



HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

SESSION OF 2024 - 2025

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 38

WEDNESDAY, 12 MARCH 2025

- 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 SPEAKER'S STATEMENT. – The Speaker made the following statement to the House:

“Honourable members, the principal purpose of Question Time is for the House to elicit answers from members of the executive in relation to matters for which they have responsibility. My advice, take or leave it, is that that means your questions should be tight and the answers should be relevant.

After some of the incidents yesterday, it is in keeping with the practice of the House that any minister, including the Premier, may refer a question without notice to a ministerial colleague if, in their opinion, their colleague is better placed to answer such a question for the benefit of the House.

Two conditions apply. First, that the minister to whom the question is redirected has responsibility for the subject matter of the question. Second, that the minister to whom the question was first directed has not commenced a substantive answer to the question. That is, the question must be immediately redirected. There is a certain amount of latitude historically for the Premier. That latitude does not exist for any other minister. You either answer the question or you defer it straight away.”

- 5 QUESTIONS SEEKING INFORMATION. – In accordance with Standing Order No. 43, Questions without notice were asked.

- 6 CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS. – In accordance with Sessional Order No. 48C, Constituency Questions were asked.

- 7 PETITION. – Ms *Rosol* presented a Petition from approximately 1999 residents of Tasmania, and an ePetition from 781 residents of Tasmania requesting that the House call on the Government to: immediately enact an interim regulation in the Residential Tenancy Act 1997 to include residents/tenants or lessees in caravan or tourist parks within the provisions of the Act to provide some interim certainty to both park owners and residents; release the Government's response to the public submissions on the Regulation of Long-Term Residency in Caravan Parks in Tasmania Discussion Paper, that closed on the 2nd of October 2024; and introduce comprehensive and effective legislation to protect the rights of caravan and tourist park residents by June 2025. (HA8 and 9/2025).

Which Petition was read and received.

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

Ombudsman Tasmania: Report after investigation pursuant to section 21 of the Personal Information Protection Act 2004 – Hobart City Council, dated 11 February 2025.

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9 PAPERS. – The Minister for Racing laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:-

Tasracing Pty Ltd: Members' Statement of Expectations February 2025.

10 JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND EQUALITY: REPORT BROUGHT UP. – Mr *Street* brought up the following Report of the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality:-

Inquiry into the Expungement of Historical Offences Amendment Bill 2024 (Paper No. 6)

Ordered, That the said Report be received. (Mr *Street*)

11 PAPERS. – The Clerk of the House laid upon the Table of the House the following Papers:-

(1) Tasmanian Audit Office:

(a) Report of the Auditor-General No. 7 of 2024-25, financial statements of State Entities, Vol. 2 General Government Sector, including Treasurer's Annual Financial Report, Audit of State entities and audited subsidiaries of State Entities 31 December 2023 and 30 June 2024;

(b) Report of the Auditor-General No. 8 of 2024-25, financial statements of State Entities, Vol 3 Local Government, Audit of State Entities and audited subsidiaries of State Entities 30 June 2024.

12 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: SHORT STAY ACCOMMODATION. – Mr *Bayley* in accordance with Standing Orders, moved - That the House take note of the following matter:

Short Stay Accommodation.

And the Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

13 MARINE SALMON FARMING INDUSTRY. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

(1) Notes:—

(a) the recurrence of mass salmon mortality events in Tasmania; and
(b) the unprecedented scale of salmon mortalities over the months to 11 March 2025, particularly in the lower D'Entrecasteaux Channel (“the event”).

(2) Understands the event has a multi-factorial origin, including from rising ocean temperatures, an increase in nutrient levels, marine pests and bacterial disease.

(3) Recognises:—

(a) the significant community concern about the impact of the event on the marine environment and public health;
(b) the on-going community and scientific debate about the impact of salmon farming in Tasmania;
(c) the significant impact of the event on the salmon industry and its workers;
(d) the importance of primary production to the Tasmanian economy;
(e) that salmon farming is Tasmania's largest primary production industry; and
(f) the current shift from marine to land-based fin fish farming around the world.

(4) Calls on the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources, Hon Eric Abetz MP in consultation with Mr Garland MP, to commission an independent, interstate consultant to conduct a feasibility study, to be tabled in Parliament within 6 months, on the costs, benefits and opportunities for Tasmania to transition its marine salmon farming industry to land-based aquaculture. The study will also include detailed discussion of:—

(a) the current and emerging environmental and social pressures on marine fin fish farming in Tasmania; and

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- (b) emerging land-based fin fish farming practices world-wide, and the applicability of these practices to Tasmania. (Mr *Garland*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 9

Ms *Badger*
Mr *Bayley*
Mrs *Beswick*
Mr *Garland*
Ms *Johnston*
Mrs *Pentland*
Ms *Rosol*
Dr *Woodruff*
Ms *Burnet* (Teller)

NOES 22

Mr *Abetz*
Mr *Barnett*
Dr *Broad*
Ms *Brown*
Ms *Dow*
Mr *Ellis*
Mr *Fairs*
Mr *Ferguson*
Ms *Finlay*
Ms *Haddad*
Ms *Howlett*
Mr *Jaensch*
Mr *O'Byrne*
Ms *Ogilvie*
Mrs *Petrusma*
Mr *Rockliff*
Mr *Shelton*
Mr *Street*
Mr *Willie*
Mr *Winter*
Mr *Wood*
Mr *Farrell* (Teller)

So it passed in the Negative.

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

15 SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE POTENTIAL SALE OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESSES AND OTHER ENTITIES. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Notes the Premier, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP's announcement on Tuesday 4 March 2025 that his Government is considering the sale of Tasmanian Government Businesses and other entities.
- (2) Establishes a Select Committee, with the power to send for persons, papers and records, to inquire into and report upon the potential sale of Government businesses and other entities, with the following terms of reference and rules:—
 - (a) that the Committee inquire into and report upon the following:—
 - (i) the Tasmanian Government's plans to sell government businesses and other entities, and the potential impacts;
 - (ii) the current performance of Government businesses, including governance, financial outcomes, capital delivery and their contribution to Tasmania's broader economic objectives; and
 - (iii) any other matters incidental thereto.
 - (b) that the Committee consist of six members: two nominated by the Premier, two nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, one nominated by the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, and the Member for Braddon, Mrs *Beswick*.
 - (c) that the Committee report by 1 February 2026. (Mr *Winter*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Minister for Transport)

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In paragraph (2) subsection (c) leave out the words “report by 1 February 2026” and insert instead “report by 30 June 2025.”

A Debate arose thereupon.

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

It passed in the Negative.

Amendment proposed (Mr *Bayley*)

In paragraph 2(a)(i), after the words “and the potential impacts” insert the words “including on employees”

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

And it was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Question being put – That the Motion as amended be agreed to;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved – That the House:—

- (1) Notes the Premier, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP's announcement on Tuesday 4 March 2025 that his Government is considering the sale of Tasmanian Government Businesses and other entities.
- (2) Establishes a Select Committee, with the power to send for persons, papers and records, to inquire into and report upon the potential sale of Government businesses and other entities, with the following terms of reference and rules:—
 - (a) that the Committee inquire into and report upon the following:—
 - (i) the Tasmanian Government's plans to sell government businesses and other entities, and the potential impacts including on employees;
 - (ii) the current performance of Government businesses, including governance, financial outcomes, capital delivery and their contribution to Tasmania's broader economic objectives; and
 - (iii) any other matters incidental thereto.
 - (b) that the Committee consist of six members: two nominated by the Premier, two nominated by the Leader of the Opposition, one nominated by the Leader of the Tasmanian Greens, and the Member for Braddon, Mrs Beswick.
 - (c) that the Committee report by 1 February 2026.

16 REFERENCE TO GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE A - INQUIRY INTO MASS SALMON MORTALITY EVENTS AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Refers the following reference to the Standing Committee on Government Administration Committee A to inquire into and report upon the mass salmon mortality events and contributing factors with the following terms of reference:—
 - (a) examine and report on the responsibilities of the varying parts of Government in charge of approving and regulating the aquaculture industry and the efficacy of current laws, regulations and practices to protect and inform the public;
 - (b) examine and recommend improvements in the way these responsibilities are established and executed;
 - (c) ensure appropriate public consultation is conducted on all matters;
 - (d) any other matter incidental; and
 - (e) that the Committee reports by 25 September 2025. (Mr *Bayley*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

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The House divided.

AYES 9

Ms Badger
Mr Bayley
Mrs Beswick
Ms Burnet
Mr Garland
Mr Jenner
Ms Johnston
Dr Woodruff
Ms Rosol (Teller)

NOES 24

Mr Abetz
Mr Barnett
Mr Behrakis
Dr Broad
Ms Brown
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis
Mr Fairs
Mr Farrell
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Ms Haddad
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Pentland
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Mr Winter
Mr Wood
Mr Willie (Teller)

So it passed in the Negative.

17 SUPPORT FOR RETIRED POLICE PERSONNEL. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Notes:—
 - (a) research indicates that retired police personnel are at an increased risk of PTSD, depression and other mental health conditions; and
 - (b) hundreds of retired and former police personnel suffer from mental health disorders as a direct result of their work.
- (2) Acknowledges the vital role that police officers play in protecting the community and the lasting impact their service can have on their mental well-being.
- (3) Recognises that many former and retired officers struggle to access adequate mental health support due to the lack of Government funded mental health support.
- (4) Further notes that the Government provides some mental health support for those whose conditions arise and are reported during service.
- (5) Calls on the Government to immediately establish and fund ongoing mental health support services for those whose conditions were found arising during service, but weren't reported at the time, due to the fact health issues like PTSD can often emerge years later. (*Mr Jenner*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services)

In paragraph (5), remove the words “immediately establish and fund” and replace with “collaborate with the Retired Police Association of Tasmania to develop options for”.

A Debate arose thereupon.

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

It passed in the Negative.

And the Question being put – That the original Motion be agreed to;

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It was resolved in the Affirmative.

18 TASMANIA'S TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House:—

- (1) Recognises that Tasmania's tourism industry is one of the State's biggest employers, and Tasmania's economy relies on key sectors like the tourism and hospitality industries to fund schools, roads, and hospitals.
- (2) Notes that visitors inject around \$3.5 billion into the Tasmanian economy every year, and for every dollar visitor spent in Tasmania, another 83 cents is generated in our economy.
- (3) Agrees that for the Labor Opposition to describe critical marketing campaigns that drive visitation to Tasmania as, "puff and promotion," is a blatant display of his disregard for homegrown jobs.
- (4) Further agrees that Labors' plan to slash the Government's investment in this vital sector should send a shiver down the spine of the nearly 43,000 Tasmanian jobs it employs.
- (5) Further notes:—
 - (a) that under Labor, these jobs, and the families they support, would be at risk; and
 - (b) Labors' recent attack on co-funded grant support for small businesses as "reckless spending".
- (6) Further notes that as part of the Government's 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, the Government is investing in destination marketing to ensure the State remains competitive in national and global markets.
- (7) Calls on the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Dean Winter MP to withdraw his attack on the Tourism and Hospitality Industry in Tasmania. (Mr *Wood*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Mrs *Pentland*)

To leave out paragraphs (3) to (7) and insert instead:

"(3) Recognises the vital role tourism marketing plays in attracting visitors to our state and rejects any suggestion it amounts to "puff and promotion"."

A Debate arose thereupon.

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

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Question being put - That the Motion as Amended be agreed to;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved - That the House: —

- (1) Recognises that Tasmania's tourism industry is one of the State's biggest employers, and Tasmania's economy relies on key sectors like the tourism and hospitality industries to fund schools, roads, and hospitals.
- (2) Notes that visitors inject around \$3.5 billion into the Tasmanian economy every year, and for every dollar visitor spent in Tasmania, another 83 cents is generated in our economy.
- (3) Recognises the vital role tourism marketing plays in attracting visitors to our state and rejects any suggestion it amounts to "puff and promotion".

19 PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS. – In accordance with Standing Order 42, Mr *Wood* indicated that the remainder of the Government Members' Private Members' Business for this day's sitting would be waived.

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

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

And the Question being put – That the House do now adjourn.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The House adjourned at fifty-three minutes past Seven o'clock.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House.*

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

The Minister for Energy and Renewables, Minister for Sport and Events and Minister for Parks; the Minister for Education, Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence; and the Minister for Infrastructure, and Minister for Local Government attended Question Time.