



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2021

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTIETH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 5

WEDNESDAY, 30 JUNE 2021

- 1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.
- 2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE. - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.
- 3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION. – The Speaker read Prayers.
- 4 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – In accordance with Standing Order No. 43, Questions without notice were asked.
- 5 BILL NO. 30. - Ms *O'Connor* presented -

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Residential Tenancy Act 1997 for the purposes of regulating rent increases, abolishing no cause evictions, introducing minimum energy standards, and requiring reasonable grounds for refusing pets”.

And Ms *O'Connor* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time and made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.

- 6 LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - *Ordered*, That the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport have leave to make certain Motions without Notice. (The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport)
- 7 PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS. - *Ordered*, That for this day's sitting Private Members' Business be scheduled as follows:
 - (a) 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Government Private Members;
 - (b) 3:40 p.m. to 5:10 p.m. Opposition Members; and
 - (c) 5:10 p.m. to 6:10 p.m. Greens Members. (The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport)
- 8 SITTING TIMES. - *Ordered*, That for this day's sitting the House not stand adjourned at Six o'clock and that the House continue to sit past Six o'clock. (The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport)
- 9 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: TASTAFE. – Mr *O'Byrne*, in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

TasTafe.

And the Question being proposed;

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

10 BILL NO. 15. - The Order of the Day being read for the Second reading of the Justice Miscellaneous (Increasing Judicial Retirement Age) Bill 2021.

And a Motion being made, and the Question being proposed - That the Bill be now read the Second time. (The Minister for Justice)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And Ms *Haddad* was addressing the Chair.

11 TASMANIAN ECONOMY. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed — That the House:—

- (1) Notes that despite the challenges of 2020, Tasmania's economy continues to grow.
- (2) Further notes that across a range of economic indicators, our economic performance is strengthening.
- (3) Recognises that State Final Demand is now 2.9 per cent higher than before the Pandemic.
- (4) Acknowledges international demand is at record highs, with exports 4.3 per cent higher than 2020, bucking the national trend.
- (5) Further notes the confidence in business investment with the March 2021 quarter figures showing it is now 6.4 per cent higher than 2020.
- (6) Further recognises that this included the highest annual growth in equipment, plant and machinery in the country, increasing 49 per cent over the year.
- (7) Further notes dwelling approvals are at 3,952 over the 12-months to April 2021 – the highest number in more than a quarter of a century.
- (8) Further notes that, as the economy is strengthening, confidence is returning to the Tasmanian community with retail trade 24.5 per cent higher than April 2020.
- (9) Further acknowledges that our economy is growing strongly and our recovery is well underway. (Mr *Street*)

A debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Mr *Winter*) to add the following paragraphs:

- (10) Tasmania has the second highest rate of unemployment in the Nation.
- (11) The Liberal Government has not delivered a single economic reform in its now seven years in office.

A debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put – That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

AYES 11

NOES 11

Dr Broad

Ms Archer

Ms Dow

Mr Barnett

Ms Finlay

Ms Courtney

Ms Haddad

Mr Ferguson

Ms Johnston

Mr Jaensch

Mr O'Byrne

Ms Ogilvie

Ms O'Byrne

Mrs Petrusma

Ms O'Connor

Mr Rockliff

Mr Winter

Mr Street

Dr Woodruff

Mr Tucker

Ms Butler (Teller)

Mr Ellis (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms White

Mr Gutwein

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The numbers being equal, I cast my vote with the Noes”.

So it passed in the Negative.

And the Main Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

12 SUSPENSION OF SITTING. - At five minutes past One o'clock the Speaker left the Chair. At half-past Two o'clock the Speaker resumed the Chair.

13 ADDRESS-IN-REPLY. – The Order of the Day being read for resuming the adjourned debate on the Question proposed on Tuesday, 22 June 2021 by Mr *Ellis* - That the following Address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor in reply to Her Excellency's Speech:-

To Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.

We desire to record our continued loyalty to the Throne and Person of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, and at the same time to assure Your Excellency that the measures which will be laid before us during the Session will receive our careful consideration.

And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the debate.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

14 UNDERSTAFFING IN PUBLIC SERVICES. – A Motion being made and the Question being Proposed - That the House:—

- (1) Recognises one of the highest responsibilities of Government is to look after the most vulnerable.
- (2) Acknowledges the many people who have shared their stories about their poor experience with the Public Trustee.
- (3) Notes it has been nearly three weeks since the Attorney-General, Hon. Elise Archer MP announced that terms of reference for an independent review of the Public Trustee were being 'urgently' developed.
- (4) Further notes reports that people who have made complaints to the Ombudsman about the Public Trustee have been told the Ombudsman is too short-staffed to review their complaints.
- (5) Further recognises the latest 'Human Services Dashboard' revealed that in March 2021, 65 children were referred for a child safety investigation but were not allocated a caseworker within agreed timeframes.
- (6) Acknowledges the problem of understaffing in child safety highlighted by the CPSU.
- (7) Further acknowledges the Custodial Inspector's 'Lockdowns Review 2021' highlighted the basic human right of Tasmanian prisoners to spend at least one hour per day outside their cell is routinely not being met.
- (8) Further notes the Review found that staff shortages heavily impact the time prisoners are able to spend out of their cells and in December 2020 were the cause of approximately one-third of all lockdowns.
- (9) Calls on the Government to:—
 - (a) immediately address understaffing issues in prisons, at Ombudsman Tasmania and in child safety to ensure it is meeting its obligations to people under its care.
 - (b) release terms of reference for the inquiry into the Public Trustee within seven days. (Ms *Haddad*)

A debate arose thereupon.

15 PAPERS. – The Attorney-General laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Review of the Public Trustee: Terms of Reference.

16 UNDERSTAFFING IN PUBLIC SERVICES. – And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the debate.

And the Question being put;

It passed in the Negative.

17 BILL NO. 21. - The Order of the Day being read for the Second reading of the Integrity Commission (Members of Parliament) Bill 2021.

And a Motion being made, and the Question being proposed - That the Bill be now read the Second time. (Ms *O'Connor*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 11

Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Dow
Ms Finlay
Ms Haddad
Ms Johnston
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms O'Connor
Dr Woodruff
Mr Winter (Teller)

NOES 11

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Ms Courtney
Mr Ferguson
Mr Gutwein
Mr Jaensch
Ms Ogilvie
Mr Rockliff
Mr Street
Mr Tucker
Mr Ellis (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms White

Mrs Petrusma

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The numbers being equal, I cast my vote with the Noes”.

So it passed in the Negative.

18 ADJOURNMENT. – A Motion being made - That the House do now adjourn (The Minister for Infrastructure and Transport)

The Speaker proposed – That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

The House adjourned at thirty-nine minutes past Six o'clock.

SHANE DONNELLY, *Clerk of the House*.

MEMBERS. - All present during the day except *Ms White*.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Racing, Minister for Women and Minister for Small Business attended Question Time.