative Council in performing their parliamentary duties. These services include research and advice on parliamentary practice and procedure, the preparation of documents for use in the House and the provision of staff and equipment. The Department's principal outcome is a functioning House of Parliament in which Members of the Legislative Council are able to discharge their constitutional duties in respect of the consideration of legislation and other parliamentary business. In addition the Clerk of the Legislative Council is responsible, together with the Clerk of the House of Assembly for ensuring the effective operation of the joint services of the Parliament.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

For Legislative Council elections the State is divided into 15 single-Member electoral divisions. Each Member holds office for six years and periodical elections are held for two or three divisions every year. As it cannot be dissolved, there are never any general elections for the Council.

The method of counting votes is identical with that used in House of Representatives elections. It is a preferential system which can be described as election by absolute majority through use of the alternative vote. If any candidate secures first preference votes exceeding half the total of first preferences, he or she is elected. If no candidate satisfies this condition, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded and the second preferences shown on his or her voting papers are transferred to other candidates, the transfer value of each such second preference being equal to one. If no candidate then has the required majority, the process of exclusion is repeated until such time as one candidate secures the majority.

The Constitution Act has been amended to alter the provision relating to the Council's election day moving it from the last Saturday in May to the first Saturday in that month. This amendment was necessary to allow the Government to introduce its Budget into the Parliament during the May-June period in each year, which enables the Legislative Council to have all 15 Members available for the Budget debate and Estimates Committee scrutiny.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act (No. 22 of 1996) received the Royal Assent on 15 October 1996. This Act established a register of interests in each House containing information on the pecuniary and other interests of Members which have the potential to lead to a conflict with their official duties. The Council's register is open to public scrutiny. Returns are lodged with the Clerk and Tabled annually after 1 October each year. New Members are required to lodge a 'Primary Return' within three months of having taken the Oath.

The Act requires that Members disclose details of—

- each source of income greater than \$500 received by a Member, including income from trusts;
- all real estate interests of a Member except where the interest is as executor or administrator of a deceased estate of which the Member is not a beneficiary or as a trustee related to the Member's non-parliamentary occupation;
- any interests or any position, whether remunerated or not, that a Member may hold in a corporation, except where the corporation is set up as a non-profit organisation for community purposes. This includes shareholdings;
- any position, whether remunerated or not, held by a Member in a trade union, professional or business association;
- all debts owed by the Member exceeding \$500, except where the money is owed to a relative, a normal lender of money such as a bank or building society or arises from the supply of goods or services as part of a Member's occupation outside of Parliament;
- gifts of value greater than \$500, except where received from a relative;
- disposition of property by a Member where there is an arrangement for the Member to retain the use or benefit of the property or a right to acquire the property at a later date;
- contributions to travel undertaken by a Member of value greater than \$250. Travel contributions would not need to be disclosed where provided by the Government, a relative or where made in the normal course of a Member's occupation outside Parliament. Contributions made by a Member's political party for travel on party business are also exempted.

As a result of work undertaken by the Integrity Commission and the Department of Premier and Cabinet modified disclosure forms were utilised for the 2013-14 ordinary return period. The modified forms aim to provide a greater level of clarity for Members of both Houses when completing the disclosure returns and continue to be used.

On Thursday, 29 October 2015 the Ordinary Returns for the 15 elected Members of the Legislative Council for the 2014/15 financial year were Tabled in the House.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

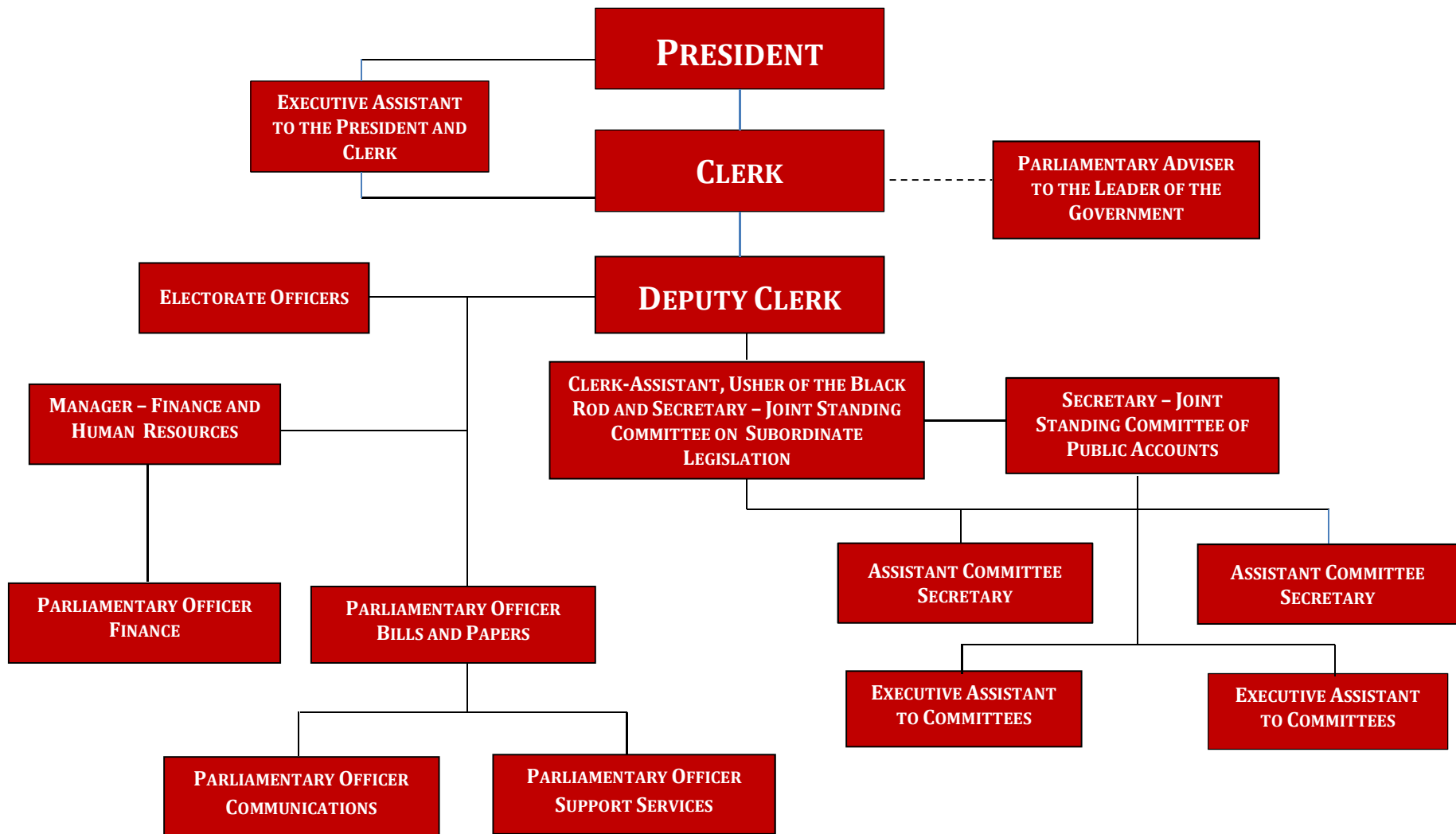
VISION

To be an efficient and responsive House administration.

GOALS

- **Service**
To ensure a consistently high level of satisfaction with all services and support provided to elected Members and Department clients by the House administration.
- *Our People*
To attract and retain a highly skilled and motivated team, to recognise the contribution of our employees and to encourage them to develop and perform to their fullest capabilities.
- *Information*
To ensure that information on all aspects of the Parliamentary process in the House is made available to Members and the public in the most timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.
- *Communication*
To ensure effective communication both within the Parliamentary environment and to the broader community.
- *Education and Community Relations*
To improve community perception and understanding of the Parliament generally and the Legislative Council specifically.
- *Technology*
To support the provision of innovative and practical technological solutions for the improvement of parliamentary operations and services generally.
- *Finance and Resource Management*
To ensure optimal use of our human, financial and physical resources.
- *Continuous Improvement*
To continue to seek innovative and better methods of servicing the House, its Members and those others who necessarily have a connection to the House.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE APOLITICAL, PROFESSIONAL, INNOVATIVE AND INTEGRATED SUPPORT SERVICES AND INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND ITS ELECTED MEMBERS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF TASMANIA.

The permanent officers of the Legislative Council, under the direction of the Clerk are charged with the responsibility of providing the Legislative Council, its committees, the President of the Council and all Honourable Members with advisory, procedural, research and administrative support services of the highest possible standard to assist them in undertaking effectively their constitutional and parliamentary duties and responsibilities. The activity of the Legislative Council is to a very considerable extent demand driven by the Government of the day, the House itself, Committees and Members' electoral and associated responsibilities. The Department has no control over the number of Bills introduced, Committee inquiries held or any other decision or Resolution agreed in the House.

There are three principal program areas of the Department.

ADVISORY AND PROCEDURAL SERVICES

These include:

- authoritative professional advice to Members on all aspects of parliamentary law, practice and procedure;
- preparation of documentation for use in the House;
- production of the records of proceedings of the House and its committees.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- provision of support staff and equipment for Members;
- administration of Members' salaries, allowances and entitlements;
- effective delivery of other services available to Members both within and outside Parliament House;
- provision of advice and staff to committees, enabling them to carry out research and prepare reports.

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT

- corporate and strategic planning;
- *budget development*, monitoring and reporting;
- personnel training;
- industrial and associated employee relations.

OBJECTIVES

The major objectives and responsibilities are to:—

- support the Legislative Council in its constitutional role;
- provide an accurate retrieval and assessment system of precedent, law, history and Parliamentary method necessary for the effective functioning of the Legislative Council, its committees and Members;
- provide effective apolitical support, including administrative, research, policy and procedural support and advice to the President of the Legislative Council and other elected Honourable Members;
- ensure the effective custody of documents including Journals, Records and Papers of the Legislative Council, which responsibility 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 and efficiently prepare and present legislation, once passed through both Houses, to Her Excellency the Governor for the Royal Assent;
- maintain appropriate standards of integrity and conduct and concern for the public interest;
- promote public awareness of the purpose, functions and work of the Legislative Council;
- be a fair and responsible employer, maximising the potential of all staff through effective human resource management practices; and
- effectively and efficiently manage resources, both financial and human.

PURSUIT OF OBJECTIVES

In meeting the objectives the Department must continue to pursue excellence in:—

- professional standards
- management standards
- skills development
- internal and external communication
- resource allocation and utilization

MAJOR DOCUMENTS

- **ANNUAL REPORT** - The annual report on the operations of the Legislative Council is compiled and presented to the both Houses of Parliament pursuant to the Financial Management and Audit Act 1990.
- **COMMITTEE REPORTS** - Reports presented by committees and published as parliamentary papers.
- **VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS** - An official record of the proceedings of the Legislative Council being the Journals of the House. The Votes and Proceedings are produced 'in-house' and are published for each day's sitting.
- **NOTICES OF QUESTION, MOTION AND ORDERS OF THE DAY** - An official list of all business before the Council in the order in which it is proposed to be dealt with. The 'Notice Paper' is produced 'in-house' and is published for each day's sitting.
- **INDEX TO THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS** - This index is also incorporated and printed in final form in the bound volumes of the Votes and Proceedings.
- **THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BROCHURE** - An information and souvenir booklet providing a brief history and other relevant procedural information for visitors to the Council.
- **THE BLACK ROD** – A souvenir fold-out pamphlet outlining the history of the Black Rod and the position of Usher of the Black Rod.
- **STANDING ORDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** - The standing rules and orders of procedure for the operation of the Council and its committees. New and revised Standing Orders were agreed by His Excellency the Governor on 6 January 2005. Further minor changes to the Standing Orders were approved by His Excellency the Governor on 23 June 2008 and 29 November 2010 respectively.
- **RULINGS AND OPINIONS OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL 1856-2003** - A comprehensive index, by individual headings, of rulings and opinions of Legislative Council Presiding Officers.
- **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS GUIDE** - A guide on procedures and entitlements prepared by the Clerk of the Council, for use by Members and their staff.
- **GUIDE FOR NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS** – A guide containing basic information about the essential features of procedure and practice in the Legislative Council.
- **PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA: A BRIEF GUIDE FOR VISITORS** - prepared by the Joint Presiding Officers for the information of visitors to both Houses.
- **GUIDELINES FOR SELECT AND STANDING COMMITTEES** - Guidelines on the powers, functions and procedures of Legislative Council Committees.

- **LEAFLET** – Making a Submission to a Parliamentary Committee.
- **COMMITTEE HEARINGS** – Information for Witnesses.
- **ESTIMATES COMMITTEES** – Committee Manual.
- **BRIEFING NOTES ON THE BUDGET ESTIMATES** - a budgetary document which presents detail of the Council's principal expenditure areas. Budget briefing notes are utilised by the Premier when required during the consideration of the Council's expenditure estimates.

STATUTES AFFECTING LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING ORDER PROVISIONS

The following Statute provisions impact upon the Legislative Council's Standing Order provisions:—

- Constitution Act 1934
- Electoral Act 2004
- Parliamentary Privilege Act 1858, 1885, 1898, 1957
- Parliament House Act 1962
- Defamation Act 2005
- Evidence Act 2001
- Legislation Publication Act 1996
- Acts Enumeration Act 1947
- Acts Interpretation Act 1931
- Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969
- Public Works Committee Act 1914
- Public Accounts Committee Act 1970
- Promissory Oaths Act 2015

ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Department maintains the following inventory and asset register records:—

- Members Equipment Register
- General Inventory
 - Legislative Council [furniture and general items]
 - Regional Offices [furniture and general items]
- Antiques and Works of Art Inventory

DELIVERY OF SERVICES

Accurate forecasting of the volume of work and rate of activity required to be undertaken by staff is difficult to determine due to the nature of the Legislative Council's operations. Indicators that affect workload, for example, the number of Legislative Council sitting days and establishment and activity of committees are dependent upon Resolutions and decisions made by the House itself or by individual committees. A qualitative assessment of the Legislative Council's effectiveness in meeting its predetermined objectives is undertaken on an on-going basis by the President and Clerk. This examination is undertaken to ensure that necessary service and support is being provided by the staff to Honourable Members.

Members of the Legislative Council are entitled to receive the highest possible standard of service and support.

Throughout the year the Department's major objectives have again been pursued with dedication and commitment resulting in the achievement of desired standards and results.

The Department's principal focus continues to be the maintenance and development of the Legislative Council as an effective and relevant parliamentary institution.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The focus has been to ensure that appropriate levels of support and service are provided to the President and elected Members to enable the effective discharge of their constitutional, Parliamentary and electoral responsibilities.

Legislative Council Support Services has three measurable generic activities. These activities are:—

- chamber and related committee activity;
- procedural advice and support; and
- service delivery and compliance.

Measurement of Chamber and related committee activity is based on the number of sitting days; Legislation debated and presented for the Royal Assent; and committee related Resolutions.

Procedural advice and support is measured by the degree of satisfaction of Members based on the criteria of quality, quantity and timeliness of the advice and support provided.

Service delivery and compliance is measured again by the degree of satisfaction of Members and those other agencies, groups and individuals who necessarily have a connection to the Legislative Council.

PROCEDURAL SUPPORT AND ADVICE

During the reporting year the Clerk and staff of the Legislative Council provided procedural and related advice to the President, Chair of Committees, the Leader of the Government together with the respective Chairs of Select, Standing and Sessional Committees and to other elected Members.

Advice provided focused principally on areas of Parliamentary precedent, law and method.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

It is the Clerk's responsibility to ensure that adequate levels of assistant support are provided to all Members of the Council. It is considered essential that Members have access to high quality secretarial and personal support to enable them to adequately discharge their responsibilities. Personal assistant support continues to be assessed on an ongoing basis by the President and Clerk. Funding is available to enable all Members to engage personal assistant support up to one full-time equivalent (FTE).

FINANCIAL ACTIVITY

According to law, the Clerk is responsible for the overall effective, efficient and economical financial management of the House.

The Clerk must ensure that expenditure is in accordance with the law and that effective accounting and financial management information systems are maintained.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*, the guidance of Treasurer's Instructions together with other statutory provisions, the Clerk of the Council, in respect of the financial year ending on 30 June 2015 presented to the Parliament the Council's Annual Report. As required by law that Report contained the Council's duly audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2015.

The Financial Statements and accompanying Audit Report for the financial year ending on 30 June 2016 form part of this Annual Report.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

The total expenditure by the Legislative Council from the Consolidated Fund for the year ending 30 June 2016 was within the budget approved by the Parliament.

The additional Reserved-by-Law funding approved by the Treasurer totalled \$110,000 to cover increases connected with costs associated with Members' motor vehicles and associated taxes. Financial activities were conducted both in accordance with statutory provisions and in terms of compliance with mandatory reporting requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

The Legislative Council ensures that Tasmanian businesses are given every opportunity to compete for the Council's business. It is the Council's practice to support Tasmanian businesses whenever they offer best value for money for the public funds expended.

No tenders were called, or contracts awarded, with a value greater than \$50,000 during the financial year ending on 30 June 2016.

There were no consultancies undertaken for the Council with a value greater than \$50,000 during the financial year ending on 30 June 2016.

There were no contracts awarded as a result of direct/limited submission sourcing and no contract extensions were approved in accordance with the Treasurer's Instructions during the financial year.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Parliament's Strategic Asset Management Plan identifies the overall risk management strategy together with other Occupational Health and Safety issues.

Risks relating to the building complex are progressively identified.

Risks of damage to buildings or injury to staff or clients through failure of plant, services or equipment are addressed through maintenance strategies. Scheduled maintenance continues to

be undertaken by a single contractor responsible for all building elements in the complex which has greatly improved control and simplifies audit.

Risks flowing from security both from the point of view of buildings and the occupants has again been a focus during the reporting period. As a result of events overseas the security arrangements have been tightened and further capital work is expected to be completed in the first half of 2017 to further address security at Parliament House.

Other security related measures have been put in place which see a strengthened security process within the Parliament building.

In terms of the computer network throughout the building there is in place a Disaster Recovery Plan. This Plan, which has been put in place by the Computer and Electronic Services Manager, deals with matters such as data backup; off-site server facility; off-site software; web server recovery; file server recovery and network recovery. A Policy Statement in respect of computer and internet usage is published on the Parliament Intranet site.

Risk management in relation to finances is controlled by a series of checks and balances. The segregation of duties within the finance operating area combined with, at all times, a minimum two tier authorisation and certification of all transactions is maintained to provide the necessary management controls.

Personal risk in Regional Offices has been improved with the use of personal security devices for staff to activate if necessary. These devices complement the fixed placement duress alarm system.

Installation of reception security barriers and the matter of access and egress in Regional Offices are matters which receive appropriate consideration.

INTERNAL AUDIT

During the reporting period the Legislative Council continued to have two of its senior Parliamentary Officers on the Parliament's Audit and Risk Management Committee. Those officers hold the positions of Deputy Clerk and Clerk-Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod respectively.

The Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2015-2016 agreed between Deloitte and the Audit and Risk Management Committee for the Parliament included the following areas:

Work Health and Safety – This project was to ensure the Parliament of Tasmania is complying with its obligations and involved the examination of the incident reporting and notification process; and the compliance of selected activities with WHS policy and procedure requirements.

Business continuity management (BCM)/disaster recovery planning – This project involved the evaluation of the whole of Parliament's BCM governance, systems and preparedness for BCM.

Reports on these projects will be finalised and acted on in 2016/17.

Asset and Infrastructure Management – This project examined the disposal of assets, asset registers, a strategic approach to asset management and portable and attractive items registers.

Recommendations were made by Deloitte and procedures have been put in place to ensure items are disposed of and recorded in the appropriate manner.

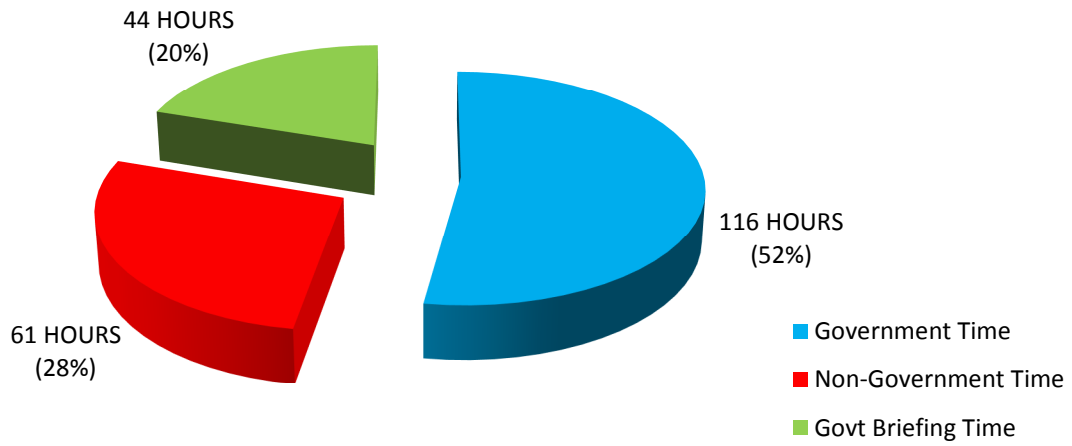
SCHOOL VISITS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DATE VISITED	SCHOOL NAME	Nos.	DATE VISITED	SCHOOL NAME	Nos.
July 2015	Alliance of Girls Schools	100	March 2016	Taroona High	38
July 2015	Sorell Middle School	51	March 2016	Bicheno Primary	10
August 2015	Westbury Primary	14	March 2016	Burnie Primary	46
August 2015	South Georgetown Primary	68	March 2016	St Marys College	20
August 2015	Tas TAFE	16	March 2016	Beaconsfield Primary	61
August 2015	Fairview Primary	28	March 2016	Blackmans Bay Primary	60
September 2015	Scotch Oakburn	13	March 2016	Channel Christian School	27
September 2015	Montagu Bay Primary	54	April 2016	Scotch Oakburn	26
September 2015	Tas TAFE	43	April 2016	Scotch Oakburn	50
September 2015	St Brigits	8	April 2016	Scotch Oakburn	26
September 2015	Lenah Valley Primary	20	April 2016	Friends School	80
October 2015	Oatlands District High	26	May 2016	St Patricks	41
October 2015	Howrah Primary	52	May 2016	Rosny College	30
October 2015	Hagley Farm School	52	May 2016	Taroona Primary	62
October 2015	Winnaleah District	34	May 2016	St Virgils	79
October 2015	Tas TAFE	19	May 2016	Elizabeth College	20
October 2015	Hagley Farm School	45	May 2016	Rokeby Primary	45
November 2015	Lindisfarne North	26	June 2016	Tas TAFE	72
November 2015	Andrews Creek Primary	31	June 2016	St Brendan Shaw College	12
November 2015	Immaculate Heart of Mary	40	June 2016	New Norfolk Primary	50
November 2015	Perth Primary	50	June 2016	Lenah Valley Primary	128
November 2015	The Cottage School	17	June 2016	St Marys College	4
November 2015	Launceston Prep	30	June 2016	Rosny College	26
November 2015	St Helens District	60	June 2016	Glenora District	23
November 2015	Seabrook Christian	20	June 2016	Bagdad Primary	26
November 2015	Howrah Primary	25	June 2016	Sorell Primary	54
November 2015	Westerway Primary	20	June 2016	Hutchins	32
November 2015	Eastside Lutheran	23	June 2016	St Brigits	29
December 2015	COSMOS	8	June 2016	Lauderdale Primary	66
December 2015	The Cottage School	12	June 2016	Rokeby Primary	23
February 2016	Circular Head Christian	32	June 2016	Calvin Christian	70
February 2016	COSMOS	8	June 2016	St Brendan Shaw	148
March 2016	Howrah Primary	71			

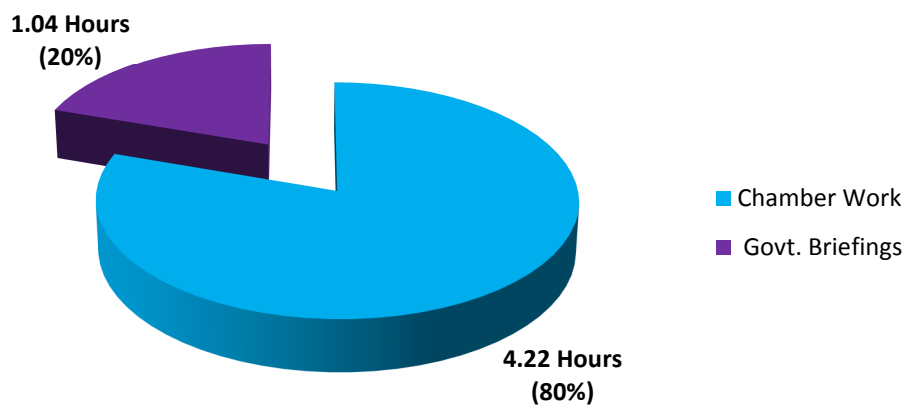
Table does not show scheduled 10.00 am and 2.00 pm tours on non-sitting days for members of the public.

SITTING STATISTICS

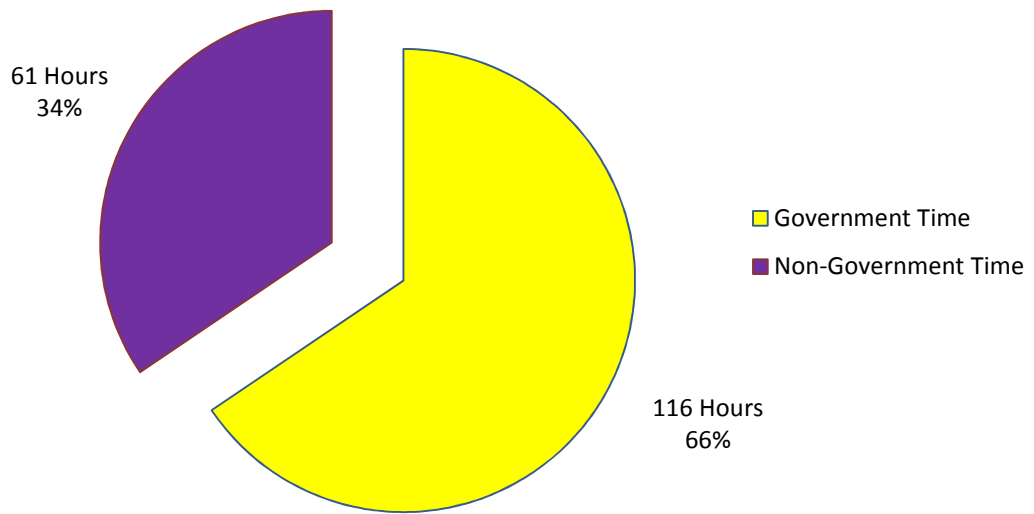
**TIME SPENT IN 2015-16
GOVERNMENT TIME; NON-GOVERNMENT TIME & BRIEFINGS**



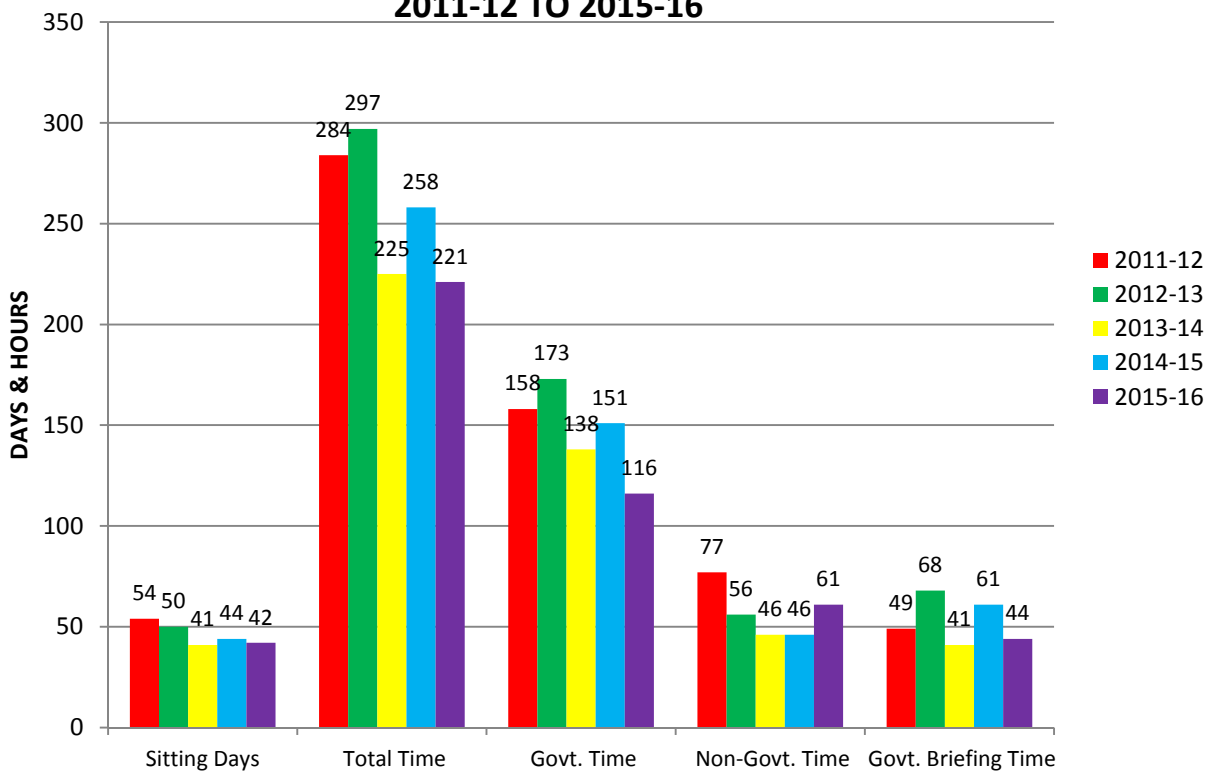
**AVERAGE TIME SPENT DURING SITTING DAYS 2015-16
CHAMBER WORK AND GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS**



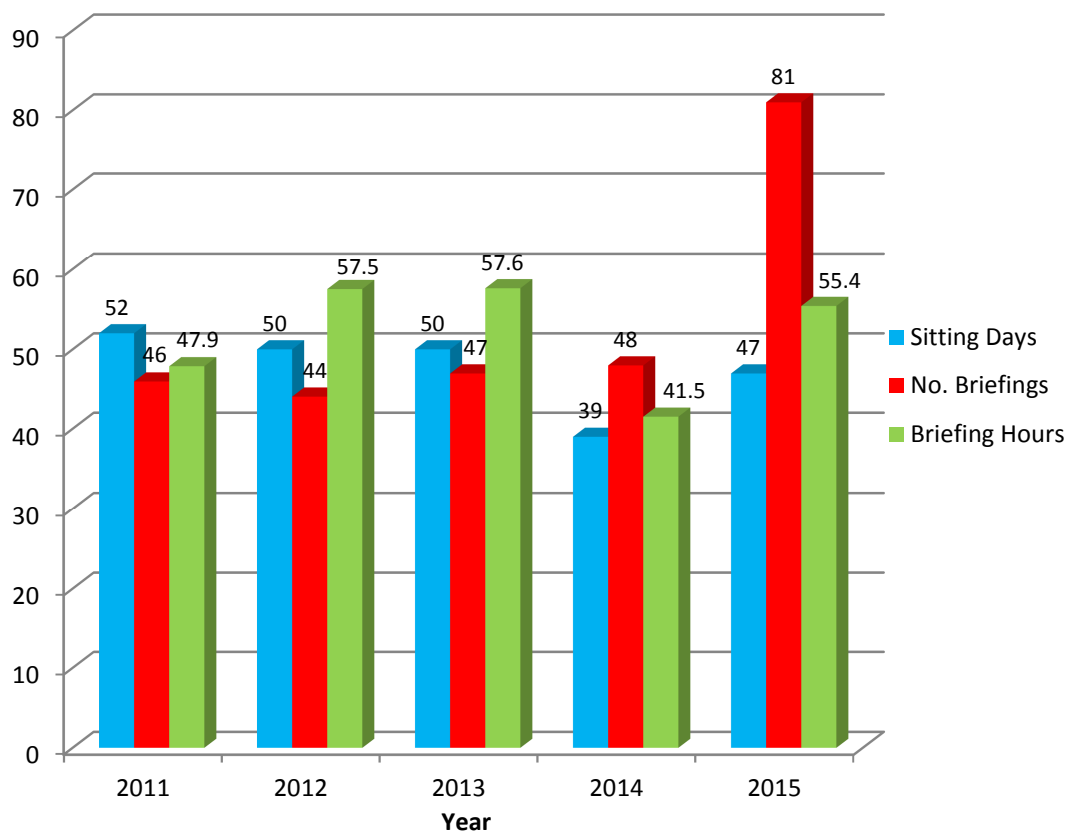
TIME SPENT IN 2015-16 GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT TIME



TIME SPENT DURING SITTING DAYS 2011-12 TO 2015-16



Briefings Comparison 2011 - 2015



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL

	Forty-Seventh Parliament First Session continued 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011	Forty-Seventh Parliament First Session continued 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012	Forty-Seventh Parliament First Session 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	Forty-Seventh Parliament First Session continued 1 July 2013 to 12 February 2014	Forty-Eighth Parliament First Session 6 May 2014 to 30 June 2014	Forty-Eighth Parliament First Session 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	Forty-Eighth Parliament First Session 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
SITTING DAYS ¹	41	54	50	30	11	44	42
HOURS OF SITTING ²	169	235	229	160	24	197	177
BILLS AMENDED	11	15	13	13	0	10	14
BILLS PASSED	61	69	52	47	5	45	50
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	40	82	31	16	13	38	30
PETITIONS	4	7	12	4	0	9	1
SUBSTANTIVE MOTIONS	35	38	36	13	14	41	36
MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	1	1	2	0	0	0	3
DIVISIONS	11	13	17	23	3	36	23
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
MOTIONS FOR THE DISALLOWANCE OF REGULATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Does not include Estimates Committees meeting days

² Does not include Briefing Time

PASSAGE OF BILLS

	4 May 2010 to 30 June 2010	1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011	1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	1 July 2013 to 12 February 2014	6 May 2014 to 30 June 2014	1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
INTRODUCED	12	70	67	63	48	10	46	57
LAPSED	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
NEGATIVED AT SECOND READING	-	-	1	1	2	-	1	1
PASSED	7	61	69	52	47	5	45	50
WITHOUT AMENDMENT	6	50	54	39	34	5	35	36
WITH AMENDMENT	1	11	15	13	13	-	10	14
NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS	2	44	39	126	139	-	139	124

DEPARTMENT OUTPUTS

SUMMARY AND DESCRIPTION

OUTPUT GROUP 1:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SUPPORT SERVICES

OUTPUT SUMMARY

- 1.1 - Procedural, administrative and research support and advice to the President and Members.
- 1.2 - Committee Support Services.

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION

Services provided under this Output Group include —

- procedural, administrative and research support and advice to the President and Members of the Legislative Council;
- assistance to Members of the Legislative Council in order that they are able to execute their duties and responsibilities as elected representatives of the people of Tasmania;
- tabling of Legislative Council Sessional, Standing, Select and Parliamentary Joint Select Committee reports on a variety of subject specific matters agreed to by Resolution of the Council;
- the continuing statutory obligations of the four Joint Parliamentary Standing Committees; and
- the administration of travel and research and equipment support allowances to Members.

Outcomes to be achieved from this Output Group are as follows:—

- the continuing lawful and constitutional operation of the Legislative Council;
- the provision of quality and timely advice on Parliamentary practice and procedure to the President and Members;
- the provision of a full range of services to directly support the functioning of the Council during ordinary sittings and to support its Sessional, Standing and Select Committees;
- the provision of quality and timely research and information to Members;
- the provision of accommodation and office services to Members so as to enable the efficient and effective discharge of their Parliamentary and representational responsibilities; and
- the effective financial management of the Council in accordance with statutory requirements and other instructions.

**OUTPUT GROUP 2:
PAYMENTS ADMINISTERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

OUTPUT SUMMARY

2.1 - Salaries, allowances and entitlements of elected Members of the Legislative Council.

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION

This Output Group specifically provides for the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Legislative Council as prescribed in the *Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012*.

Activities undertaken as part of this Output Group include —

- the consideration of legislative and other measures presented to the Legislative Council; and
- the passage of statute law in Tasmania.

The Legislative Council's outputs are largely demand driven by the Government's legislative program, the Council itself in its Resolutions, Committees and Members.

The Legislative Council's services are delivered in accordance with certain general standards.

These standards seek to ensure that:—

- procedural advice conforms to Standing Order provisions, President's rulings and practices of the Council and its Committees;
- procedural advice is provided to meet the priorities of the Council and its Committees and within time frames agreed with Members;
- the preparation necessary for the Council and its Committees to meet and carry out their programmed business is undertaken enabling them to meet as scheduled, with the necessary papers and undertake their activities having regard to the Standing Orders and established Council practices as they relate specifically to House and Committee activity;
- all documents, papers and other House records are held in safekeeping by the Clerk of the Council and his office;
- information provided to other Agencies and those individuals and groups who have a connection with the Council is provided in a timely manner and is accurate;
- the administration of Members' entitlements is carried out efficiently and in accordance with prescribed legislation and other relevant determinations as varied from time to time;
- adequate levels of personal staff support with appropriate skills are provided to Members in order to assist them to efficiently and effectively discharge their range of duties and responsibilities as elected Members of Parliament.

Each Member of the Legislative Council who does not hold a Parliamentary office has personal staff support funded to the level of one full-time equivalent employee.

HOUSE AND RELATED MATTERS

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The boundaries of the current 15 electoral divisions were determined by the Legislative Council Redistribution Tribunal during 2007/08. Under the *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995* the enrolment of each Legislative Council division is determined as at the last day of January, April, July and October of each year and are published in the Gazette and in the three daily newspapers circulating generally in the State. Elections are conducted on a six year periodic cycle. Elections for three Members are held in May in one year, with elections for two Members held in May the following year and so on. Voting in Legislative Council elections is compulsory.

Legislative Council elections for two divisions, Apsley and Elwick were held on Saturday, 7 May 2016.

Four candidates contested the Apsley election. The incumbent Member the Honourable Tania Rattray was returned with just over fifty three per cent of formal votes cast after preferences. Ms Rattray was first elected in May 2004.

Three candidates contested the Elwick election with the incumbent Member, Adriana Taylor being defeated by Josh Willie, an Australian Labor Party candidate who also secured just over fifty three per cent of the vote after preferences.

The two successful Members were duly sworn on Tuesday, 24 May 2016.

BILLS INTRODUCED BY LEADER

Whilst Government Bills have previously and can be firstly introduced into the Legislative Council it is not done often. During the reporting year the Leader of the Government introduced four Bills only into the Council. Those Bills were the Kennerley Trust Bill 2015; the Guardianship and Administration Amendment Bill 2015; the Motor Accidents (Liabilities and Compensation) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Health Practitioners Tribunal Amendment Bill 2015. These Bills were all introduced on the same day and following their consideration, in accordance with Standing Order provisions, were duly passed. The House of Assembly also agreed to all four Bills, however there was some criticism levelled that these Government Bills should have been firstly introduced into the Assembly as the Assembly was the House of government.

SENATE CASUAL VACANCY – JOINT SITTING

As a result of the resignation of Senator Christine Milne on 10 August 2015 Her Excellency the Governor advised both Presiding Officers of a vacancy in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. In accordance with provisions contained in the Australian Constitution a Joint Sitting of both Houses of the Parliament of Tasmania was agreed for the morning of Wednesday, 19 August 2015 for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold the vacant place in the Senate.

The rules for the Joint Sitting were agreed by the two Houses on Tuesday, 18 August 2015.

Following the Joint Sitting the President formally advised the Council that Nicholas James McKim had been duly chosen to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by Christine Milne's resignation.

YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS

On Tuesday 13 October 2015 the President welcomed to the Chamber the 32nd Delegation of Young Political Leaders from the United States of America. The delegation were in Australia as part of the Australian Political Exchange Council's work in sponsoring political exchanges with the Peoples Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Thailand and the United States. The exchanges provide a great opportunity for international delegates to learn about Australia's political system and further their understanding of the social and economic issues which confront Australia.

The delegation witnessed proceedings in the Legislative Council and had an opportunity to speak with Members.

The delegation, in addition to visiting Tasmania, also visited Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane as part of their exchange to Australia.

LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (TASMANIAN PLANNING SCHEME) BILL 2015

One of the more significant pieces of legislation dealt with by the Legislative Council during the reporting year was the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Scheme) Bill 2015 which was debated in principle in the Legislative Council on Wednesday, 28 October 2015. The introduction of a state wide planning scheme was a key election commitment of the Government. The Bill's provisions aimed to deliver a consistent approach to the planning controls that apply across the State, providing greater certainty for investors and the community about what types of use and development can occur. The Bill sought to ensure that local planning matters can be adequately catered for and that a balance between consistency and meeting local planning needs could be achieved.

The Bill provided for the structure of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which consists of State Planning Provisions and a Local Provisions Schedule that applies in each municipal area. The Legislative Council considered the Bill in Committee on Thursday, 29 October 2015 and agreed to the Bill with five Amendments and two New Clauses on Thursday, 12 November 2015 after again resolving into a Committee to consider a further Amendment by way of a New Clause which was subsequently Negatived on Division.

The Bill received the Royal Assent on 4 December 2015.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILL – FIRE SERVICE AMENDMENT (FIRE INFRINGEMENT NOTICES)

The introduction of Private Members Bills into the Council does not occur often notwithstanding that Bills can be introduced into both Houses of the Parliament by private Members.

The only Private Members Bill introduced during the reporting period was the Fire Service Amendment (Fire Infringement Notices) Bill 2015 which was brought up on 17 November 2015 by the Honourable Mike Gaffney, the Member representing the Division of Mersey.

The Bill was a long time in the making as private Members do not have the same resources available to them as the Government however with this particular Bill the Government did allow the Member to utilise the services of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel in drafting the Bill.

A great deal of research and time went into the drafting of the provisions of the Bill which involved considerable engagement by the Member and his staff with the key stakeholders. The Bill provided the Tasmania Fire Service with a greater range of appropriate options to address small-scale fire offending including diversionary and educational methods to deal with offending behaviour. Other key outcomes of the legislation were to raise community awareness about the importance of individual fire safety obligations with the ultimate aim of reducing the amount of fire-related offences in the State.

The Bill was debated in the Council on Tuesday, 5 April 2016 and the second reading agreed with Amendments being agreed during the Committee stage. All Amendments were moved by the Honourable Member for Mersey. The Bill was read the Third time on that same day. The House of Assembly considered the Bill on 24 May 2016 and it passed that House on that day. It received the Royal Assent on 10 June 2016. (Act No. 8 of 2016)

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2002

It is a requirement for the Legislative Council to comply with the reporting requirements of s.86 of the above Act. 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 below:

(a)	Information as to how persons may obtain or access copies of the current procedures established by the public body under the Act.	None
(b)	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
(c)	The number of disclosures determined by the relevant public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year.	None
(d)	The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman.	None
(e)	The number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate.	None
(f)	The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year.	None
(g)	The number and types of disclosed matters that the relevant public body has declined to investigate during the year.	None
(h)	The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation.	None
(i)	Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the relevant public body.	None

PARLIAMENTARY SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES

As noted in the Legislative Council's previous Annual Report the Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Amendment Bill passed the Parliament in June 2015 and included provision for the Full Bench of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission to determine future increases in the basic salary of Members of the Tasmanian Parliament beyond 30 June 2016. In addition the Bill also provided for the Commission to:

- (i) review and determine the amounts of any additional salary payable to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers of the Crown, Secretary to Cabinet and Certain Officers of the Parliament provided for in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Act and any other offices that the Commission may decide to include for this purpose;
- (ii) review and determine the amounts of allowances and benefits provided for in Schedule 2 of the Act; and
- (iii) consider whether the entitlement of, and benefits provided to, MPs (other than the basic salary, additional salary, or superannuation) provided for in Schedule 2 of the Act remain appropriate to the needs of such Members (this allows new allowances to be considered or existing allowances to be stopped).

In making a determination the Commission had to specify a due date for the next determination to be made. The period of a determination may extend beyond one year (but not be for a lesser period).

The Bill provided that a determination of the Commission would be implemented automatically unless within 10 sitting days of the determination being Tabled (or within a longer period if a House so resolves), both Houses pass a resolution that the determination be disallowed (and so not be implemented).

If a determination is not disallowed, the Commission is required to gazette a notice setting out the determination and specify the amounts of the basic salary, additional salary payable to the Premier, Deputy Premier, Ministers of the Crown, Secretary to Cabinet and Certain Officers of the Parliament, and the allowances and benefits to which MPs are entitled.

The determination of the Full Bench of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission was made in February 2016 and the Report containing the determination was Tabled in the Legislative Council on Friday 11 March 2016.

The determination was, on a Motion moved by the Government, disallowed in the House of Assembly on Tuesday 26 April 2016.

On Wednesday, 25 May 2016 the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council also moved the following Motion —

That this House disallow, in accordance with section 3G of the Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances Act 2012, the determination contained in the February 2016 report of the Full Bench of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission into Parliamentary salaries and allowances.

The Motion was negatived in the Legislative Council on Division – 8 Noes, 6 Ayes. As a result of that decision the determination of the Industrial Commission had lawful application. The determination was subsequently gazetted on 22 June 2016.

GOVERNMENT BRIEFINGS

Although not unique to the Parliament of Tasmania, briefings of Members arranged by the Leader's Office have become one of the methods by which Members of the Council may inform themselves of various matters being promoted by the Government. The device, although not formally part of the Standing Orders, has developed due to two factors: the political composition of the Legislative Council, which has always had a majority of Independent Members; and the increased complexity of legislation. Due to the absence of any official caucusing by Independents, 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 deal with complex or contentious issues.

Members are briefed by the various parties involved or interested in the issue; generally this will include Government departments, lobby groups and sometimes private individuals. By this method Members can obtain information and clarification more quickly than could normally occur in the Chamber. Though briefings have their advantages in usually speeding up the process of legislating, there are two 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 as a rule are not minuted or 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.

The sittings of the Council are often suspended, on motion by the Leader, to enable a briefing on a Bill or other matter to be undertaken prior to, or even during, consideration of a Bill or matter.

Briefings can take up a significant portion of a sitting day. Briefings, although not compulsory, are well attended by Members.

Briefing time is not included in the official statistics for a sitting day. The trend in the use of briefings is unlikely to abate, though a more formal structure with provision in the Standing Orders for this procedure would provide the protection of absolute privilege afforded to a proceeding in parliament.

By Resolution of the Council briefing sessions may be recorded and a transcript provided to all Honourable Members.

Details of briefings conducted are as follows:—

	Briefing	Date
1	Co-ordinator-General	19 August 2015
2	Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2015 (No. 15)	19 August 2015
3	Kennerley Trust Bill 2015 (No. 29)	19 August 2015
4	Guardianship and Administration Bill 2015 (No. 30)	19 August 2015
5	Motor Accidents (Liabilities and Compensation) Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 32)	19 August 2015
6	Health Practitioners Tribunal Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 33)	19 August 2015
7	Commissioner for Children	20 August 2015
8	Health Amendment (Fees Validation) Bill 2015 (No. 35)	26 August 2015
9	Racing Stakes Funding	26 August 2015
10	Electoral Amendment (Legislative Council Ballot Papers) Bill 2015 (No. 36)	27 August 2015
11	Justice and Related Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015 (No. 26)	27 August 2015

12	Review of Education Act	16 September 2015
13	Family Violence Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 28)	16 September 2015
14	Parliament Square Planning Permit Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 38)	17 September 2015
15	Update on Specialty Timbers	23 September 2015
16	Terrorism Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015 (No. 43)	23 September 2015
17	Law Officers (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2015 (No. 44)	24 September 2015
18	Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 40)	24 September 2015
19	Criminal Code Amendment (Second or Subsequent Appeal for Fresh and Compelling Evidence) Bill 2015 (No. 42)	14 October 2015
20	Industrial Hemp Bill 2015 (No. 47)	14 October 2015
21	Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Scheme) Bill 2015 (No. 45)	15 October 2015
22	Biosecurity Notice of Motion	27 October 2015
23	Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Tasmanian Planning Scheme) Bill 2015 (No. 45)	28 October 2015
24	Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 52)	11 November 2015
25	Macquarie Point Development Corporation Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 53)	11 November 2015
26	Liquor Licensing Amendment Bill 2015 (No. 48)	12 November 2015
27	Fairer Funding (Gonski)	18 November 2015
28	Financial Management Bill 2015 (No. 41)	19 November 2015
29	Basslink (Hobart)	27 January 2016
30	Basslink (Launceston)	3 February 2016
31	Corrections Amendment (Treatment of Sex Offenders) Bill 2015 (No. 56)	15 March 2016
32	Review of Education Act	16 March 2016
33	Tasmanian Community Fund	16 March 2016
34	Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2015 (No. 59)	17 March 2016
35	Energy Issues	17 March 2016
36	Fire Service Amendment (Fire Infringement Notices) Bill 2015 (No. 58)	5 April 2016
37	Consolidated Fund Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2015-2016) Bill 2016 (No. 7)	6 April 2016
38	Homes Amendment Bill 2016 (No. 6)	6 April 2016
39	Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill 2016 (No. 1)	6 April 2016
40	Theatre Royal Project	7 April 2016
41	Public Sector Superannuation Reform Bill 2016 (No. 3)	7 April 2016
42	Theatre Royal Precinct Redevelopment Bill 2016 (No. 23)	25 May 2016
43	Building Bill 2016 (No. 9)	26 May 2016
44	Police Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2016 (No. 14)	2 June 2016
45	Education Act Review	22 June 2016
46	Sentencing Amendment (Drug Treatment Orders) Bill 2016 (No. 31)	22 June 2016
47	Crimes (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill 2016 (No. 24)	22 June 2016

FAMILY MEMBERS PROVIDING SUPPORT IN MEMBERS' OFFICES

In accordance with the Legislative Council's policy relating to the paid engagement of family members to provide electorate office support effective from 1 January 2008 it is a requirement that such approvals, if any, by the President, be reported in the Annual Report.

During the reporting period there were no approvals for the engagement of family members.

ELECTORATE FAMILIARISATION TOUR

An electorate tour of the Montgomery Electorate was undertaken during the reporting year. Fourteen Members of the Legislative Council undertook the tour on 17 and 18 February 2016. The program included the following visits: —

- Direct Edge Manufacturing
- Lion Cheese Factory
- Hellyer Road Distillery
- Emu Valley Rhodo Gardens
- Blyth/Dial Irrigation
- Costas Berry Exchange Farm
- Gunns Plains Dairy Farm
- Wings Wildlife Park
- Cradle Coast Olives

DEPARTMENT STAFF

STAFF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Full-Time Equivalent Employees as at 30/6/2016 – 27)

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL	MR DAVID PEARCE
DEPUTY CLERK	MRS SUE MCLEOD
CLERK-ASSISTANT AND USHER OF THE BLACK ROD AND SECRETARY – JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	MR STUART WRIGHT
MANAGER – FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES	MRS NICOLE MULLER
SECRETARY – JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS	MS GABRIELLE WOODS
ASSISTANT COMMITTEE SECRETARIES	MS NATASHA EXEL MRS JENNY MANNERING
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER – BILLS AND PAPERS	MR MARK BAILY
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER - FINANCE	MR CRAIG THORP
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CLERK	MRS SANDRA PHILLIPS
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS	MISS JULIE THOMPSON MS ALLISON WADDINGTON
PARLIAMENTARY ADVISER TO THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT	MS MANDY JENKINS
ELECTORATE OFFICERS	MR MATHEW BLUNT MS JUDELLE BOWDEN MS DEBBIE CLEAVER MS ELLI COLEMAN MS KAY EASTLEY MS JODIE LOWE MR ALEX MCKENZIE MRS YVONNE MURFET MS MELISSA PARTRIDGE MS AMANDA PEPPER MS BONNIE PHILLIPS MS MEGAN RODGER MS KAREN SHIRLEY MS SUZIE SOMANN-CRAWFORD MS DAWN VALLANCE MS ALLISON WADDINGTON MS LUCINDA WILDEBOER MS MEGHAN WINDRAM
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICER – SUPPORT SERVICES (CASUAL)	MR LEIGH MATTHEWS
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER	MS SHIRLEY ROUND

INDUSTRIAL AGREEMENT

The current Legislative Council Staff Industrial Agreement was agreed between the parties and filed with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission in March 2009.

The Agreement applies to all relevant persons employed under the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898* in the Legislative Council.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Relations Act 1984*, *Industrial Relations Regulations 1984*, and the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898* as subsequently amended, the President of the Legislative Council, as Controlling Authority of the Legislative Council and the CPSU agree *inter alia* that —

As minimum conditions of service the President shall observe, as though bound by, the terms and conditions of employment of the following Awards and Agreements of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission —

- (i) the *Tasmanian State Service Award* (S085); and
- (ii) includes the Tasmanian State Service Union Agreement 2008 and any previous or successor agreements however titled.

The Agreement known as the Legislative Council Staff Agreement 2009, has been operative from the first full pay period on or after 5 March 2009 and remains in force until varied between the parties to the Agreement.

An Order of the Commission provided for an Award variation of 2 per cent in December 2015. This followed 2 per cent increases in December 2013 and 2014.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE AWARDS

From a staff perspective one of the more significant functions held once again during the reporting year was the presentation by the President and Speaker of Parliamentary Service Awards.

The Awards recognise those employees across both Houses and the Joint Services areas who have served the Parliament of Tasmania for a period of 15 years or more. Permanent, part-time and casual staff are all eligible to receive awards under the scheme. Certificates of Service were presented along with a gift voucher to each eligible member of staff. Service awards are presented each year at a function held during the month of December.

Service of 15 years has been determined as the base for an award with additional service to be recognized in five-year increments thereafter.

The decision by the Joint Presiding Officers and Clerks to continue to support a Parliamentary Service Award Scheme is seen as a fitting way to recognise and reward officers of the Parliament who had served for long periods with dedication, enthusiasm and loyalty.

One of the Parliament's goals is to attract and retain a highly skilled and motivated team, to recognise the contribution of its employees and to encourage them to develop and perform to their fullest capabilities. The fact that many staff have long years of service and have made a career working in the Parliament and progressing to senior positions within the Parliamentary system, demonstrates that this goal has been achieved.

The awards presentation function was extremely well attended and feedback from those who attended continues to be extremely positive. The award concept continues to be well received by all employees.

The Tasmanian Parliament follows other Australian parliamentary jurisdictions who have in place similar award schemes.

The certificates of service which were presented were enthusiastically received as they represented a permanent record of service to the Parliament and an acknowledgement of the high regard which the Presiding Officers have for those award recipients.

The Tasmanian Parliament looks very much forward to the next Parliamentary Service Award ceremony which is scheduled for December 2016.

MEETING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTORATE OFFICERS AND STAFF

The annual meeting of Electorate Officers and other Legislative Council Staff was held in Launceston on Friday, 31 July 2015.

The meeting of Legislative Council Electorate Officers and Executive Assistants provides an opportunity for staff from regional offices around the State to meet with colleagues based at Parliament House to discuss a range of matters associated with their work in supporting the elected Members of the Legislative Council and the work of the Legislative Council generally as a constituent part of the Parliament. The meeting was well attended.

Red Cross conducted a training course on Mental Health First Aid and Work Skills. The training was well received with staff to complete an extended certificate course during the 2016 calendar year.

Housing Tasmania's Area Manager (North) provided an information session regarding public housing availability and the best way for staff to assist constituents.

General Meeting Topics – Peter Hancox, Manager - Parliamentary Computer and Electronic Services, and Systems Officer, Brett Godfrey discussed duress alarms, Network Attach Storage (NAS) in each office and provided an update on the video conferencing and TIPT Services.

The Deputy Clerk, Sue McLeod gave an overview of the Legislative Council regional offices data collection process. It was agreed that each Legislative Council Electorate Officer would provide to the Deputy Clerk a summary of the activities/contacts for each quarter.

Nicole Muller discussed matters relating to human resources and finance systems.

The next meeting will be held in Hobart in December 2016.

SUPERANNUATION SCHEMES

The Table below provides detail of the level of superannuation fund choice being exercised by staff of the Legislative Council —

Superannuation Schemes	Number of employees for whom employer superannuation contributions are made (as at 30 June 2016)
RBF defined benefit scheme	7
Tasmanian Accumulation Scheme (TAS)	16
Other complying superannuation schemes	10
Total	33

As indicated in the Table there were ten Legislative Council employees who were members of an alternative complying superannuation scheme during the period up to 30 June 2016.

DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The benefits available to staff through attendance at specialised courses is recognised and every encouragement is made to allow selected staff the opportunity to attend appropriate courses. Development of both new and existing skills ensures a continued high standard in the delivery of service to Members and other clients of the Legislative Council.

The Council's Clerks-at-the-Table are members of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table (ANZACATT). That Association conducts annual professional development seminars in various parliamentary jurisdictions throughout Australia and New Zealand. The Legislative Council is represented at these seminars whenever possible.

The Legislative Council is also able to nominate officers to undertake the Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Program (PLPPP) which was for the first time conducted in July 2009 by the University of Tasmania who were successful in their tender bid. From its inception in 2004 through to 2008 the course was delivered by the Queensland University of Technology. The course is conducted with the agreement of ANZACATT. This program provides an overview of the constitutional and legal frameworks underpinning Australia and New Zealand's parliamentary systems.

The Legislative Council was represented at the 2015 course by Ms Gabrielle Woods, Secretary to the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts.

Other courses of training were attended by selected staff during the reporting period. In addition the tenth annual meeting of Electorate Officers, Executive Assistants and other Legislative Council officers was held in Launceston in July 2015.

In-house induction programs are conducted and training for new members of staff appointed both at Parliament House and in the Regional Electorate Offices is undertaken through an orientation session. The Legislative Council's Manager of Finance and Human Resources, Mrs Nicole Muller, undertakes ongoing professional development as a Registered Member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. Mrs Muller is also currently undertaking an MBA in Human Resource Management through the University of Tasmania which will be completed in 2017.

PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

A Performance Development and Review System has been developed for staff of the Legislative Council located at Parliament House and the first stage of implementation was completed prior to Christmas in 2015.

This first stage required supervisors to meet with their staff to establish job expectations and to identify performance objectives for the next twelve months. These objectives were ascertained in accordance with the staff member's Statement of Duties.

Supervisors and staff have responded favourably to this new system as it provides both with an opportunity to discuss roles and responsibilities and to address any issues arising.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY

The Legislative Council administration continues to pursue a cooperative approach to decision making. The small numerical staff size of the Legislative Council allows for direct and immediate consultation between executive officers and staff. Should they be required, more formal channels are available to resolve disputes. These channels are accessible by all staff and are clearly prescribed in the Legislative Council Staff Industrial Agreement.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Occupational health and safety is a principal management consideration. Appropriate equipment, facilities and programs are provided to ensure the ongoing safety and well-being of staff.

Elements of Occupational Health and Safety have been addressed through —

- the maintenance of plant and equipment through a single maintenance contract; and
- the progressive removal and upgrading of engineering services throughout the building complex as part of the continuing works program on site.

Additional Occupational Health and Safety issues such as work practices and the provision of ergonomically designed facilities remain a focus.

The working conditions of elected Members and officers in the Legislative Council Chamber continues to be a priority with a funding submission presently with Treasury.

ELECTORATE OFFICES

The Legislative Council is responsible for the electorate offices of Members. The offices are located in various areas of the State and are staffed by electorate officers appointed by the President in accordance with the provisions of the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898*. Electorate Officers play a vital role in the support of Members of the Legislative Council and the constituents who they represent across the fifteen electoral divisions.

In terms of electorate office staff, the 15 Legislative Council Members have funding available equivalent to the cost of one full-time equivalent (FTE) employee at Band 4 of the Tasmanian State Service Award – General Stream.

The Leader of the Government, Hon Vanessa Goodwin MLC, has her staff support in her Parliamentary Office provided by a full time permanent staff member of the Legislative Council. She is also supported by a full time permanent staff member of the Legislative Council in the Pembroke regional office in Bellerive.

The main electorate office overhead costs continue to be funded from provisions made available in the budget of Legislature-General.

The Legislative Council's budget is required to meet other electorate office costs. These include communications, equipment for staff, the provision of other office equipment, stationery and other sundry items. The Legislative Council also meets the cost of temporary staff required to support the office during times when staff members are on leave.

The Members for Hobart and Nelson currently have electorate offices based at Parliament House.

The Members for Launceston, Windermere and Rosevears are all located on the 4th Floor of the Henty House building in Launceston. The remaining ten Member of the Legislative Council have individual offices located in their electorates. Offices are located in Deloraine, Devonport, Wynyard, Scottsdale, Moonah, New Norfolk, Bellerive, Huonville, Ulverstone and Sorell.

Electorate offices continue to operate very successfully in the Legislative Council. The electorate offices have increased the profile of Members and awareness of the role of the Legislative Council. Constituents have expressed appreciation that their elected representatives in the Legislative Council are located within the electorate and are accessible.

Constituents are becoming increasingly aware of the service and support being provided by Legislative Council electorate officers. Our electorate officers have treated all constituents and others entering the offices with the utmost respect and courtesy. It is expected that the activity level and resource requirements will not reduce.

Judgments will continue to be made into the future by Members in relation to staff hours and presence in the electorate offices. Decisions are made in light of available funding and Members' decisions with regard their mix of staff and other external research providers.

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 constituents.

The reporting year saw an increase in contact with constituents namely through increasing awareness of the electorate offices, social media and the website. The issues and areas of interest and concern throughout the reporting year have been many and varied.

Common themes and issues identified by Electorate Officers were as follows:—

- Sponsorships/Grants
- Local Government
- Roads and Transport
- Policing
- Housing
- Taswater
- Health Services
- Gaming
- NBN
- School Starting Age

- Energy Crisis
- Environmental Matters
- Legislation – Tobacco Free Generation; Uber; Parliamentary Salaries, Building; Education Review

As the present Government's legislative reform program continues to be rolled out it is expected that the presence of electorate offices and our staff who support our elected Upper House representatives will continue to be valuable.

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEES: STATUTORY IN NATURE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Public Accounts Committee is a joint standing committee of the Tasmanian Parliament established under the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* (the Act) and is administered by the Legislative Council.

The Committee consists of six Members of Parliament, three are Members of the Legislative Council and three Members of the House of Assembly.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with section 6 of the Act, the Committee:

- must 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; or
 - the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest;
- may inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on:
 - any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate; and
 - any matter referred to the Committee by the Auditor-General.

Under the *Audit Act 2008* the Committee also has responsibilities with regard to the appointment of the Auditor-General, the development of the Auditor-General's Annual Plan and the periodic review of the Tasmanian Audit Office.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Committee operations combine self-initiated inquiries and referred inquiries. The Committee receives submissions and conducts briefings and hearings on such matters as required. Results of inquiries are presented in reports that are Tabled in both Houses of Parliament. The reports are available to the public and published on the Committee website <http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Joint/pacc.htm>.

During 2015-16 the Committee met on twenty seven occasions and has Tabled the following reports:

- Report No 24 of 2015: Government funding of Australian Rules Community Football in Tasmania was Tabled in Parliament on 13 October 2015.
- Report No 26 of 2015: Review of Auditor-General's Special Report No. 95: Fraud Control was Tabled in Parliament on 29 October 2015.
- Report No 33 of 2015: Review of the Tasmanian Auditor-General's Report No. 10 of 2013-14: Government Radio Communications was Tabled in Parliament on 19 November 2015.

- Annual Report 2014-15 was Tabled in Parliament on 19 November 2015.

The Committee is currently working on a number of matters which include:

- A self-initiated inquiry into the financial position and performance of Government owned energy entities;
- A self-initiated inquiry to review the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*;
- A follow-up review of Auditor-General Special Reports:
 - No. 11 of 2013-14: *Compliance with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Plan 2008-13*;
 - No. 1 of 2013-14: *Fraud control in local government*;
 - No. 12 of 2013-14: *Quality of Metro Services*; and
 - No. 3 of 2014-15: *Motor vehicle fleet management in government departments*.
- A follow-up review of Public Works Committee approved project works including:
 - West Tamar Highway near Brady’s Lookout;
 - Mathinna/Evercreech Bridge Replacements;
 - Midland Highway, Symmons Plains and Bass Highway, North of Gannons Hill;
 - Murchison Highway Upgrades;
 - North West Freight Roads;
 - Rokeby Main Road;
 - Tarkine Forest Drive;
 - Three Capes Track;
 - North West Cancer Care Centre and Department of Emergency Medicine; and
 - Prisons Infrastructure Redevelopment Program, Stage D1.

The Committee continues to meet periodically with the Auditor-General and in accordance with section 11 of the *Audit Act 2008* reviewed and approved the Auditor-General’s Annual Plan of Work 2015-16.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – FORTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Mr Ivan Dean (Chair)
 Ms Ruth Forrest
 Mr Michael Gaffney (from 24 May 2016)
 Mrs Adriana Taylor (to 6 May 2016)

House of Assembly

Mr Scott Bacon
 Ms Sarah Courtney (Deputy Chair)
 Ms Joan Rylah

The Committee was assisted by the following Secretariat:

Committee Secretary:	Ms Gabrielle Woods
Executive Assistant:	Ms Allison Waddington
Research Officer:	Dr Bryan Stait

PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Committee is also established by Statute. It comprises three Members from the House of Assembly and two Members from the Legislative Council; the Secretary is a Table Officer in the House of Assembly and it is therefore administered by that House.

The function of the Committee is to report on every proposed public works which is estimated to cost at least \$5 million. The Committee is provided with plans, specifications and other related material from the relevant Department, and may also summon witnesses. It then reports back to the Parliament the results of its enquiries.

SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

The Subordinate Legislation Committee was established in 1969 by Statute. The Committee is comprised of three Members each from the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly - Ministers and Presiding Officers may not be members. It is administered by the Legislative Council.

The Committee's charter is to examine every Regulation, By-Law and Rule. Regulations comprise all subordinate legislation made by the Governor-in-Council but do not include Orders, Proclamations or Rules of the Supreme Court. By-Laws are those made by municipal councils, marine boards and other semi-government authorities. The Committee is also responsible for ensuring the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1992* is complied with, and the examination of other Instruments referred to it under the authority of an Act.

The Government Printer sends the Committee copies of all regulations as soon as they have been gazetted. Each municipality is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to provide the Committee with a copy of any new or amended By-Laws.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR

	Total
Meetings	9
Instruments	63
Briefings	12
Public Hearings	-
Reports Tabled	-

During the reporting year, the Committee held a total of nine (9) meetings. The Committee examined sixty three (63) instruments of subordinate legislation that had been published in the Government Gazette.

As part of the examination of these instruments, the Committee requested information from Ministers in writing, in relation to regulations imposing significant increases in fees, explanation of some provisions and other issues of concern. The majority of queries were resolved to the Committee's satisfaction using this mechanism to obtain further information.

During the year the Committee also received briefings from Departmental officers in relation to the following instruments –

- Public Health (Tobacco Sellers Licence) Amendment Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 5)
- Residential Tenancy Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 21)
- Burial and Cremation Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 33)
- Gaming Control (Infringement Notices) Amendment Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 63)
- Liquor Licensing (Fees) Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 64)
- Fisheries (Scalefish) Rules 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 68)
- Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Amendment Rules 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 69)
- Industrial Relations Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 93)
- Water Management Amendment Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 97)
- Water Management (Safety of Dams) Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 98)
- Racing (Bookmaker Betting) Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 105)
- Racing (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2015 (S.R. 2015, No. 106)

The briefings provided Members with further details and clarification of specific issues.

PROVISION OF DOCUMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATUTORY PROVISIONS

The Committee has continued to encounter difficulties at times in obtaining documentation, including relevant certificates, from some Departments and Local Government Authorities, in accordance with relevant statutory provisions. As a result of these difficulties, the Committee has experienced unreasonable delays in fulfilling its statutory functions in accordance with section 8 of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969*.

The Committee acknowledges the remedial work undertaken by the Department of Justice in response to concerns previously raised in relation to its performance with the Minister and Department Secretary. The Committee believes the Department of Justice is now fulfilling its statutory obligations in a manner that should be considered the standard for all Agencies to adopt as best practice in relation to the provision of information to the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – FORTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

Legislative Council

Ms Ruth Forrest MLC
 Mrs Leonie Hiscutt MLC (Deputy Chair)
 Ms Tania Rattray MLC (Chair)

House of Assembly

Mr Guy Barnett MP (*resigned 8/3/16*)
 Mr Roger Jaensch MP
 Ms Madeleine Ogilvie MP
 Mr Nic Street MP (*appointed 10/3/16*)

INTEGRITY

The *Integrity Commission Act 2009* received the Royal Assent on 17 December 2009. The Act by Proclamation of His Excellency the Governor, acting with the advice of the Executive Council, commenced from 1 December 2010.

Division 2 of Part 3 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity consisting of six Members of Parliament of whom three are to be Members of the Legislative Council.

Section 24 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* prescribes the functions and powers of the Joint Committee. By agreement between the Joint Presiding Officers and Clerks, the Joint Committee is administered by the House of Assembly. The Committee is, in accordance with the Act, to provide a Report of its proceedings and cause a copy of the Report to be laid before both Houses of Parliament.

The Joint Integrity Committee has the following functions:

- (a) to monitor and review the performance of the functions of an integrity entity;
- (b) to report to both Houses of Parliament, as it considers appropriate, on the following matters:
 - (i) matters relevant to an integrity entity;
 - (ii) matters relevant to the performance of an integrity entity's functions or the exercise of an integrity entity's powers;
- (c) to examine the annual reports of an integrity entity and any other report of an integrity entity and report to both Houses of Parliament on any matter appearing in or arising out of such reports;
- (d) to report to the Legislative Council or House of Assembly on any matter relevant to an integrity entity's functions that is referred to it by the Legislative Council or House of Assembly;
- (e) to review the functions, powers and operations of the Integrity Commission at the expiration of the period of 3 years commencing on the commencement of the applicable section of the Act and to Table in both Houses of Parliament a report regarding any action that should be taken in relation to the Act or the functions, powers and operations of the Integrity Commission;
- (f) to provide guidance and advice relating to the functions of an integrity entity under the Act;
- (g) to refer any matter to the Integrity Commission for investigation or advice;
- (h) to comment on proposed appointments to be made under section 14(1)(e), (f) or (g), section 15 and section 27 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009*.

The Joint Committee is not authorised to:

- (a) investigate any matter relating to a complaint that is being dealt with by the Integrity Commission; or

- (b) review a decision of the Integrity Commission to investigate, not investigate or discontinue an investigation or inquire into or not inquire into a particular complaint; or
- (c) make findings, recommendations, determinations or decisions in relation to a particular investigation or inquiry of a complaint that is being or has been dealt with by the Integrity Commission.

COMMITTEES

OVERVIEW

The Legislative Council has the power to appoint Members to form Committees for the purpose of investigating specific matters and reporting their findings to the House. With the need for expert technical advice, and the importance of giving all groups and individuals direct access to the Parliament, committees continue to perform an important function. The main types of committees are:

- (a) Statutory (Standing) Committees of both Houses;
- (b) Sessional Committees of both Houses;
- (c) Joint Select and Standing Committees of both Houses; and
- (d) Select and Sessional Committees of one House.

There are at present four Standing Committees of both Houses established by Statute. They are: the Public Works Committee, which investigates all major Government construction works; the Subordinate Legislation Committee, which examines all Government Regulations and local government by-laws; the Public Accounts Committee, which examines the manner in which public funds are spent and the Integrity Committee.

The two Joint Sessional Committees 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. Although these Committees operate almost continuously, they must, unlike Standing Committees, be reappointed at the commencement of each new session.

Two Legislative Council Sessional Committees, first appointed on 12 October 2010, were re-established on 27 May 2014, following the prorogation of the Parliament for the purposes of the State Election in March 2014, to inquire into and report on any matter relating to –

- (a) Any Bill or other matter referred to it by the Council;
- (b) The administration, processes, practices and conduct of any department, agency, Government Business Enterprise or State-owned Company; and
- (c) The administration, processes, practices and conduct of any other entity including those entities in which local government has an interest.

SELECT COMMITTEES – AN INVESTIGATORY FUNCTION

Notwithstanding the establishment of two Sessional Committees previously detailed, an important function of the Legislative Council has been the work carried out over time by its Select Committees. The Council's Standing Orders prescribe the way in which Select Committees operate. A Select Committee is formed by the Council agreeing to a motion moved by a Member for its establishment. A Select Committee can inquire into a Bill which is before the House or a matter which the House considers requires further investigation.

A Select Committee has a number of powers. It is able to summon witnesses to appear before it and call for such papers and records as it may require. All submissions, written or verbal, become the property of the Committee and in most instances cannot be made public until the Committee has reported to Parliament and Tabled the associated documents.

Witnesses are usually heard with open doors enabling the media and interested members of the public to attend but not participate in the proceedings. A Committee may however, when it considers necessary, meet behind closed doors and hear evidence in private.

Expenses associated with the activities of all Select Committees are met through funds appropriated from the Consolidated Fund and approved by the Parliament.

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE

The Committee met a total of ten times during the reporting period. The Committee did not hold any hearings in the 2015-6 financial year. The final report of the Committee was Tabled on 15 March 2016.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Legislative Council

Ms Ruth Forrest (Chair)
Mr Mike Gaffney
Mrs Adriana Taylor
Mr Rob Valentine

House of Assembly

Mr Guy Barnett
Mr Roger Jaensch
Ms Cassy O'Connor
Ms Rebecca White (Deputy Chair)

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON GREYHOUND RACING IN TASMANIA

The Committee was administered by the House of Assembly and was ongoing throughout the reporting period.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Legislative Council

Mr Mike Gaffney
Mr Tony Mulder (from 24 May 2016)
Ms Tania Rattray (Chair for part of the inquiry)
Mrs Adriana Taylor (to 6 May 2016) (Chair for part of the inquiry)
Mr Rob Valentine

GROWING TASMANIA'S ECONOMY

The Committee met once during the reporting period. The final report of the Committee was be Tabled in August 2015.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ms Rosemary Armitage
Mr Ivan Dean
Mr Greg Hall (Chair)
Mr Craig Farrell
Ms Tania Rattray (Deputy Chair)
Mrs Adriana Taylor

ESTIMATES COMMITTEES

2015-16 STATE BUDGET

The Legislative Council again agreed to the establishment of Estimates Committees which could not vote on, but could examine and report upon the proposed expenditures contained in the *Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bills (Nos 1 and 2) of 2016*, with such expenditures being considered on an output by output basis, including Grants, Subsidies and Loans and the Capital Investment Program.

The Resolution adopted by the Legislative Council on 25 May 2016 contained the following provisions:-

APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

That the Legislative Council establish two Estimates Committees and that Committee A shall consist of 6 members and Committee B shall consist of 6 members.

And that –

Mr Farrell
Ms Forrest
Mr Gaffney
Mr Hall
Mrs Hiscutt; and
Mr Mulder
be of Committee A

and

Mrs Armitage
Mr Dean
Mr Finch
Ms Rattray
Mr Valentine and
Mr Willie
be of Committee B

REPORTING DATE

That the Estimates Committees report upon the proposed expenditures contained in the Consolidated Fund Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) and budget papers by no later than 17 June 2016.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

And that the schedule emailed to Members on 25 May 2016 be adopted as the Estimates Committee timetable.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

On 29 October 2015 the Legislative Council again established two Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees to inquire into Government Businesses on 3 and 4 December 2015.

APPOINTMENT AND MEMBERSHIP

That the Legislative Council establish two Government Business Scrutiny Committees:

And that –

Mr *Armstrong*
Mr *Farrell*
Ms *Forrest*
Mr *Gaffney*
Mrs *Hiscutt*; and
Mr *Mulder*
be of Committee A

and

Mrs *Armitage*
Mr *Dean*
Mr *Finch*
Ms *Rattray*
Mrs *Taylor*, and
Mr *Valentine*
be of Committee B

The following businesses were scrutinised —

- *Forestry Tasmania*
- *Hydro Tasmania*
- *Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd*
- *TasNetworks Pty Ltd*
- *The Public Trustee*
- *TT Line Company Pty Ltd*

Committee A met on five occasions and Committee B on five occasions.

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE A

This Committee held its first meeting for the reporting year on 24 August 2015 with Hon Craig Farrell MLC as Chair and Hon Tony Mulder MLC as Deputy Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Robert Armstrong
Mr Craig Farrell (Chair)
Ms Ruth Forrest
Mr Mike Gaffney
Mrs Leonie Hiscutt
Mr Tony Mulder (Deputy Chair)

The Committee met a total of 28 times to 30 June 2016, including meetings and hearings related to the inquiries into the Public Health Amendment (Tobacco Free Generation) Bill, the Financial Sustainability of TasRail, the Retirement Benefits Fund Unfunded Superannuation Liability Fund and Wild Fallow Deer.

INQUIRIES

The Committee initiated two inquiries during the reporting period, and the Committee has two ongoing inquiries during the reporting period.

The details of these inquiries are listed below:

TOBACCO FREE GENERATION

On 24 March 2015, the Public Health Amendment (Tobacco Free Generation) Bill 2014 (No. 40) was referred by motion of the Legislative Council to Government Administration Committee A for further consideration and report. Hon Craig Farrell MLC was appointed as the Inquiry Chair. Hon Rob Valentine MLC was appointed as a Substitute Member for Hon Mike Gaffney MLC for the duration of the inquiry.

The Committee called for submissions in Tasmania's three daily papers on Saturday, 9 May 2015. Written submissions were due by close of business on Tuesday 9 June 2015.

During the reporting period the Committee held eight meetings in relation to this inquiry, including 1 day of targeted public hearings. At these hearings, five individuals gave verbal evidence to the Committee. Sixty-four submissions were received.

A final report is expected to be Tabled in July 2016. The Inquiry was ongoing at 30 June 2016.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF TASRAIL

This inquiry was commenced by resolution of the Committee's own motion on 26 May 2015. Hon Tony Mulder MLC was appointed as the Inquiry Chair and Hon Craig Farrell MLC was appointed Deputy Chair.

During the reporting period the Committee held ten meetings in relation to this inquiry including seven days of public hearings at which 18 witnesses presented verbal evidence. Twenty-one submissions were received. The Committee also conducted three site visits during the reporting period. The Inquiry was ongoing at 30 June 2016.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND UNFUNDED SUPERANNUATION LIABILITY FUND (SUB-COMMITTEE)

This inquiry was commenced by resolution of the Committee's own motion on 9 March 2016 to inquire into the increased employer contributions by the Government into RBF defined benefit schemes.

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC was appointed as the Inquiry Chair and Hon Leonie Hiscutt MLC was appointed Deputy Chair. The other Members of the Sub-Committee were Hon Craig Farrell MLC and Hon Mike Gaffney MLC.

The Inquiry was advertised in Tasmania's three daily regional newspapers. The Inquiry also directly contacted a number of persons and organisations with specific knowledge or expertise and invited them to provide evidence to the Inquiry.

During the reporting period the Sub-Committee held six meetings in relation this inquiry including two days of public hearings at which 12 witnesses presented verbal evidence. Nine submissions were received.

A final report is expected to be Tabled in the last half of the 2016 calendar year. The Inquiry was ongoing at 30 June 2016.

WILD FALLOW DEER

This inquiry was commenced by resolution of the Committee's own motion on 12 February 2016 to inquire into and report upon the wild fallow deer population in Tasmania. Hon Tony Mulder MLC was elected Chair of the inquiry and Hon Craig Farrell MLC was elected Deputy Chair.

During the reporting period the Committee held one meeting in relation to the inquiry (establishment meeting). The Committee called for submissions in Tasmania's three daily papers and the Tasmanian Country Newspaper on Saturday, 9 April 2016. Written submissions were due by close of business on Thursday 30 June 2016. Fifty-one submissions were received.

The Committee did not hold any hearings during the reporting period. The Inquiry was ongoing at 30 June 2016.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE B

The Committee held its first meeting for the reporting year on 15 September 2015 with Hon Tania Rattray MLC as Committee Chair and Hon Kerry Finch MLC as Deputy Chair.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr Rosemary Armitage (Deputy Chair from 24/5/16)
Mr Ivan Dean
Mr Kerry Finch (Deputy Chair to 24/5/16, Chair from 24/5/16)
Mr Greg Hall
Ms Tania Rattray (Chair to 24/5/16)
Mrs Adriana Taylor (to 6 May 2016)
Mr Rob Valentine
Mr Josh Willie (from 24/5/16)

The Committee met a total of five times from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

INQUIRIES

The Committee had two ongoing inquiries from the previous financial year. The Committee did not establish any new inquiries during the reporting period.

TASMANIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

This inquiry was commenced by resolution of the Committee's own motion on 6 November 2014 to inquire into and report upon the operations of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC was elected Chair of the inquiry and Hon Ivan Dean MLC was elected Deputy Chair.

During the reporting period 2014-15 the Committee held seven meetings in relation to the inquiry and held three days of public hearings at which twelve witnesses presented verbal evidence. Thirty-three submissions were received.

The Committee concluded its work and Tabled its Report on 26 April 2016.

BUILT HERITAGE TOURISM IN TASMANIA

This inquiry was commenced by resolution of the Committee's own motion on 6 November 2015 and a Sub-Committee was formed to inquire into the tourism value and potential of Tasmania's built heritage. Hon Rob Valentine MLC was elected Inquiry Chair and Hon Ivan Dean was elected Deputy Chair. The other Members of the Sub-Committee were Hon Kerry Finch MLC and Hon Adriana Taylor MLC.

During the reporting period 2014-15, the Sub-Committee held seventeen meetings in relation to the inquiry and seven days of public hearings at which 84 witnesses presented verbal evidence. Fifty-eight submissions were received. The Sub-Committee also conducted fourteen visits to heritage sites around Tasmania during the reporting period.

The Committee concluded its work and Tabled its Report on 12 February 2016.

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT SUMMARY

COMMITTEES/INQUIRIES CONCLUDED

Name of Committee	No. Meetings	Hearing Days	No. Submissions	No. Witnesses
Estimates Committee A (<i>established 25/5/16 and Report presented 17/6/16</i>)	6	4	-	-
Estimates Committee B (<i>established 25/5/16 and Report presented 17/6/16</i>)	7	4	-	-
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee A (<i>established 29/10/2015 and Report presented 14/12/2015</i>)	5	1	-	14
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee B (<i>established 29/10/2015 and Report presented 14/12/2015</i>)	5	1	-	13
Growing Tasmania's Economy	8	4	23	25
Preventative Health Care (<i>Established 29/10/2014 and Report presented 15/3/16</i>)	10	-	32	31
Tasmanian Electoral Commission (<i>Established 6/11/14 and Report presented 26/4/16</i>)	22	4	34	15
Built Heritage Tourism in Tasmania (<i>Established 6/11/14 and Report presented 12/2/16</i>)	24	15	58	48

SESSIONAL COMMITTEES/INQUIRIES COMMENCED AND ONGOING

Name of Committee	No. Meetings	Hearing Days	No. Submissions	No. Witnesses
Government Administration Committee A – Public Health Amendment (Tobacco Free Generation) Bill 2014 (<i>established 24/03/2015</i>)	3 8	 1	 64	 5
Financial Sustainability of TasRail (<i>established 26/05/2015</i>)	10	7	21	18
Wild Fallow Deer (<i>established 12/2/2016</i>)	1	-	51	-
RBF Unfunded Superannuation Liability Sub-Committee (<i>established.10 March 2016.</i>)	6	2	9	12
Government Administration Committee B	4			

STATISTICS FOR COMMITTEES 2015-16

Name of Committee	No. Meetings	Hearing Days	No. Submissions	No. Witnesses
Government Administration Committee A (<i>including Tobacco Free Generation, Financial Sustainability of TasRail, Wild Fallow Deer and RBF Unfunded Superannuation Liability</i>)	28	10	145	35
Government Administration Committee B (<i>including Tasmanian Electoral Commission, Built Heritage Tourism in Tasmania</i>)	25	7	91	10
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee A	5	1	-	14
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee B	5	1	-	13
Growing Tasmania's Economy	1	0	-	-

APPENDIX A
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
(as at 30 June 2016)

MEMBER	ELECTORATE DIVISION	PARTY
ARMITAGE, HON ROSEMARY LOIS <i>Third Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	LAUNCESTON	INDEPENDENT
ARMSTRONG, HON ROBERT HENRY	HUON	INDEPENDENT
DEAN, HON IVAN NOEL	WINDERMERE	INDEPENDENT
FARRELL, HON CRAIG MAXWELL	DERWENT	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY
FINCH, HON KERRY	ROSEVEARS	INDEPENDENT
FORREST, HON RUTH JANE <i>Second Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	MURCHISON	INDEPENDENT
GAFFNEY, HON MICHAEL VICTOR	MERSEY	INDEPENDENT
GOODWIN, DR THE HON VANESSA <i>Leader of the Government Attorney-General; Minister for Justice; Minister for Corrections; Minister for the Arts</i>	PEMBROKE	LIBERAL PARTY
HALL, HON GREGORY RAYMOND <i>Deputy President Chair of Committees</i>	WESTERN TIERS	INDEPENDENT
HISCUTT, HON LEONIE ANNE	MONTGOMERY	LIBERAL PARTY
MULDER, HON TONY	RUMNEY	INDEPENDENT
RATTRAY, HON TANIA VERENE <i>Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	APSLEY	INDEPENDENT
VALENTINE, HON ROBERT HENRY FRANCIS	HOBART	INDEPENDENT
WILKINSON, HON JAMES SCOTT <i>President</i>	NELSON	INDEPENDENT
WILLIE, HON JOSHUA BARTON	ELWICK	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

APPENDIX B

OFFICIAL VISITORS TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT
HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN HANAFY MAHMOUD EL-LAITHY

WEDNESDAY, 22 JULY 2015

- AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM
HIS EXCELLENCY MR JEAN-LUC BODSON

MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

APPENDIX C

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Financial Report of the Legislative Council for the period ending on 30 June 2016 including the Independent Audit Report.



Tasmanian Audit Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Tasmanian Parliament

Legislative Council

Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2016

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legislative Council (the Council), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016 and the statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the Clerk of the Council.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion the Council's financial statements:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, its financial position as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance, cash flows and changes in equity for the year then ended
- (b) are in accordance with the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* and Australian Accounting Standards.

The Responsibility of the Clerk for the Financial Statements

The Clerk of the Council is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Section 27 (1) of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990*. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based upon my audit. My audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

...1 of 2

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, I considered internal control relevant to the Clerk's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate to the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Clerk, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

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

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of Australian Auditing Standards and other relevant ethical requirements.

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.

Tasmanian Audit Office



Rod Whitehead
Auditor-General

Hobart
21 September 2016



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

p: +61 3 6212 2331 f: +61 3 6231 1849
Parliament of Tasmania, Hobart, TAS 7000
www.parliament.tas.gov.au

CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The accompanying financial statements of the Legislative Council are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management and Audit Act 1990* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2016 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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D T Pearce'.

D T Pearce
Clerk of the Legislative Council

12 August 2016

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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 and Audit Act 1990* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2016 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.



David Pearce

Clerk

12 August 2016

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Continuing operations				
Revenue and other income from transactions				
Revenue from Government				
Appropriation revenue - recurrent	3.1	6,497	6,661	6,705
Total revenue and other income from transactions		6,497	6,661	6,705
Expenses from transactions				
Employee benefits	4.1	5,859	6,017	6,044
Depreciation and amortisation	4.2	12	22	19
Supplies and consumables	4.3	580	511	611
Total expenses from transactions		6,451	6,550	6,674
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		46	111	31
Net result		46	111	31
Other Comprehensive Income				
Change in Asset Revaluation Reserve	8.1	-	(33)	107
Comprehensive Result		46	78	138

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 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Assets				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and deposits	9.1	-	-	-
Receivables	5.1	15	17	5
<i>Non-financial assets</i>				
Plant and equipment	5.2	1,620	1,726	1,732
Total assets		1,635	1,743	1,737
Liabilities				
Payables	6.1	60	63	48
Employee benefits	6.2	727	638	725
Total liabilities		787	701	773
Net assets (liabilities)		848	1,042	964
Equity				
Reserves	8.1	690	764	797
Accumulated funds		158	278	167
Total equity		848	1,042	964

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 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash inflows				
Appropriation receipts - recurrent		6,497	6,661	6,705
GST receipts		70	47	63
Total cash inflows		6,567	6,708	6,768
Cash outflows				
Employee benefits		(5,917)	(6,116)	(6,089)
GST Payments		(70)	(40)	(62)
Supplies and consumables		(580)	(552)	(617)
Total cash outflows		(6,567)	(6,708)	(6,768)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	9.2	-	-	-
Cash outflows				
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets		-	-	-
Total cash outflows		-	-	-
Net cash from (used by) investing activities		-	-	-
Net increase (decrease in cash and cash equivalents held		-	-	-
Cash and deposits at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-	-
Cash and deposits 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 of the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2015	797	167	964
Total comprehensive result	(33)	111	78
Balance as at 30 June 2016	764	278	1,042

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2014	690	136	826
Total comprehensive result	107	31	138
Balance as at 30 June 2015	797	167	964

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 2016

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Note 1 Council Output Schedules

1.1 Output Group Information

Comparative information has not been restated for external administrative restructures.

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

Output Group 1 – Legislative Council Support Services

	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
<i>Continuing operations</i>			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	3,431	3,438	3,533
Total revenue and other income from transactions	3,431	3,438	3,533
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	2,793	2,794	2,872
Depreciation and amortisation	12	22	19
Communications	-	98	115
Travel	-	69	73
Information technology	-	24	19
Other expenses	580	320	404
Total expenses from transactions	3,385	3,327	3,502
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	46	111	31
Expense by output			
Output group 1	3,385	3,327	3,502
Total	3,385	3,327	3,502
Net Assets			
Total assets deployed for Output Group 1		1,743	1,737
Total liabilities incurred for Output Group 1		(701)	(773)
Net assets deployed for Output group 1		1,042	964

Output Group 2 – Payments administered by the Legislative Council

	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
<i>Continuing operations</i>			
Revenue and other income from transactions			
Revenue from appropriation	3,066	3,223	3,172
Total revenue and other income from transactions	3,066	3,223	3,172
Expenses from transactions			
Parliamentary salaries and allowances	2,745	2,910	2,868
Parliamentary travelling allowances	281	254	253
Parliamentary Committee fees and allowances	40	59	51
Total expenses from transactions	3,066	3,223	3,172
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	-	-	-
Expense by output			
Output group 2	3,066	3,223	3,172
Total	3,066	3,223	3,172

Net Assets

Total assets deployed for Output Group 1
Total liabilities incurred for Output Group 1
Net assets deployed for Output group 1

-	-
-	-
-	-

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

	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Total comprehensive result of Output Groups	46	111	31
Change in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	(33)	107
Comprehensive result	46	78	138

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

	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Total net assets deployed for Output Groups	1,042	964
Reconciliation to net assets		
Assets unallocated to Output Groups	1,743	1,737
Liabilities unallocated to Output Groups	(701)	(773)
Net assets	1,042	964

Note 2 Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

Budget information refers to original estimates as disclosed in the 2015-16 Budget Papers and is not subject to audit.

Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of Budget estimate.

2.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Depreciation and amortisation	(a)	12	22	(10)	45.45
Supplies and consumables	(b)	580	511	69	11.89

Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income variances

(a) The increase in depreciation reflects the increase in Assets held by the Council.

(b) The decrease in supplies and consumables reflects the efficiency of operation of the Council.

2.2 Statement of Financial Position

Budget estimates for the 2015-16 Statement of Financial Position were compiled prior to the completion of the actual outcomes for 2015-16. As a result, the actual variance from the Original Budget estimate will be impacted by the difference between estimated and actual opening balances

for 2015-16. The following variance analysis therefore includes major movements between the 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016 actual balances.

	Note	Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000	Budget Variance \$'000	Actual Variance \$'000
Employee benefits	(a)	727	638	725	(89)	87

Notes to Statement of Financial Position variances

(a) The decrease in Employee benefits reflects the retirement of a number of employees who had accrued large amounts of long service leave.

2.3 Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
GST receipts	(a)	70	47	(23)	32.85
GST payments	(a)	(70)	(40)	30	42.85

Notes to Statement of Cash Flows variances

(a) The decrease in GST received and paid is reflected in the overall efficiency of operation of the Council.

Note 3 Income from Transactions

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

3.1 Revenue from Government

Appropriations, whether recurrent or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Council gains control of the appropriated funds.

Revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, appropriations carried forward under section 8A(2) of the *Public Account Act 1986* and Items Reserved by Law.

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

	2016 Budget \$'000	2016 Actual \$'000	2015 Actual \$'000
Appropriation revenue – recurrent			
Current year	3,431	3,438	3,533
Items Reserved by Law			
R003 Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances (<i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i>)	2,745	2,910	2,868
R004 Travelling Allowances (<i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i>)	281	254	253
R005 Members' Committee Fees and Allowances (<i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i>)	40	59	51
Total	6,497	6,661	6,705

Note 4 Expenses from Transactions

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Wages and salaries	5,168	5,196
Annual leave	215	237
Long service leave	53	29
Fringe benefits tax	160	149
Superannuation	421	433
Total	6,017	6,044

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefit schemes relate to payments into the Consolidated Fund. 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 employer contribution is 12.75 per cent (2015: 12.5 per cent) of salary.

Superannuation expenses relating to defined contribution schemes are paid directly to superannuation funds at a rate of 9.5 per cent (2015: 9.5 per cent) of salary. In addition, departments are also required to pay into the Consolidated Fund a "gap" payment equivalent to 3.25 per cent (2015: 3.25 per cent) of salary in respect of employees who are members of contribution schemes.

(b) Remuneration of Key management personnel

2016	Short-term benefits		Superannuation \$'000	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave \$'000	Termination Benefits \$'000	Total \$'000
	Salary	Other Benefits				
	\$'000	\$'000				
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk	239	22	28	6	-	295
Deputy Clerk	195	13	25	5	-	240
Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod	149	13	19	4	-	185
Total	585	48	72	15	-	720

2015	Short-term benefits		Superannuation \$'000	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave \$'000	Termination Benefits \$'000	Total \$'000
	Salary	Other Benefits				
	\$'000	\$'000				
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk	227	21	29	6	-	283
Deputy Clerk	187	16	24	5	-	232
Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod (31 March 2014 to 11 March 2015)	89	9	14	2	24	138
Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod (11 March 2015)	36	2	5	1	-	44
Total	539	48	72	14	24	697

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

Remuneration during 2015-16 for key personnel is set by the *Parliamentary Privileges 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, superannuation obligations and termination payments.

4.2 Depreciation and amortisation

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. Major depreciation periods are:

Computer equipment	3 years
Furniture and fittings	10 years
Office equipment	10 years

(a) Depreciation

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Furniture and fittings	6	5
Computer equipment	14	12
Office equipment	-	1
Total	20	18

(b) Amortisation

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Leasehold improvements	2	1
Total	2	1
Total depreciation and amortisation	22	19

4.3 Supplies and consumables

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Audit fees – financial audit	15	15
Resource support	76	66
Communications	95	115
Information technology	23	18
Travel and transport	70	72
Regional office support	52	75
Committee expenses	6	15
Consultancy	66	61
Conference	16	6
Meal allowance	16	19
Maintenance	12	27
Uniforms	3	10
Amenities	3	6
Stationery	5	3
Other supplies and consumables	44	60
Total	511	611

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 recognised at amortised cost, less any impairment losses, however, due to the short settlement period, receivables are not discounted back to their present value.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Receivables	17	5
Total	17	5
Settled within 12 months	17	5
Total	17	5

5.2 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.

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.

(ii) Asset recognition threshold

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Council is \$5,000. Assets valued at less than \$5,000 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.

(iii) Revaluations

The Council has adopted a revaluation threshold of \$5,000.

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.

(a) Carrying amount

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Antique furniture		
At fair value (9 August 2010)	1,131	1,164
Total	1,131	1,164
Artworks and Artefacts		
At fair value (15 July 2015)	488	488
Total	488	488
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	55	21
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(20)	(17)
Total	35	4
Leasehold improvements – Work in progress		
At cost	25	25
Total	25	25
Furniture and Fittings		
At cost	131	124
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(93)	(87)
Total	38	37
Computer equipment		
At cost	85	76
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(76)	(62)
Total	9	14
Office equipment		
At cost	7	7
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(7)	(7)
Total	-	-
Total property, plant and equipment	1,726	1,732

Antique Furniture was independently re-valued on 13 August 2015 by Mr A F Colman, Approved Government Valuer. Artworks and Artefacts were independently re-valued at 15 July 2015 by Mr W N Hurst, Fine Art Consultant. Valuations were based on a replacement value. The revaluation movements are reflected in the asset evaluation reserve in equity.

(b) Reconciliation of movements

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of Property, 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.

2016	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Leasehold improvements WIP	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Office equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	1,164	488	4	25	37	14	-	1,732
<i>Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income</i>								
Additions	-	-	33	-	7	9	-	49
Revaluation increments (decrements)	(33)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(33)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(2)	-	(6)	(14)	-	(22)
Carrying value at 30 June	1,131	488	35	25	38	9	-	1,726
2015	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Leasehold improvements WIP	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Office equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Carrying value at 1 July	1,164	381	5	25	42	26	1	1,644
<i>Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income</i>								
Revaluation increments (decrements)	-	107	-	-	-	-	-	107
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(1)	-	(5)	(12)	(1)	(19)
Carrying value at 30 June	1,164	488	4	25	37	14	-	1,732

(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	1,131	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	488	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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Creditors	63	48
Accrued expenses	-	-
Total	63	48
Settled within 12 months	63	48
Total	63	48

6.2 Employee benefits

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.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Accrued salaries	11	111
Annual leave	226	235
Long service leave	401	379
Total	638	725
Expected to settle wholly within 12 months	321	426
Expected to settle wholly after 12 months	317	299
Total	638	725

6.3 Superannuation

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

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
By maturity		
<i>Operating lease commitments</i>		
One year or less	164	121
From one to five years	103	32
Total	267	153

The Council has entered into a number of operating lease agreements for plant and equipment, where the lessors effectively retain all risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items leased. Equal instalments of lease payments are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the lease term, as this is representative of the pattern to be derived from the leased property. Motor vehicle lease payments are made monthly with lease periods of either 12, 18 or 24 months. Lease payments for photo copy machines are made quarterly with lease periods of either 48 or 60 months.

Note 8 Reserves

8.1 Reserves

	2016	2015
Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	797	690
Revaluation increments/(decrements)	(33)	107
Balance at end of financial year	764	797

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 deposits

Cash and deposits includes the balance of the Special Deposits and Trust Fund Accounts held by the Council, and other cash held, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Special Deposits and Trust Fund balance		
Legislative Council operating account – 037001 268331	-	-
Total	-	-
Total cash and deposits	-	-

9.2 Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Net result	111	31
Depreciation and amortisation	22	19
(Increase) decrease in Receivables	(11)	10
(Gain) loss from sale of non-financial assets	-	-
(Increase) decrease in Other assets	(49)	-
Increase (decrease) in Employee entitlements	(87)	(48)
Increase (decrease) in Payables	14	(12)
Net cash from (used by) operating activities	-	-

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 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 of any collateral or other security.

(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 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:

2016	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities							Carrying Amount \$'000
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000	Undiscou nted Total \$'000	
Financial liabilities								
Payables	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
Total	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	63

2015	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities							Carrying Amount \$'000
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000	Undiscou nted Total \$'000	
Financial liabilities								
Payables	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
Total	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	48

10.2 Categories of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2016 \$'000	2015 \$'000
Financial assets		
Receivables	17	5
Total	17	5
Financial Liabilities		
Trade Creditors	63	48
Total	63	48

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 2016.

Note 12 Significant Accounting Policies

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 functions 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 His 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 and Audit Act 1990*.

The Financial Statements were signed by the Clerk on 12 August 2016.

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 Department 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.

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

In the current year, the Council has adopted all of the new and revised Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for the current annual reporting period. These include:

- 2013-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments* [Operative dates: Part A *Conceptual Framework* – 20 December 2013; Part B *Materiality* – 1 January 2015; Part C *Financial Instruments* – 1 January 2016] - The objective of this Standard is to make amendments to the Standards and Interpretations listed in the Appendix:
 - (a) as a consequence of the issue of Accounting Framework AASB CF 2013-1 *Amendments to the Australian Conceptual Framework*, and editorial corrections, as set out in Part A of the Standard;
 - (b) to delete references to AASB 1031 *Materiality* in other Australian Accounting Standards, and to make editorial corrections, as set out in Part B of this Standard; and
 - (c) as a consequence of the issuance of IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments – Hedge Accounting* and amendments to IFRS 9, IFRS 7 and IAS 39 by the IASB in November 2013, as set out in Part C of this Standard.

There is no financial impact.

- 2015-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012-2014 Cycle* [AASB 1, AASB 2, AASB 3, AASB5, AASB 7, AASB 11, AASB 110, AASB 119, AASB 121, AASB 133, AASB 134, AASB 137 & AASB140] – The objective of this Standard is to make amendment to Australian Accounting Standards that arise from the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard *Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012-2014 Cycle* by the IASB. This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016. There is no financial impact.
- AASB 2015 – 2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101* [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 134 & AASB 1049] – The objective of this Standard is to amend AASB 101 to provide clarification regarding the disclosure requirements in AASB 101. This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2016. This has resulted in some changes in the presentation of these financial statements.
- AASB 2015-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality* – The objective of this Standard is to effect the withdrawal of AASB 1031 *Materiality* and to delete references to AASB 1031 in the Australian Accounting Standards. This Standard is applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2015. There is no financial impact

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

The following applicable Standards have been issued by the AASB and are yet to be applied:

- 2010 7, 2014-7 and 2015-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9* – The objective of these Standards is to make amendments to various standards as a consequence of the issuance of AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* in December 2010. It is not anticipated that there will be any financial impact.

- *2016-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 107* – The objective of this Standard is to amend AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows* to require entities preparing statements in accordance with Tier 1 reporting requirement to provide disclosures that enable users of financial statements to evaluate changes in liabilities arising from financing activities, including both changes arising from cash flows and non-cash changes. This Standard applies to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2017. The impact is increased disclosure in relation to cash flows and non-cash changes.
- *AASB 16 Leases* – The objective of this Standard is to introduce a single lessee accounting model and require a lessee to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. This Standard applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The impact is enhanced disclosure in relation to leases. It is not anticipated that there will be any financial impact.

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 and are indicated by the symbol "...".

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.

