



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Tuesday 22 June 2021

REVISED EDITION

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Tuesday 22 June 2021

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTIETH PARLIAMENT

The House met at 11 a.m. pursuant to the proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor.

The Clerk read the proclamation.

MESSAGE TO ATTEND THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSIONERS

The Usher of the Black Rod was admitted and delivered a message from the Commissioners requesting the attendance of members in the Legislative Council Chamber. Members accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and, having heard the Commission read, returned to the House of Assembly.

MEMBERS SWORN

The Clerk laid on the Table writs for the election of the following members of the House of Assembly.

Elise Nicole Archer (Clark)	David James O'Byrne (Franklin)
Guy Barnett (Lyons)	Michelle Anne O'Byrne (Bass)
Shane Thomas Broad (Braddon)	Cassandra Stanwell O'Connor (Clark)
Jenna Butler (Lyons)	Madeleine Ruth Ogilvie (Clark)
Sarah Courtney (Bass)	Jacqueline Anne Petrusma (Franklin)
Anita Joy Dow (Braddon)	Jeremy Page Rockliff (Braddon)
Michael Darrel Joseph Ferguson (Bass)	Mark David Shelton (Lyons)
Janie Finlay (Bass)	Nicholas Adam Street (Franklin)
Peter Carl Gutwein (Bass)	John Ewart Tucker (Lyons)
Eloise Rafia Haddad (Clark)	Rebecca Peta White (Lyons)
Roger Charles Jaensch (Braddon)	Dean Winter (Franklin)
Kristie Joy Johnston (Clark)	Rosalie Woodruff (Franklin)

All members were sworn or made the necessary affirmation and subscribed to codes of ethical conduct and race ethics.

MESSAGES FROM GOVERNOR

Division of Braddon - Resignation of Adam Brooks

The CLERK - Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that I have received the following correspondence from Her Excellency the Governor:

14 May 2021

Dear Mr Donnelly

I write to advise you, in the absence of a Speaker of the House of Assembly until Parliament resumes, that I have received a letter dated 14 May 2021 from Mr Adam Brooks MP tendering his resignation as a Member for Braddon.

I have instructed the Electoral Commissioner to proceed in accordance with the provisions of Part 9 of the Electoral Act 2004.

Yours sincerely

C A Warner
Governor

Division of Braddon - Election of Felix Ellis

The CLERK - Honourable members, I advise you of the following communication I have received from Her Excellency the Governor:

3 June 2021

Dear Mr Donnelly

In the absence of a Speaker of the House of Assembly until Parliament resumes, I send herewith to you a Certificate of the Electoral Commissioner stating that a recount has been held under the provisions of Part 9 of the Electoral Act 2004 to fill the vacancy in the Division of Braddon caused by the resignation of Mr Adam Brooks MP.

Following the recount of the resigned member's ballot papers, Mr Felix Ellis has been elected to the vacancy. The election takes effect from today.

Yours sincerely

C A Warner
Governor

MEMBER SWORN

Felix Ashton Ellis - Member for Braddon

Felix Ashton Ellis, Member for the Division of Braddon was sworn and declared that he had read the subscribed code of ethical conduct and race ethics.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Premier) - I move -

That Mr Mark David Shelton do take the Chair of this House as Speaker.

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Deputy Premier) - I second the motion.

The CLERK - Does the member consent to such nomination?

Mr SHELTON (Lyons) - I do.

The CLERK - Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare the member for Lyons, Mr Shelton, elected as Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER - I humbly acknowledge the great honour the House has been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be its Speaker, an office which I will endeavour at all times to fill with dignity and impartiality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE

Mr SPEAKER - We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of the land on which we gather today, and acknowledge elders past and present.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I heartily and warmly congratulate you on your appointment. Her Excellency the Governor would be pleased to receive you at Government House at 1.30 pm.

Mr Speaker, I move -

That a deputation consisting of the mover and the seconder and such other members who see fit to go, do wait upon her Excellency the Governor to notify Her Excellency of the election of the Speaker.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned from 11.25 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER

Mr SPEAKER - I have to report that, accompanied by a deputation of members, I have waited upon Her Excellency the Governor and informed Her Excellency that in pursuance of the powers conferred by section 24 of the Constitution Act, the House of Assembly has this day proceeded to the election of the Speaker and has done me the honour to elect me to that high office; that in compliance with the other provisions of the same section, I have presented myself to Her Excellency as the Speaker, and I have, in the name and on behalf of the House of Assembly, laid claim to their undoubted rights and privileges and prayed that the most favourable construction might be put on all their proceedings; whereupon Her Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:

To the Honourable Speaker and members of the House of Assembly:

I congratulate Members of the House of Assembly on their choice of a Speaker. I readily assure you, Mr Speaker, of my confirmation of all the constitutional rights and privileges of the House of Assembly, the proceedings of which will always receive my most favourable consideration.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Usher of the Black Rod was admitted and delivered a message from Her Excellency the Governor requesting the attendance of members in the Legislative Council Chamber. Members accordingly proceeded to that Chamber and, having heard Her Excellency's speech, returned to the House of Assembly.

Sitting suspended from 3.05 p.m. to 3.27 p.m.

Mr SPEAKER - Honourable members, I will resume the Chair at the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 3.28 p.m. to 4.35 p.m.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS

[4.36 p.m.]

Mr GUTWEIN (Bass - Premier) - Mr Speaker, I have the honour to inform the House that as a consequence of the election held on 1 May 2021 the following events took place in relation to the appointment of the Government.

On 19 May 2021, Her Excellency the Governor received me to invite me to be commissioned to form government. Immediately prior to that invitation, I formally resigned my commission as Premier and with that, the following resignations of ministers of the Crown:

The honourable Peter Gutwein as Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Change, Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, and Minister for Tourism;

The honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP as Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Training, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Disability Services and Community Development, Minister for Trade and Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries;

The honourable Michael Ferguson MP, as Minister for Finance, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for State Growth, Minister for Science and Technology and Leader of the House;

The honourable Elise Archer MP as Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Building and Construction, Minister for Arts and Minister for Heritage;

The honourable Guy Barnett MP, as Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Energy, Minister for Resources and Minister for Veterans' Affairs;

The honourable Sarah Courtney MP as Minister for Health, Minister for Strategic Growth, Minister for Women and Minister for Small Business, Hospitality and Events;

The honourable Roger Jaensch MP as Minister for Housing, Minister for Environment and Parks, Minister for Human Services, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Planning;

The honourable Mark Shelton MP as Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and Minister for Local Government; and

The honourable Jane Howlett MLC as Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Racing.

I then accepted the invitation to form government and Her Excellency, the Governor, then made the following appointments of ministers of the Crown:

The honourable Peter Gutwein as Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Climate Change and Minister for Tourism;

The honourable Jeremy Rockliff MP as Deputy Premier, Minister for Health, Minister for Advanced Manufacturing and Defence Industries, Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing and Minister for Community Services and Development;

The honourable Elise Archer MP as Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Corrections, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Workplace Safety and Consumer Affairs;

The honourable Michael Ferguson MP as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Minister for Finance, Minister for State Development, Construction and Housing, Minister for Science and Technology and Leader of the House;

The honourable Guy Barnett MP as Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Resources, Minister for Trade, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction;

The honourable Sarah Courtney MP as Minister for Education, Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth; Minister for Children and Youth; Minister for Hospitality and Events and Minister for Disability Services;

The honourable Jane Howlett MLC as Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Racing, Minister for Women and Minister for Small Business.

The honourable Roger Jaensch MP as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for State Growth, Minister for Heritage, Minister for Local Government and Planning and Minister for Environment; and

The honourable Jacquie Petrusma MP as Minister for Parks, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.

I also announce Nic Street MP is to be the Government's nominee for Chair of Committees and Deputy Speaker, as well as the appointment of John Tucker MP as Government Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and Madeleine Ogilvie as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier.

I am also pleased to inform the House that the honourable Leonie Hiscutt MLC will continue as the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and Jo Palmer MLC will serve as Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

I was honoured by the Governor's formal invitation to me as holder of the Commission, to form a government and as Premier of Tasmania, to proceed to form a government. I can assure all members of the House and the people of Tasmania that for the term of the Fiftieth Parliament, my ministry will use its renewed mandate as a majority government for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

Members - Hear, hear.

OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

[4.40 p.m.]

Mr O'BYRNE (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Mr Speaker, it gives me great honour to announce the shadow cabinet and parliamentary roles of the parliamentary Labor Party:

As newly elected Labor Leader, I will be taking on the responsibilities of shadow minister for infrastructure, shadow minister for economic development, shadow minister for tourism and shadow minister for climate change.

The newly elected Deputy Leader, Anita Dow, will take on the responsibilities of shadow minister for housing and construction, shadow minister for building and consumer affairs, shadow minister for local government and planning and shadow minister for advanced manufacturing and defence industries.

Dean Winter MP will be appointed shadow minister for energy and emissions reduction, shadow minister for finance, shadow minister for science and technology, shadow minister for racing and Leader of Opposition Business in the House.

Rebecca White MP will be appointed shadow treasurer and shadow minister for hospitality and events.

Michelle O'Byrne will be appointed shadow minister for police, fire and emergency management, shadow minister for women, shadow minister for the prevention of family violence, shadow minister for aboriginal affairs, and shadow minister for heritage, the arts and creative industries. She has also been appointed party Whip.

Shane Broad has been appointed shadow minister for primary industries, shadow minister for fisheries and water, shadow minister for resources, shadow minister for trade and shadow minister for veterans' affairs.

Ella Haddad MP has been appointed shadow attorney-general, shadow minister for justice, shadow minister for corrections and shadow minister for equality and multicultural affairs.

The Honourable Sarah Lovell MLC has been appointed shadow minister for child safety, shadow minister for workplace relations and is the Leader of Opposition Business in the Legislative Council.

The Honourable Bastian Seidel MLC has been appointed shadow minister for health, mental health and wellbeing, shadow minister for community services and development and shadow minister for parks and the environment.

The Honourable Josh Willie MLC has been appointed shadow minister for education and early years, shadow minister for TAFE, university and skills and training, shadow minister for transport and shadow minister for sport.

Janie Finlay MP has been appointed parliamentary secretary to the Leader with the responsibility for small business, start-ups and the northern economy.

The Honourable Jo Siejka MLC has been appointed Deputy Leader of Opposition Business in the Legislative Council and parliamentary secretary to the shadow minister for health and community services with the responsibility for disability, ageing and youth.

TASMANIAN GREENS APPOINTMENTS

[4.43 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, I am very proud to lay out the Greens shadow portfolios and as it was in the last parliament, Dr Woodruff and I will be working hard to honour the trust of those who elected us. We will continue to be a strong voice for real climate action and for nature and for a more just lutruwita/Tasmania:

I will be the leader of Greens business and shadow spokesperson for Aboriginal affairs, animal welfare, democracy, education, skills and training, employment, trade and economic development, forests and mining, human rights and community development, human services, which includes children and young people, housing and disability services, infrastructure, transport and population, parks, public lands and heritage, primary industries and water, sport and recreation, tourism, treasury, women, workplace relations and veterans.

My friend and colleague Dr Woodruff will be the Greens whip and our shadow spokesperson for the arts, attorney-general, building and construction, consumer protection, corrections, energy, environment and biodiversity, health, justice, local government, mental health and wellbeing, planning, police, fire and emergency management, prevention of family violence, safe climate, science and IT, small business, transparency and workplace safety.

Mr Speaker, we are very much looking forward to the next four years.

CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

[4.44 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the member for Franklin, Mr Nicholas Adam Street, be the Chair of Committees of the House.

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management) - Mr Speaker, I second the motion.

Mr SPEAKER - Does the member consent to such nomination?

Mr STREET (Franklin) - I do.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S WARRANT

Deputy Chair of Committees

Mr SPEAKER - Pursuant to Standing Order 14, I hereby nominate Mr Felix Ellis MP and Mr John Tucker MP to act as Deputy Chairs of Committees in the absence of, or when requested so to do, by the Chair of Committees.

Given under my hand this 22nd day of June 2021.

Mark Shelton
Speaker

ACTS ENUMERATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (pro forma) (No. 1)

First Reading

Bill presented by Mr Gutwein and read for the first time.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

[4.50 p.m.]

Mr SPEAKER - I have to report that the House has this day been to the Legislative Council Chambers, where her Excellency the Governor was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, a copy of which I have obtained for greater accuracy.

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That the speech be entered into the Journals of the House.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council, Mr Speaker and members of the House of Assembly, as the twenty-ninth Governor of this State I welcome you to the first session of the Fiftieth Parliament of Tasmania.

The State Election on 1 May delivered a significant and historic outcome. For the first time in Tasmania's history a majority Liberal Government was elected by the people of this State for a consecutive third term. It is testament to the hard work of this Government, which over the past seven years has built a stronger, more resilient Tasmania, and steered our State safely through the ongoing threat of a global pandemic.

This was reflected in the unprecedented personal endorsement for the Honourable Peter Gutwein, Premier of Tasmania, who received overwhelming support from Tasmanians.

I acknowledge and welcome the new members to the House of Assembly, along with the new Member for Windermere to the Legislative Council.

I would also like to acknowledge and pay tribute to my predecessor, the former Governor, Professor Kate Warner AC, for her commitment to the role, through challenging personal times, as well as through the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Warner's tenure will be remembered for her connection and commitment to many grassroots issues of importance to Tasmanians, with a passionate and strong focus on creating a more inclusive Tasmania.

My Government has a clear vision for Tasmania to be a state of opportunity for all who call Tasmania home, no matter who you are, where you live, your circumstance or background. This is underpinned by a strong plan to secure Tasmania's future with a focus on: making the decisions necessary to continue keeping Tasmanians safe from COVID-19; delivering a more diverse and resilient Tasmanian economy to create jobs; delivering the revenue we need to protect against future challenges; and continuing our record investment into essential services. Importantly, we will ensure young Tasmanians can get the skills, training, apprenticeships and jobs for their future here in Tasmania.

We are so very fortunate to call Tasmania home. As we see the images and hear the stories from other parts of the world, where COVID-19 has devastated communities, claiming more than 3.8 million lives, it is a stark and very real reminder that we cannot be complacent, and we must continue to follow the advice of our Public Health officials. Tasmania is one of the safest places on the planet and we must all continue to do our bit to keep it so. Together with our vaccination strategy, we have in place our COVID safeguards to manage cases both here in Tasmania should they occur, as well as the risk of outbreaks in other jurisdictions on our State, as we have seen recently in Victoria.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our public health and health staff, our frontline staff, and all those in our community who work hard every day to keep Tasmanians safe from the risk of COVID-19. My Government took significant steps to keep Tasmanians safe from the pandemic, balancing both a health and an economic crisis. Together with economic support packages, the hard work done over the past seven years to build a more resilient Tasmanian economy, and the initiatives taken to stimulate Tasmania's economy through the pandemic, we have placed our State in a strong position for recovery.

There are 25 000 more jobs in Tasmania now, compared to when my Government took office in 2014, and in fact, there are more Tasmanian jobs now than before the pandemic. Our State is performing well across a number of key performance indicators, with job vacancies, exports and retail trade all increasing according to recent data reports. However, now is not the time to walk the complacent middle path, because as the Premier has said on many occasions, there will be challenges ahead.

That is why my Government has adopted a bold agenda and clear plan to secure Tasmania's future. To secure more opportunities for Tasmanians and to build a more diverse and resilient economy. To harness our natural strengths and competitive advantages and realise our true potential. This includes advanced manufacturing, agriculture, mineral resources, fisheries, forestry, tourism, arts and the iconic events which showcase our culture, heritage and ingenuity.

Tasmania has secured its reputation as a climate leader. We were the first state in Australia to reach net zero emissions and we've reached our 2050 target early for five years in a row. My Government will continue to harness our island's competitive advantages and lead Australia's transition to a low-emissions economy. We will continue to take climate action across all sectors of our economy, including in housing, transport, waste, industry, energy and land use. We have a bold plan to unlock Tasmania's world-class renewable energy resources, including hydro generation and storage, as well as wind and solar resources. Key projects, including Marinus Link, Battery of the Nation and our Hydrogen strategy will help transition Tasmania to a renewable energy future and meet our Renewable Energy Target of 200% by 2040.

We are focused on building better and more connected communities, and ensuring we have the inter-generational infrastructure our growing state needs. We are building better roads, schools, hospitals, bridges, dams and irrigation networks right across our State, which is supporting thousands of jobs in our regions.

To realise our vision for Tasmania to provide opportunity for all who call this State their home, my Government is focused on delivering improved outcomes for more Tasmanians. This includes a substantial investment, and whole of Government approach to building a better health system for Tasmania, delivering more housing to meet demand and ensuring Tasmania has the best training pathways so more Tasmanians have access to the skills and training they need for the jobs available.

While my Government is providing unprecedented resources for our health system - delivering record staffing levels, opening and funding new beds, and investing in the facilities our patients and staff deserve across our regions - we know there is more to do. That is why there is a clear plan to ensure investments and reforms to Tasmania's health system will deliver a more integrated system, to deliver the care patients need in the right place and at the right time. At the very heart of this, my Government is leaving no stone unturned to identify all options to provide better and faster access to care for Tasmanians.

The Premier and Minister for Health met with each major public and private hospital immediately after forming Government, to look at further improvements to healthcare and solutions to take pressure off our busy public hospital system. We are drawing from learnings through COVID, where our private and public systems worked well together, and we are providing funding and support to deliver care sooner for Tasmanians by working with our private hospitals to ensure they are better able to support our public hospitals to manage demand.

Right now work is underway to understand how private hospitals can assist our public hospital sector to meet our ambitious elective surgery schedule, identifying opportunities to purchase beds from private hospitals to improve patient flow and access to care, and enable private hospitals to support public hospitals with demand in other areas, including community nursing and home care.

Importantly, we have wasted no time in delivering on commitments, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed with Calvary Health Care to accelerate the delivery of their \$120 million co-located private hospital adjacent to the Launceston General Hospital, which will enable better health services and boost attraction and retention of health professionals, including specialists to the community. Co-located private and public hospitals have been

extremely successful and beneficial to communities across Australia, and we know they can help attract and help to retain difficult-to-recruit specialists to our healthcare system. There is no doubt this will deliver additional and complementary services to support and reduce pressure on the Launceston General Hospital and provide better health outcomes for Tasmanians.

My Government has also allocated \$156.4 million over four years across the State, to deliver an additional 22 300 elective surgeries and endoscopies, and we will invest an additional \$56 million to continue our transformation of the mental health system, alcohol and drug services, and boost preventative health measures. This includes funding for new initiatives like an Emergency Mental Health Co-Response Team, which will deliver better outcomes for Tasmanians, increase the capacity of emergency services, and reduce hospitalisations.

We will also focus on the prevention of mental ill-health with a whole-of-community approach for all Tasmanians, by increasing the capacity for advice and information, and build the capacity of communities so Tasmanians can better understand and engage with their mental health, and stay well, by targeting mental health literacy initiatives in collaboration with local government. There is no doubt that if we work together, we can and will build a better health system.

Strong, connected, healthy and safe communities are so important. This is why my Government has a strong focus on keeping Tasmanians safe, and investing in infrastructure to support our community- such as more social and affordable housing. I am very pleased that my Government is undertaking record investment into social and affordable housing, and homelessness initiatives, as well as incentives and plans to help more Tasmanians realise the dream of owning their own home. Not only is this delivering more housing options for more Tasmanians, it provides a clear pipeline of work to keep our construction and building sector engaged and busy well into the future, supporting thousands of jobs and many businesses - large and small - across Tasmania.

We are keeping our communities safe by boosting Tasmania Police to the highest number of officers in the State's history, investing in CCTV in our rural and regional areas, and providing more funds to CrimeStoppers and support for specialist recruitment, in areas such as cybercrime. My Government is focused on keeping communities safe from the threat of bushfire, with more fuel reduction burns, more volunteers and new-generation technologies.

Keeping our communities safe, means taking action against family violence, which remains a top priority for my Government. Since the launch of our first, nation-leading action plan in 2015, my Government has continued to build upon its commitment, investment and scope to respond to family and sexual violence in Tasmania. Our response takes a whole of Government, multi-agency approach, and provides significant investment to deliver 40 actions under the current Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022.

We have made good progress over the past six years, and in 2019-20 we saw the continued reduction in the number of family violence incidents assessed as high risk. We are investing in crisis accommodation through the Affordable Housing Action Plan, and extending the capacity of women's shelters across the State including Jireh House, Salvation Army and Magnolia House.

Through my Government's Rapid Rehousing program, we are helping more households into transitional accommodation and also funding an additional 20 properties as part of our response to COVID-19.

However, there is more work to be done. This is why my Government has committed to a third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan, with fully funded, evidence-based initiatives, in consultation with the Family and Sexual Violence Consultative Group and people with lived experience.

As part of this, we will commission a feasibility study for a new Safe Emergency Accommodation facility in the Northern Midlands, to better support women from rural areas. Ensuring we are removing barriers to enable more women to participate in learning and in the workforce is key, and I am pleased my Government is boosting the Women's Workforce Participation initiative to include additional funding over the next three years to develop an industry-led approach, to enable and empower more women to participate across the economy. This includes a Diversity Action Plan, in partnership with the Tasmanian Mineral and Energy Council, a Women in Building and Construction Strategy, and a Girls in Property pilot program.

My Government is also boosting health services for women through Family Planning Tasmania and we are providing free sanitary items in Government schools to ensure girls don't miss out on learning because they don't have access to basic items.

There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and supporting the families in which they grow, are loved and belong. We are committed to continuing the work that's begun, including our response to our most vulnerable children, young people and their families. This is why we are developing Tasmania's very first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

We are also providing funds to support new, stable permanent family placements where children and young people can belong and thrive, and we will extend supports for Informal Kinship Carers, who play a crucial role in the lives of many Tasmanian children who are unable to live with their parents. Ensuring we have a resilient and diverse economy to attract investment and enable our Tasmanian businesses to develop, grow and create employment opportunities for Tasmanians is critical.

A strong economy enables greater investment in the key areas that make a difference to Tasmanian lives - health, housing, community infrastructure, the environment, and training and education. My Government has worked hard to deliver transformative change in education, including prioritising the extension of Years 11 and 12 across senior schools, to increase the opportunity for more Tasmanians to complete tertiary education. Now, my Government will invest almost \$100 million in new funding into our TasTAFE system, including 100 more teachers, and new infrastructure and facilities, with increased access for rural and regional students.

These initiatives are described by industry as bold and pragmatic, and responding to the needs of Tasmanian businesses seeking to employ. Ensuring young Tasmanians can get the training, apprenticeships and jobs for their future here in Tasmania is a key pillar of my Government's plan to Secure Tasmania's Future. My Government has a clear plan to realise its vision, underpinned by principles of compassion and conviction. This is why we believe very

strongly that we must continue on our pathway to achieve reconciliation with our First Nations people, the Tasmanian Aboriginal people.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal people, who have inhabited this Island for more than 40 000 years. Acknowledgment under our constitution and Closing the Gap provide a solid foundation to build from. And whilst my Government remains committed to stronger protection of Aboriginal heritage and open to proposals for further land return, there is more to be done. In consultation with our First Nations people, my Government wants to find an agreed pathway to reconciliation so we can all share in the potential that exists from a truly meaningful, reconciled relationship. Our goal is to see better outcomes for Tasmanian Aboriginal people, more opportunity for them and their families, to dignify the relationship with Tasmanian Aboriginal people and achieve a truly reconciled community.

During her recent term as Governor for Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner AC has demonstrated a strong commitment to Tasmanian Aboriginal people and she has agreed to facilitate a process to understand directly from Aboriginal people themselves how best to take our next steps towards reconciliation. Professor Warner, who will be supported by Professor Tim McCormack, will deliver a report to the Premier by October, which will then be tabled in Parliament later this year. The Premier has requested that Professor Warner provide in her report recommendations that will outline a proposed way forward towards reconciliation, as well as the views of Tasmanian Aboriginal people on a Truth Telling process and on what a pathway to Treaty would consist of. Professor Warner will begin these discussions in the coming weeks.

While the last 16 months have been some of the most challenging this State has ever faced, my Government believes that Tasmanians - regardless of race, religion, circumstance or background - demonstrated a common humanity during this time that brought us closer together. We must hold onto that, we must learn from that, because it makes all of us stronger as a result.

My Government has received the endorsement of the people of Tasmania who have voted for stability and certainty. They will responsibly and fairly govern for all, and importantly work hard to ensure more Tasmanians are able to grasp the opportunities that now exist in this beautiful State. They have been given the honour and privilege of governing Tasmania to implement a bold vision to create opportunity for all Tasmanians, and to implement their plan to secure our State's future. They hold an important role, and with it comes great responsibility.

I know my Government will lead with conviction and compassion, and continue to place the wellbeing and welfare of the people of Tasmania first.

Thank you.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

[4.50 p.m.]

Mr ELLIS (Braddon) - Mr Speaker, I have the honour to move 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, Companion of the Order of Australia, 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 the 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 the person of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and at the same time, to assure Your Excellency that the measures which will be laid before us during this session will receive our careful consideration.

Mr Speaker, it was you who stood in my place after the last election to give this Address, and so may I echo your opening words. I congratulate all members who have been returned and for surviving the Hare Clark process, in particular I congratulate and welcome all new members of the house. Mr Speaker, congratulations on your role. In the time I have known you I have come to count you as a friend, a mentor and one of the most honourable people I have ever have the privilege of knowing. You deserve this role, and you will be outstanding.

Members - Hear, Hear.

Mr ELLIS - Noel Pearson, who grew up like me in an Aboriginal mission community and who became one of the architects of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, is known to have observed that of all the miserable cargo that left the shores of England for the Antipodes, there are three that I celebrate as among the finest imports. That is the sublime game of cricket, Earl Grey's tea, and the Common Law of England. I believe that we can, without hesitancy single out on this occasion, another of our great British cultural inheritances, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Throughout her ongoing 69-year reign, and in fact, her 95-year life so far, we have as a Commonwealth been extraordinarily blessed to be in her orbit.

It is staggering to consider her lived-experience of the Depression and the Blitz, the Gulags, and the Killing Fields, the Iron Curtain, the fall of communism's evil empire, the horrors of 9/11, and now the greatest pandemic since the Spanish Flu - an event she only narrowly missed 100 years ago - and the new dangers after the fall of a once-free Hong Kong. It is with a sense of awe that we sit here, on another small island, at the end of the world, with the mother of parliament's coat of arms above your chair, Mr Speaker, and the immortal words *Dieu et mon Droit*: God and my Right.

Since we last sat, we have mourned the death of his Royal Highness Prince Philip and their extraordinary partnership. Indeed, with the recent appointment of Her Excellency the Governor, it is a reminder of what a distinctive honour it is to be commissioned to represent Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in particular, in our special corner, and indeed anywhere in the world. Since this parliament last met we have also seen the retirement of her predecessor, another remarkable woman, former governor, Professor Kate Warner AC.

Over the next four years, never let us forget a simple truth reflected in our peculiar heritage. We are but a small island, but we sit here a free people in one of the oldest continuous democracies anywhere in the world and a moment when there are literally billions of people yearning to be free. We are but a small island, but we have something to give to the world.

We gather here only a day after the shortest day of the year, and in a moment, we hope, when we are emerging from one of the darkest chapters in history of the human race. It was on this day 87 years ago, 22 June 1934, that Albert Ogilvie - the man of bronze who stands in these very gardens - became premier of Tasmania. He came to power in the darkest days of the depression and nearly five years after the Black Tuesday Wall Street crash. He oversaw the massive expansion of hydro-electric development, the opening of Tarraleah in 1938, and the start of the Lake St Clair scheme. He developed the road to the Mt Wellington pinnacle and was at the forefront of tourism development in our state. The major industrial development of the decade credited to him was pulp and paper and the establishment of the Boyer Mill. He, like the best Tasmanian leaders, had an unshakeable belief in the end of idle hands, the mutual obligation of work and opportunity. And he died in the way many men would wish - playing golf.

It is with delight that my speech today will be followed by an address from his great niece and the newest member of the Parliamentary Liberal Party, the member for Clark, Madeleine Ogilvie. We share a commitment to freedom of conscience and the desire for realisation of the aspirations of everyday Tasmanian families to get a job in your own community, to own your home, to raise your kids according to your values and when it is all said and done, to have a dignified retirement after a lifetime of hard work.

Maddy, we welcome you.

Government members - Hear, hear.

Mr ELLIS - In that same year, 1934, another Tasmanian Premier and another who left the left had stepped on to the national stage at a time of unprecedented crisis. Premier Joseph Lyons stated in his famous New Year's Address:

For many I know only too well 1934 has been a year of trial. To many it has brought suffering. To those, words can be of small comfort but I cannot refrain from expressing my unbounded admiration for the manner in which thousands of people have borne their suffering with fortitude, have faced life and its problems so courageously.

This spirit lives on today. We are a small island but we have faith in the promise of tomorrow.

I am very pleased to be back in this House following the historic May election which saw a majority Liberal Government returned for a third consecutive term. There is no doubt that Tasmania has gone from strength to strength under a majority Liberal government.

Employment in Tasmania grew by 1800 people in May, bringing the total number of people employed in Tasmania to 259 600, which is higher than before the pandemic hit us in March last year. Our unemployment rate also fell by 0.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent and our participation rate grew as Tasmanians started to get out and fill the job opportunities that are

available. The ABS data confirms our plan to secure Tasmania's future is working with businesses confident, investing and hiring and our economy growing.

Her Excellency, the Governor, in her Address stated that Tasmanians have voted for certainty and stability, supporting our bold plan to create opportunities for all Tasmanians and to implement our plan to secure Tasmania's future. I do not take this task lightly, nor do I take it for granted. Together with my colleagues I will work hard every day for Tasmanians.

Our strong plan was backed by the people and we are getting on with the job of securing Tasmania's future. We have a sharp focus on delivery, which is why we laid out a number of key actions to deliver across our first 30 days of taking office, and we have delivered on each and every one of them, just as we said we would do. We heard loud and clear from Tasmanians that these are their priorities and we have responded. This includes taking action on health to reduce pressure off our hospitals and provide the services where and when Tasmanians need them. We will slash elective surgery waiting lists and deliver an additional 22 300 elective surgeries and endoscopies statewide by investing in an additional \$120 million for a total investment of \$156.4 million to deliver a record program of elective surgery. This will employ up to an additional 280 full-time staff to support new and boosted services across Tasmania, including more than 160 nurses, 14 doctors, 30 allied health staff, as well as more than 70 hospital support staff.

For my home region, the north-west, this will provide 3700 additional surgeries and endoscopies and an investment of \$26.1 million over the next four years as part of the biggest ever investment into elective surgery.

In the north west, we will deliver a \$60 million Stage 1 Redevelopment of the North West Regional Hospital to meet future demand - the first significant upgrade in decades. We will expand the Mersey Community Hospital Redevelopment with a further investment - \$20 million, to provide a total upgrade of \$55 million - the most significant redevelopment in the hospital's history. In addition, we are delivering a second linear accelerator in the North West Regional Hospital to meet the demand of cancer patients. We are establishing a new rural medical workforce centre at the Mersey Community Hospital to support the recruitment and retention of permanent doctors for the region and we are strengthening palliative and community health care with an additional \$52 million statewide for an in-home and local community delivered health service.

The Tasmanian Liberal majority Government has delivered more funding, more state and more health services than any government ever before. We are now spending \$9.8 billion on health - \$4 billion more than when the disastrous Labor-Greens government was running the show in 2013. That is a 70 per cent increase. In fact, 32 per cent of total budget funding is now spent on health, up from 25 per cent a decade ago.

Her Excellency the Governor stated in her Address that this Government has adopted a bold agenda and a clear plan to secure Tasmania's future, to secure more opportunities for Tasmanians and to build a more diverse and resilient economy.

As part of our 30-day plan we have already taken action to secure more jobs in Tasmania. This includes delivering a memorandum of understanding between the Government, the TT-Line and the Tasmanian Maritime Network to deliver up to \$100 million in local supply to Tasmanian businesses in delivering two new replacement *Spirits*. The replacement of

TT-Line's passenger ferries represents a significant long-term investment in the future of our state. When COVID-19 hit we had the opportunity to do nothing or to take action and deliver better outcomes for our state. We chose action and it has delivered. The contract to deliver up to \$100 million of local content allows Tasmanian businesses to have a much greater role in the supply of goods and services for these new and iconic vessels. This will help to sustain and grow jobs as well as promote local innovation and capability.

Innovation runs in Tasmania's DNA. It is key to harnessing our natural strengths and competitive advantages to realise our true potential. Her Excellency the Governor outlined in her address that this includes advanced manufacturing, agriculture, mineral resources, fisheries, forestry, tourism, the arts and iconic events which showcase our culture, our heritage and our ingenuity.

Our industries are the backbone of our regional economies. They help to provide opportunities and jobs; they help to put our kids in school and food on our table. As a government we must responsibly support our industries and ensure we have the infrastructure to attract and retain them. We promote a better way of doing things and our industries help lead the way.

More than 100 years ago Tasmania took a bold leap and grasped the opportunities before it, delivering the Hydro-Electric Power Scheme. The construction work was difficult and required grit, resilience and innovation in some of the most difficult country anywhere in our state. It began with a big dream in the early 1900s to bring electricity to every Tasmanian farm, business and home. No other state or territory at the time had a public statewide energy-generating enterprise; it was an Australian first. Now Tasmania is a clean energy leader.

We were the first state in Australia to reach net-zero emissions. We have reached our 2050 target early for five years in a row. Here we stand with a next generation opportunity to harness our island's competitive advantages and once again lead Australia, this time to transition to a low-emissions economy. Our bold plan to unlock Tasmania's world-class renewable energy resources, including hydro generation and storage as well as wind and solar resources, will be a game changer.

Through our key projects, including the Marinus Link, the Battery of the Nation and our hydrogen strategy, we will not only create thousands of jobs and deliver a bumper boost to our economy but we will help transition Tasmania to a renewable energy powerhouse and meet our renewable energy target of 200 per cent by 2040.

This Government has a strong plan to secure Tasmania's future and to support job creation and economic growth in the state's forestry sector. We understand that forestry is a vital part of the economy and that is why we will invest \$11.7 million into Tasmania's forest industries, helping to secure the jobs of the 5700 people currently working in the sector and to create more than 300 new jobs.

We will do this by helping the industry to grow its on-island processing and value-adding to attract new businesses to Tasmania and allow existing businesses to invest and expand, creating jobs, particularly in regional areas such as mine. In turn, this will support our building and construction boom in Tasmania by providing greater access to high-value-appearance grade veneers and load-bearing timbers. We will also be helping the industry to promote

sustainable Tasmanian products to fuel demand, address current skills shortages and train the forest industry leaders of the future.

Tasmania's mining and mineral processing is a vital part of the state's economy, contributing more than 50 per cent of Tasmania's exports, mostly in regional communities. The mining sector contributes the lion's share of our state's goods exports and it is a key job creator and community-building sector that draws on Tasmania's rich and sustainable natural resources. Under a majority Liberal government, we have seen the restart of operations at Hellyer creating more than 60 jobs, the successful sale of the Henty goldmine securing over 100 jobs and the sale of the Beaconsfield goldmine and proposed restart, which would create 80 jobs, not to mention the Venture mine at Wiley Creek. It is why we will continue to help our mining sector to find new deposits, develop new mines, create new jobs and new value-adding opportunities. These initiatives are expected to create jobs by providing industry with the certainty they need to continue investing in Tasmania and employing local Tasmanians.

Business confidence in Tasmania is strong and that is a sign of government policies that enable businesses to invest, grow, diversify and employ Tasmanians. With my first child born on the campaign trail, my focus was clear. I want him to grow up in a state where there are opportunities, not limitations. That is why a majority Liberal government takes its economic management seriously and knows that investing in infrastructure builds better, more connected communities and helps to attract investment to our state.

Her Excellency the Governor outlined our strong focus on ensuring we have the intergenerational infrastructure our growing state needs. We are building better roads, schools, hospitals, bridges, dams and irrigation networks right across the state, which is supporting thousands of jobs in our regions and helping our businesses and our industries. That is why we are supporting and accelerating our agriculture sector with further investment in key areas such as irrigation to propel the sector towards our bold target of an annual farmgate value of \$10 billion by 2050 supporting rural and regional communities and creating even more jobs. It is why we aim to fast-track investment for the largest port developments program in Tasmania's history which will be a game-changer for the north-west economy. It includes redeveloping the port of Devonport to significantly increase capacity for both freight and vehicles and transforming the Burnie port into a dedicated bulk export terminal, increasing capacity for larger vessels to berth at the port and to ensure that terminal infrastructure is fit for purpose. It is estimated that these transformational projects will create up to 2700 jobs during constructions and inject over \$236 million into our local economy through increased trade, mining royalties and tourism.

Strong communities are connected communities and that includes all our islands in Tasmania. It is why the Government has wasted no time and in our first 30 days we have entered into an agreement to extend direct flights between Hobart and King and Flinders islands to March 2022, better connecting families on the islands, improving services and allowing more Tasmanians the opportunity to visit and experience these islands and what makes our state truly unique and special.

Strong communities are also safe communities and Her Excellency the Governor said in her address that this Government is focused on initiatives that keep Tasmanians safe. We are boosting Tasmania Police to the highest number of officers in the state's history, investing in CCTV in our rural and regional areas and providing more funds to CrimeStoppers and support for specialist recruitment in areas such as cyber-crime.

We are keeping communities safe from the threat of bushfire with more fuel reduction burns, more volunteers such as yourself, Mr Speaker, and new generation technologies. We are keeping our communities safe by taking action against the scourge of family violence, investing in crisis accommodation through our Affordable Housing Action Plan and extending the capacity of women's shelters and the important work they do across the state, including Jirah House, the Salvation Army and Magnolia House. We know there is more work to do and that is why we have committed to a third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan with fully funded evidenced-based initiatives in consultation with the family and sexual violence consultative group and people with lived experience.

The safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable children, young people and their families is also critical. That is why we are developing Tasmania's very first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and are providing funds to support new stable, permanent family placements where children and young people can belong and thrive. We will also extend support for informal kinship carers who play a crucial role in the lives of many Tasmanian children who sadly are unable to live with their parents.

The Tasmanian people have again recognised that this is no time for trivial leadership but for strength of character and a no-nonsense approach of a premier willing to make the tough, fair and responsible decisions that need to be made in the interests of our state. This is a government that wants to govern for people from all walks of life - the shopkeepers, the skilled artisans, professional men and women, farmers and so on. They are the backbone of our nation, as Menzies reminds us. This is a government for all Tasmanians, no matter who you are, where you live, your circumstance or your background.

As Joe Lyons concluded in that 1934 address:

... I believe that the Australian people, by their determination to face facts, by their refusal to take the easy road, by their sacrifices have won a position which is the envy of the world.

To them, to you who are listening tonight, we owe our thanks. The road to economic recovery is painful but I have no doubt that the road the Australian people have taken is the correct one and that its goal will be worth the effort of attaining it.

True then of Australia, true now of Tasmania.

We are but a small island but there is no better place in the world to be and I look forward to working with my team as part of this Government to secure Tasmania's future.

Recognition of Visitor

Mr SPEAKER - Before I give the call to Ms Ogilvie, I would like members in the Chamber to acknowledge the presence of a previous Speaker, the Honourable Mr Michael Polley.

Members - Hear, hear.

[5.13 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark) - Mr Speaker, I have the great honour to second the motion that an address be presented to Her Excellency the Governor in reply to Her Excellency's speech. I also congratulate you on your elevation, which is well deserved. I also welcome all members, returned and new, and say what a privilege it is to be returned to this place.

I rise today in response to the address provided by Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, to mark the first session of this, our Fiftieth Parliament of Tasmania. It is indeed a deep honour and privilege to be elected by the people of Tasmania for all of us.

I am so very grateful to the people of Clark for their continued confidence and for providing me with a unique opportunity to be part of this Government.

I also express my deep thanks to the Liberal team, my campaign team and family, particularly my husband Liam and my children Thomas, Amelia and Charlie, who are now veterans of a number of great campaigns. I was overjoyed to meet young William Ellis who was on the campaign, much like my Thomas was about a decade or more ago.

To the electors of Clark, particularly those who placed their vote with me for the first time, I will not let you down. To the Liberal members, voters and my parliamentary colleagues, I want to thank you so much for your warm-hearted welcome and acceptance. Premier Gutwein, my personal thanks. I truly have had such a fortunate life and now I am fortunate again to have the opportunity to be part of a strong, stable majority Liberal government, which will secure Tasmania's future.

I will continue my consistent advocacy for jobs and for everyday people. My values have not changed. I understand Tasmanians want stability in their important parliament. I am hopeful that we will achieve that this parliament. Together with my wonderful colleagues we are all committed to working hard to ensure more Tasmanians are able to grasp fresh opportunities now and in the future.

Her Excellency the Governor spoke of the challenges we have faced in Tasmania over the past 16 months. We are certainly not alone. If there is one thing a global pandemic teaches us it is that none of us is living in isolation; nor are we immune - we are in it together. It is how we respond that makes the difference. We responded with kindness, inclusion, care and pragmatism. It is why our Government also responds with the enduring principles of compassion and conviction. We have been able to and we want to harness our common humanity to provide support where it is needed most and innovating as we face a new dawn with new and fresh opportunities for our fantastic island state. Let us find the things that bring us together.

Our Government has a clear vision for Tasmania: for it to be a state of opportunity for all who call it home, no matter who you are, where you live, your circumstances or your background. Our efforts in assisting multicultural communities during the pandemic showed true understanding, true inclusion and true compassion. We have hit the ground running to deliver the strong plan that we took to the election that will secure Tasmania's future. We laid out a number of important actions to deliver across our first 30 days of taking office. We have delivered on each and every one of them, just as we said we would. Commitment, strength, resilience and the capacity to deliver will be the hallmarks of this Government.

Important actions in a number of truly vital areas such as health, skills and training, job creation, tourism and building the infrastructure our growing state needs for the future are underway already. We heard loud and clear from Tasmanians that these are their priorities and our Government understands the need to deliver on everything that we promise. These key actions have already included meeting with each major private hospital as well as the community, nursing and homecare sector to discuss the provision of services to take pressure off the public system because we can work together.

We have started recruiting additional health staff needed for our elective surgery blitz and we have signed a memorandum of understanding with Calvary Healthcare to remove any outstanding impediments to the \$120 million co-located private hospital adjacent to the LGH. As an aside, I was born at a Calvary Hospital as was my mum, as were my children. and I have experienced the co-located hospitals in New South Wales and it was a good experience.

While this Government is already delivering record investment into our health and hospital system including additional doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals, we are also drawing on our learnings gained through COVID-19 where our private and public systems worked well together. That work is already underway. It will inform how private hospitals can assist our public hospital sector to meet our ambitious, elective surgery schedule, identifying opportunities to purchase beds from private hospitals to improve patient flow and access to care. This will enable private hospitals to support public hospitals with demand in other areas including, importantly, nursing and home care. Co-located private and public hospitals have been extremely successful and beneficial to communities across Australia. We know they can help attract and retain difficult-to-recruit specialists to our healthcare system.

Having a strong economy is critical to maintaining investment in essential services, including health and mental health, housing and education. Tasmania is performing strongly across a number of economic performance indicators. There are now 25 000 more jobs in Tasmania compared to when the Liberal government took office in 2014. In fact, there are now more Tasmanian jobs than there were before the pandemic but we are not complacent. I understand there are barriers to enabling all Tasmanians to access jobs, which is why I pushed so hard to get the Glenorchy Jobs Hub happening. We are focused on ensuring more Tasmanians can participate in our growing economy.

The establishment of the new Jobs Tasmania unit has already begun with the Department of State Growth to deliver our Local Jobs for Local People program which will better connect employers, job seekers and training opportunities. Jobs Tasmania will be focused on connecting the right people with the right skills and connecting those people with the employers that need more trained workers, addressing key recommendations of the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council final report, the PESRAC Report.

Its focus will be statewide and particularly in our regions with four new Jobs Tasmania hubs in Burnie, Brighton, Huonville and St Helens. Expansion of existing northern employment and business hubs is very good news. This unit will provide important support as we deliver almost \$22 million in jobs training and related funding, including a pilot Youth Connectors Program to operate in conjunction with existing jobs hubs in Sorell, Glenorchy and George Town; the Job Ready Fund to help job seekers to gain essential accreditation they need to get a job such as the white card and working with vulnerable people checks. The Jobs Tasmania partnership between the Government and the non-government sector to enhance

engagement and alignment of non-government services and the Jobs Tasmania Hubs Network and the Tasmania employer bonus to encourage employers to take on long-term, unemployed job seekers is a fantastic initiative.

It is really pleasing to note that Jobs Tasmania is already working on implementation strategies and engaging with key stakeholders to support the timely rollout of these new initiatives to get more than 2000 Tasmanian job seekers in regional areas into work over the next three years. That is 2000 people. It is a big number and it is a great initiative.

In the first 30 days of forming government we have already commenced planning for all Tasmanian TAFE capital works. It comes as part of our \$98.5 million election commitment to deliver the next evolution of TasTAFE to ensure it is accessible to all students and delivering the training that industry needs. Creating that nexus is so important.

Planning is now underway for the \$10 million Alanvale Project to improve student access and experience as well as the \$12 million for trade spaces and new accommodation in the north west and new student accommodation in the south. Our \$10 million virtual campus will enable TasTAFE's remote learners to engage and connect with training online to improve access to training for students. As we have experienced in the pandemic, there is no greater need for online access than there is now. This is because we know TasTAFE training is vital to build a skilled Tasmanian workforce and providing the job opportunities for Tasmanians when they are looking for work.

Planning is now underway to create a hybrid learning model that provides a blend of remotely facilitated training, practical on-campus experience and the 24-hour access to digital content and learning activities with an implementation plan developed to guide the project. This is a good innovation. A further \$4 million will be invested into rural and remote sites which can service TasTAFE training through a partnership between Libraries Tasmania and TasTAFE. Work to identify priority locations has commenced with the first stage of an implementation plan incorporated into the virtual campus plan.

The Tasmanian majority Liberal government has a bold plan for TasTAFE and we will continue to support industry, our important students, and deliver accessible training to help Tasmanians find a job, upskill, or change careers.

While we focus on ensuring more Tasmanians can get the skills and training they need for the work that is available, we are also backing industry to fuel a future pipeline of work. True to our commitment, in the first 30 days of government we have facilitated the provision of a no-interest \$100 million loan to Incat to construct a 120-metre high-speed vessel, helping to secure jobs. Who could forget the debates of the last parliament in relation to that?

COVID-19 has significantly affected the global fast ferry market, with many operators putting on hold their plans to expand or renew their fleets, which in turn has impacted Incat's construction pipeline. The provision of a \$100 million loan to Incat secures not only their current workforce of 500 employees, many of whom I was fortunate to meet, but will add up to another 120-150 new employees to its operation. This includes up to 60 new apprenticeships across various trades, establishing a core skill-base for the Tasmanian maritime construction sector into the future. I am delighted at this outcome. Well done everyone.

The Government recognises Incat's critical importance to the Tasmanian economy through its status as a major employer as well as through the local supply-chain businesses that rely on its operations. It is a network. I am certain all members of this house will agree with me when I say how fortunate we are to live in Tasmania, which is not only the most beautiful place in the world, but in the face of a deadly global pandemic, it is one of the safest.

I would like to personally thank Premier Gutwein for his leadership during the pandemic, for which he and his team were justly returned to government in majority. The Governor said in her speech that this was largely due to the significant steps taken by public health officials and this government to keep Tasmanians safe from the pandemic, balancing both a health and economic crisis. It was well managed. She stated that the economic support packages and the hard work done over the past seven years to build a more resilient Tasmanian economy and the initiatives taken to stimulate Tasmania's economy through the pandemic had placed our state in a strong position for recovery. Very true words.

It might be winter in Tasmania, but our state is red-hot with activity. From two AFL games on the weekend, to a charity ball concert and of course our iconic Dark MOFO, Tasmania is the place to be. Our government is focused on securing our future, including our iconic events, and that is why within 30 days of government we have already commenced negotiations with the organisers of six iconic Tasmanian events to deliver multi-year funding agreements and to secure their future right here in Tasmania. Events such as Dark MOFO, which has been a cultural beacon in Tasmania since its inception in 2013, bring locals out of hibernation and attract visitors to the state in the traditionally quieter winter months. We are proud to support this iconic festival and I am pleased that Dark MOFO is one of the six iconic events that will secure a new funding agreement as part of the government's \$21.5 million election commitment. Iconic events, which also include the Australian Wooden Boat Festival, Festivale, Mona Foma, Targa Tasmania and the Junction Arts Festival, all play a role in continuing to drive our recovery and support jobs growth into the future.

The Tasmanian majority Liberal government has a strong plan to ensure Tasmania's future, with a focus on making the decisions necessary to continue keeping all Tasmanians safe from COVID-19, delivering a more diverse and resilient Tasmanian economy to create jobs, delivering the revenue we need to protect against future challenges, and continuing our record investment into essential services.

We are building better and more connected communities, including more houses, better roads, schools, hospitals, bridges, dams and irrigation networks right across our state, which is supporting thousands of jobs in our regions. We are doing this because we care about the people of Tasmania and we want to see families thrive here. Not only is the infrastructure pipeline supporting large and small business and the thousands of jobs they provide, but it is delivering improved outcomes for more Tasmanians. That is why we are investing an additional \$315 million into social and affordable housing and homelessness initiatives across the state, bringing the total investment to over \$615 million over seven years. It is a record investment by government in Tasmania. This includes 2000 extra social homes on top of the 1500 already being built over the next three years, delivering 3500 new social homes. It includes \$20 million for new supported accommodation facilities for older Tasmanians in the north and north-west of the state and it provides \$15.3 million for innovative new youth housing and homelessness initiatives.

There is no doubt that the First Home Owner Grant has helped fuel our building and construction industry. By December last year, dwelling approvals in Tasmania rose 66.5 per cent, which was the largest increase in the nation. In January this year, construction loans in Tasmania were nearly triple what they were a year ago, before the pandemic. This is why we are increasing the First Home Owner Grant Boost from \$20 000 to \$30 000 until 30 July 2022 to support more home buyers into home ownership. We are developing a comprehensive long-term strategy to address Tasmania's housing needs over the next 20 years across the full spectrum of public and private housing. There is no silver-bullet solution, which is why we are focused on delivering a range of initiatives to meet a greater number of Tasmania's needs: initiatives such as investing an additional \$10 million into home-share to support low-income Tasmanians to buy their own homes; increasing the property value threshold for our 50 per cent stamp duty concession for first-time buyers and pensioners downsizing to \$500 000; increasing housing supply with a new secondary dwelling incentive program, and putting downward pressure on rents to assist in our tight rental market by delivering a reduction in land tax.

Mr Speaker, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, paid tribute to the former governor of Tasmania, Professor Kate Warner AC, who is renowned for her community consideration and as a true champion for grassroots issues of importance to Tasmanians. How fortunate we were to have her as our governor for that time. I thank Professor Warner for her incredible work and legacy and I welcome today's announcement that Professor Warner will facilitate a proposed pathway to reconciliation. I look forward to Professor Warner's recommendations which will undoubtedly outline a proposed way forward to reconciliation, as well as hearing the views of Tasmanian aboriginal people on a community truth-telling process, and on what a pathway to a treaty would consist of. This is something I have an interest in for a long time and I do feel it is worthy of Professor Warner's deepest attention and consideration.

I am proud and privileged to work with the Government; our Government, that is compassionately committed to finding an agreed pathway to reconciliation. To echo Her Excellency the Governor's words, there is no doubt that we can all share in the potentials that exist from a truly meaningful reconciled relationship.

The Tasmanian majority Liberal Government has been elected by the people of Tasmania for an historic consecutive third term. I am very humbled and privileged to be part of this team which has been entrusted by Tasmanians to deliver for our state. I put my faith in the electorate somewhat and I am deeply touched to be returned as a Liberal member.

We have immediately got down to the business of delivering for the people of Tasmania. We laid out a number of key actions to deliver across our first 30 days of taking office and we have delivered each and every one of them, just as we said we would. We are continuing this momentum and delivering the remaining elements of our 100-day plan. I am so pleased to be back in this House again, getting on with the job of working for Tasmanians to secure Tasmania's future. Thank you.

Debate adjourned.

MOTION

Sessional Orders - Adoption

[5.37 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I seek leave to make certain motions about notice concerning Sessional Orders as well as the appointment of the usual Sessional and Standing Committees.

Leave granted.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Speaker, before I move these motions, I congratulate you on being appointed by our House as our Speaker. I feel you will be justly honoured and your family must be so incredibly proud of you. I can witness that all members place a lot of trust in you to discharge your responsibilities and to look after our House and to ensure that members here enjoy their rights and we can have professional and respectful but nonetheless robust debates.

Mr Speaker, I move -

That for the remainder of this Session -

(1) Following Standing Order 18, the following Sessional Order be inserted -

18A Extension of Day's Sitting

- (1) A Minister may, at any time, but not so as to interrupt another Member while speaking, move without leave and without notice - 'That for this day's sitting, the House shall not stand adjourned at Six o'clock p.m. and that the House continue to sit past Six o'clock p.m.'
 - (2) Such motion supersedes the Main Question, if any, before the Chair.
 - (3) The Question of the extension of the day's sitting may not be amended and debate thereon shall not be allowed for more than twenty minutes, and in speaking thereon, no Member may exceed five minutes.
 - (4) Upon the resolution of the Question of the extension of the day's sitting, Debate on the Main Question, if any, shall resume as if uninterrupted.
- (2) In Standing Order 22, the words 'past and present' be deleted, and the words 'past, present, and emerging' be substituted instead.
- (3) In Standing Order 42, by leaving out all words after, 'Unless otherwise ordered:-', and the following words substituted instead -

'(a) Private Members Business will have priority from 2.30 p.m. till 6.00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

(b) Private Members Business which has been on the Notice Paper for the period required by the Standing Orders may be called on by a Member of the group which has been allocated time pursuant to the following weekly rotations -

WEEK ONE

2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Government Private Members
3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Opposition Members
5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.	Greens Members

WEEK TWO

2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.	Greens Members
3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.	Opposition Members
5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.	Government Private Members

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) and the weekly rotations prescribed in paragraph (b), the Independent Member for Clark, may, once in every four sitting weeks, call on an item of Private Members Business at Noon to 1.00 p.m.

(d) the Member calling on an item in Private Members' Business may, in doing so, state that at the conclusion of that time for the debate on that day, the matter be voted upon.

(e) at the commencement of the time allocated for a group's Private Members' Business, the Whip or any other Member of that group, may indicate to the Speaker that its time be waived, in which case, the House shall immediately proceed with Government Business for that allocation of time.'

(4) Following Standing Order 48, the following Sessional Order be inserted -

'48A Minimum number of Questions

Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 47, the Speaker shall ensure that a minimum of questions without notice to be asked shall be seven by the Opposition, four by the Government Private Members, two by Members of the Greens, and one by the Independent Member for Clark if such Member seeks the call.'

(5) In Standing Order 49, after 'laid upon the Table of the House', by inserting, 'within 15 sitting days'.

(6) In Standing Order 76, after paragraph (3), by adding the following new paragraph -

'(4) On Tuesdays and Wednesdays priority shall be given to the Opposition to raise a Matter of Public Importance and on Thursdays priority shall be given to Members other than the Opposition. Government Private Members shall only be given priority on every third sitting week.'

(7) In Standing Order 129, by adding the following new paragraph:-

'(2) A Member who has moved a substantive motion, or has moved an Order of the Day, may move the adjournment of the debate pursuant to paragraph (1), but such motion shall not be taken to be the 'reply' prescribed by Standing Order 128.'

As is the practice at the opening of each parliament, there are a number of Sessional Orders for providing for the efficient functioning of the House. In the absence of Sessional Orders, we would default to the Standing Orders.

The Sessional Orders are drafted and circulated to members opposite and the independent member - I welcome her to the Chamber. They set out the allocation of the importance of the Matter of Public Importance debates and the times assigned to Private Members' Business debates each week.

As has been the practice since question time was first time-limited, I am told way back in the early 1990s when the Standing Orders which currently provides for a one-hour maximum time, these proposed Sessional Orders allocate a minimum number of questions to specific members of the House by party. Without the Sessional Order on minimum questions, the House would revert to the Standing Orders which provide only for a question time of one-hour in duration, with questions allocated at the discretion of the Speaker. One could imagine that up until that time when we provided for the minimum number of questions, it was more or less in accordance with the composition of the House.

On all of these matters, the Government and I, on behalf of the Government, propose to retain the previous arrangements. There are no changes in the motion before us other than what were the Standing Orders that were in force in the last parliament. They largely worked extremely well in ensuring that all members of the House, including and especially members outside of the Government, but also government members, were confidently able to plan and ask their questions each day of the Premier and ministers.

The proposed Sessional Order was adopted in 2018 and it has provided greater time for the House to deal with substantive matters rather than debating often what are essentially housekeeping arrangements. In time, they will make their way into the Standing Orders.

It has been the practice and would always be my intention to discuss and provide the night before advice that we each evening provide as a courtesy and as a convention to members. The planned business of the day the next day, which is not an obligation on government but it is a proper courtesy and it will continue to be adhered to, is if it is the case when, from time to time, the House needs to sit past six o'clock, it will continue to be my intention to provide the best notice as I can in good faith. Again, it is not an obligation. We have to be somewhat flexible and nimble in looking after business in this House. Most often when we have had to extend the hours of the House, it is because legislation requires the extra debate and people

want the time. From time to time that is provided for and that would continue to be my convention.

The other provision goes to the housekeeping mechanisms to the House by retaining the clear allocation of private members' business which will be prioritised over government business as well as assigning priority for matters of public importance debates which allow for all members to participate in the rotation that is indicated. Previously that has not been the case. These proposals have been previously presented and circulated to the Labor Party, to the Green members and the Independent member for Clark. I hope they would receive the support of the House. I am aware that some will want to push the envelope. I understand that. However, I would put forward in advance the view of the Government that the Standing and Sessional Orders are for the House itself. They are for the House to operate smoothly and professionally. They are not intended to provide for everything that every individual member would want to have. Otherwise the House would be chaos.

Second, conventions and rules that are established do have longevity. Both government and opposition members would be well aware and would do well to remember that eventually the sides do change over and one should reflect on the rules that we have set out and recognise that what is there for one opposition should be fair for the next opposition. It was my clear memory in 2010 as a new member sitting on that side of the Chamber that the then Liberal opposition had six questions each day. Mr Hidding and the then government, probably Ms O'Byrne, negotiated that that would rise to seven questions per day, a good outcome. We have preserved that and intend for that to continue to be the case.

The rules and the rights and responsibilities for each member are the basis on which we can operate as a professional House and allow the Opposition and Green members and Independent members and, for that matter, government members of the Liberal Party to be able to enjoy their rights as members of this House. I have a lot of confidence, particularly in the new Speaker that this House will operate professionally, fit for purpose and with a good deal of respect for not just the 400 plus years of the Westminster system of government to allow every member to have equal rights before the Chair but also, to have a function in government and a function in opposition that can scrutinise that government. Also, I have confidence that the more than 160 years of responsible government in Tasmania can be honoured again.

Mr Speaker, in advance, I congratulate and look forward to your rule on this House.

[5.43 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Speaker, I move -

That clause 4 of the motion be omitted and insert instead:

'(4) Sessional Orders be inserted -

48A Minimum numbers of Questions

Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 47, the Speaker shall ensure that a minimum of questions without notice to be asked shall be nine by the Opposition, three by Members of the Greens and two by the Independent Member for Clark if such Member seeks the call.

48B Maximum time for Questions and answers

Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 48, the Speaker shall ensure the time taken to ask a Question does not exceed one minute, and the time taken to answer a Question does not exceed four minutes.'

We believe these amendments are self-explanatory in the effect that they seek to achieve. The Leader of the House has said that he believes the Sessional Orders as they were worked well for the House. In fact, they worked well for the government of the day. The government of the day awards itself four self-congratulatory questions from a diminishing back bench and, in fact, because the House is so diminished and every child gets a prize over on the Government side, I cannot see a backbencher here who does not have another responsibility. In the last term of the parliament we had the unedifying sight of Mr Tucker asking the full quota of four Dorothy Dixers in a day.

Ms Archer - It was COVID restrictions.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Ms O'CONNOR - I will just say this, Mr Speaker - the more the volume goes up over there the more you know you have got under their skin a little bit, because out in the community -

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, before you continue we need a written copy, a hard copy of your amendments, if that could be distributed.

Ms O'CONNOR - Thank you, Mr Speaker. We might get guffaws and belittling us over there on the Government benches, but out in the community when they hear that the government of the day awards itself four self-congratulatory questions every question time they shake their heads in disgust and they do not know that of those Dorothy Dix questions that are asked, a number of the answers by ministers, while they are busy telling us how terrific they are, run into the order of six or seven minutes. So you have four Dorothy Dix questions that are six or seven minutes long, which means that in an hour-long question time up to 28 minutes can be taken up by Dorothy Dix questions.

Mr Ferguson pretends that these are genuine questions from Government backbenchers. No, they are not. They are written by someone be they either in the media office or in the Leader of Government Business' office. They are not written because they come from a diminished backbench's concerns that they are expressing on behalf of their community, because those issues are taken up in the PLP.

Dorothy Dix questions are an anachronism. They are not supported by the community, they diminish the opportunity for accountability and to hold ministers to account. They diminish the opportunity for Greens members - or Labor if they come on board - to ask questions of the Government on its actual response to climate change. We had two government members get up just now on the Address-in-Reply who did not talk about the climate, biodiversity, or the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council's recommendation that for a proper and sustained recovery from COVID we need to look after the environment.

In the community they do not support Dorothy Dix questions. In the community they do not support ministers rabbiting on endlessly in the hour that is dedicated to question time in order to avoid scrutiny. In the federal parliament there are limits on the length of questions which I understand is one minute and there is a limit on answers which I think in the Senate is about two minutes - correct me, someone, if I am wrong.

Here we have ministers bloviating endlessly and their eyes flick up and back and forth to the clock to see how long they can run it out so there is no opportunity for any other questions past the quota. It is disgraceful, it is not in line with community expectations. It is a deliberate attempt on the Government's part to avoid scrutiny and accountability. There should be an end to Dorothy Dix questions. They are ridiculous, they insult the intelligence of Tasmanians and they insult what question time is all about. It should be about scrutiny and accountability and it should provide a line of sight to some transparency, but it does not enough because at least half of question time is taken up by rubbish; self-congratulatory questions that are not written by the backbenchers to ministers who have all the tools of government at their disposal to make an announcement. They could issue a media release, hold a press conference, convene some stakeholders for a round table, but instead we get this rubbish in question time. We believe that question time would be much healthier and functional and much more in line with Westminster traditions if it got rid of Dorothy Dixers and put some time limit on questions.

In closing, Mr Speaker, I implore you in your new role to keep an eye on the ministers who talk and talk and talk. In the previous parliament, for all the previous Speakers' proclamations about a big, bold, brave and accountable parliament, never were ministers pulled into line for going on endlessly. It insults the people who put us here, so I would urge you to keep an eye on ministers who talk endlessly. It is an insult to the people who put us here and whose trust we must uphold in the way we conduct ourselves in this place. I commend the motion to the House.

[5.51 p.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon) - Mr Speaker, I also congratulate you on your elevation to the role of Speaker.

I will be speaking on the Greens' proposed amendments. We believe that question time is an important opportunity for the Opposition to scrutinise the Government and to seek more information. In fact, it is the only real opportunity outside of Estimates and GBEs. Questions from backbenchers to government ministers is a Westminster convention and if used appropriately and effectively, it provides the opportunity for important information to be presented to the House and ongoing scrutiny of government ministers.

We understand Ms O'Connor's desire to ensure question time continues to be robust and not simply an opportunity for the Government to re-read its media releases and waste valuable time - time which should be reserved for scrutiny and questioning. This ensures the government of the day is held accountable and questions are answered without fear or favour, providing answers to the Opposition but, more importantly, to the Tasmanian people.

Over the last term of parliament we did see a decrease in the quality of questions from government backbenchers and an increase in time wasting. Answers to questions have been known to go over 10 minutes. We are concerned about this and, in fact, question time has deteriorated significantly under this Government.

I understand a former Speaker, the Honourable Michael Polley, who is with us this evening, would sit government members down and was very stringent in the Speaker's Chair when it came to wasting time. We would welcome a similar approach from you as you take the role in the Speaker's Chair.

Question time is not the time for backbenchers to pat their ministers on the back. It is a time for scrutiny. Let us improve the standards in this place; our constituents expect nothing less of us. We want to see questions from backbenchers improve and play an important and valuable role in the parliament once again, as they should.

We will not support the Greens' amendments but we will be referring this matter to the parliamentary standing committee as its first item of business to consider and that will include the introduction of time limits to improve the process and time consumed by Dorothy Dixers from this Government.

[5.53 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I will be brief in response to the proposed amendment from Ms O'Connor, member for Clark and Leader of the Greens. You could see the hypocrisy coming a mile away and it is hard not to reach into the, 'Oh, Basil, you're such a cutie bringing on this one', but that is what you also did. You had questions from your own party when you were sitting -

Ms O'Connor - We never saw the questions, unlike you.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I think it was here in this seat - 'Oh, Basil, you're such a cutie'. That was your first sentence to a Dorothy Dixier question from Mr O'Halloran, the former member for Braddon, who at the time was actually a parliamentary secretary to the education minister.

Let us be real. Fair dinkum, you want to bring these kinds of debates forward but all you are doing is wasting time. I understand that your own history is awkward for you but I will just point out that in the Labor-Greens government between 2010 and 2014 the Labor-Greens members of parliament asked of itself six questions, not four - we have brought the government members down to four - every day.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order. The Leader of Government Business is misleading the House, whether knowingly or unknowingly. Greens members had an allocation which he is counting as Dorothy Dixers.

Mr FERGUSON - You were part of the government.

Ms O'CONNOR - No, you are being dishonest, but why are we surprised? We had an allocation.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - The Leader of the House has the call.

Mr FERGUSON - That is the fact. That is the record. In respect of the throwaway, unhelpful comment about Mr Tucker, the simple fact is that you refer to an episode where Mr Tucker asked all the questions that were allocated to Liberal members of parliament, noting that we had agreed throughout the pandemic to have limited attendance in the House. It is a simple fact. The fact that you would bring that in shows how desperate you have been to find a few arguments to make for your amendment.

Ms O'Connor - So, we get one question each and Mr Tucker gets four?

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I note and acknowledge Ms Dow's contribution. I approach this job in good faith. Ms Dow's contribution as the official opposition to this Government has actually been a responsible response to Ms O'Connor's amendment. Why would the Labor Party not agree with a motion that would give them an extra couple of questions each day? It is because they can see you coming, Ms O'Connor. They can see that it is a little wedge trap motion -

Ms O'Connor - No, because they will be back there one day and they are looking after themselves.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - Regarding people of any party trying to quality control the quality of questions the governing party are asking of the Government, frankly that is not the concern that you are here for. You are here to make your questions count.

Dr Woodruff - We are here to try to restore the democracy of this place and have scrutiny during question time.

Mr FERGUSON - It is not your role to be worrying yourself about how well Mr Tucker asks his questions.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, through the Chair please, Leader of the House.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Speaker, we are already wasting time on this matter. For the reasons I have outlined and in my earlier contribution, we have to be fair; we have to be seen to be fair. Acknowledging that without this Sessional Order - it is just one hour - is not acceptable to me or the Government and I know it would not be acceptable to members opposite. In one hour, you possibly would not get through that many questions.

The provision of this Sessional Order, plus the guarantee that the Independent member for Clark, Ms Johnston, would have the same right that was provided to Ms Ogilvie when she was the Independent member for Clark is being preserved. It means we are having more questions asked in this House each day than has ever happened before. That is a fact. I commend the original motion to the House. The Government would not be able to support Ms O'Connor's amendment.

Mr SPEAKER - The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The House divided -

AYES 3

Ms Johnston
Ms O'Connor
Dr Woodruff (Teller)

NOES 21

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Courtney
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis (Teller)
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Mr Gutwein
Ms Haddad
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Mr Tucker
Ms White
Mr Winter

Amendment negatived.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Committee Membership - Appointments

[6:02 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move the following motions as circulated for the appointment of Committees.

I thank members, particularly of the Opposition for their nominations in advance. I think we have done it better this year than previously. The names have been pre-printed and, of course, on the advice of the Clerk as to the numbers required for each committee, I commend the motion.

Standing Committees

- (1) That the following Members be appointed to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works in pursuance

of section 3, subsection (2), of the *Public Works Committee Act 1914* (No. 32) -

Ms Butler;
Mr Ellis; and
Mr Tucker.

- (2) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Subordinate Legislation in accordance with the provisions of section 3 of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969* (No. 44) -

Mr Ellis;
Ms Finlay; and
Ms Ogilvie.

- (3) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts in pursuance of section 2, subsection (2), of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* (No. 54) -

Ms Ogilvie;
Mr Street; and
Ms White.

- (4) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity in accordance with section 23, subsection (4), of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* (No. 67) -

The Speaker;
The Leader of the House; and
Ms O'Byrne.

- (5) That a Committee of Privileges and Conduct be appointed to enquire into and report upon complaints of breach of privilege which may be referred to it by the House; and that -

The Speaker;
The Chair of Committees;
The Deputy Premier;
The Leader of the House;
Ms O'Connor;
Ms Haddad; and
Mr Winter.

be of the Committee (S.O. 325)

- (6) That a Standing Orders Committee be appointed with power to act during recess and to confer with a similar Committee of the Legislative Council; and that -

The Speaker;
The Chair of Committees;
The Leader of the House;
Mr O'Byrne; and
Mr Winter.

be of the Committee (S.O. 324)

Sessional Committees

- (1) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the Joint Committee of both Houses to manage the Library -

The Speaker;
The Chair of Committees;
Dr Broad;
Ms Dow;
Mr Ellis; and
Mr Tucker.
(S.O. 323)

- (2) That the following Members of this House be appointed to serve on the Joint Committee of both Houses (known as the House Committee) to control Parliament House and grounds, including catering for Parliament -

The Speaker;
The Chair of Committees; and
Mr Winter
(S.O. 323)

Ms O'CONNOR (Clark - Leader of the Greens) - Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to move two motions in connection to committee membership.

I move -

that Clause (4) of the motion be amended by omitting 'The Leader of the House' and inserting instead 'Dr Woodruff'; and

that Clause (8) of the motion be amended by omitting 'The Chair of Committees' and inserting 'Dr Woodruff'.

Mr Speaker, this relates specifically to the membership of the Integrity Committee of the Parliament and also the House Committee of the Parliament. It is a matter of considerable regret that in this place the Liberal and Labor parties have stitched up membership of pretty much all the committees that work through this House.

I note that the Greens are still represented on the Privileges Committee which happened in the last term of the parliament following Mr Brooks disgracing himself. However, we believe there has been a misinterpretation of the Integrity Commission Act in relation to the membership of the Integrity Committee.

Section 23 of the Integrity Commission Act 2009 establishes the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity. Subsection (2)(b) stipulates there must be three members from the House of Assembly and subsection (3) further requires at least one member of any political party that has three or more members in the House of Assembly to be a member of the joint committee.

In short, two out of the three seats are allocated to the Liberals and Labor by legislation but the third seat in this Parliament could be allocated to any member.

Ms Archer - You do not have three members in your party.

Ms O'CONNOR - I do not need to hear from you, Ms Archer. I am not particularly interested in what you have to say on this matter.

Mr Speaker, it was the Greens who argued for almost a decade for the establishment of an Independent Commission Against Corruption or an Integrity Commission. It was relentless advocacy by then Greens leader Peg Putt and then by Greens leader Nick McKim that finally provoked then premier David Bartlett to start work on the establishment of an Integrity Committee following a Joint Select Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament to look at a framework for an integrity body for Tasmania.

In order for the public to have faith in the Integrity Commission and the committee that oversees it in the parliament, we argue that there should be diversity on that committee and from this House's point of view, it should not be stitched up by two parties which take corporate donations, which in the past two election campaigns - for example in relation to the Liberal Party - have conducted themselves in a way that many Tasmanians believe is not ethical.

It is not ethical, for example, to take tens of thousands if not millions of dollars from the gambling industry in order to secure victory as the Liberals did in 2018 and it is not ethical to have a member running for you, who you know lied three times to the Tasmanian Parliament and then got busted improperly storing ammunition and then has been accused by a number of women of 'cat-fishing' them and then, as it turns out, is now in trouble with the police in Queensland.

These are matters that have been referred to the Integrity Commission and regrettably, it is our understanding because of a flaw in the Integrity Commission Act, that a person is not considered to be a public officer for the purposes of the act in that period between the dissolution of the House and the declaration of the writs. I am sure every member of this place who was a member in the last term and has been returned, believed during the period after the dissolution of the House and after the declaration of the poll, that they were still members of Parliament.

Ms Archer - What about candidates?

Ms O'CONNOR - Interestingly, Ms Archer, if you have a look at the act, it says a minister can be a public officer for the purposes of the act and therefore subject to investigation by the Integrity Commission, but a minister cannot really be examined because they are not an MP for the purposes of the Integrity Commission Act 2009.

We have drafted an amendment to this legislation, to give greater capacity to the Integrity Commission to examine the conduct of members of parliament during election campaigns when arguably there is more capacity for improper conduct and corruption.

The Greens should have a position on the Integrity Committee as we did until the act was misinterpreted by the Liberals when they won government in 2014. It does not instil public faith in the commission to know that the two parties - which at various times in their chequered history have been very close to corporations and to other vested interests - have stitched up the Lower House's membership of the Integrity Committee. It would do much to restore a measure of public faith in the Integrity Commission to know that there is a diversity of membership on the Integrity Committee. There is no more qualified person in this place, than Dr Woodruff to take up that extra position, the third position.

I note that the Integrity Commission has twice been unable to investigate the conduct of members during the campaign period, despite referrals to them that had some very serious questions raised in them and plenty of evidence of something not quite right during election campaigns.

We also would like to have membership of the House Committee because, as I understand it, the House Committee has some jurisdiction over what happens on the lawns of parliament. The lawns of parliament are one of the most important, welcoming and open places for Tasmanians to gather whether they are there in remembrance or commemoration or there to protest, and we know -

Ms Archer - And they are allowed.

Ms O'CONNOR - I have just heard the Attorney-General muttering 'they are allowed.' This is the Attorney-General who, as Speaker, actually tried to put some serious restrictions in place because people would have to -

Ms Archer - No, I did not.

Ms O'CONNOR - That is my understanding from some stakeholder. I withdrew it completely.

Ms Archer - Withdraw, I made it open.

Ms O'CONNOR - I withdraw it completely. I am just passing on the difficulty some people had organising an event on the lawns because of the very strict protocols put in place by the then Speaker. We have a government here that has -

Ms ARCHER - Point of order.

Ms O'CONNOR - I withdraw it absolutely.

Ms ARCHER - No, and then you qualified and said that I had put protocols in place. I had not. It was up to the House Committee which I chaired, yes, but it was the House Committee and we did not put protocols in place. Withdraw it completely.

Ms O'CONNOR - Ms Archer I genuinely withdraw it.

Ms Archer - I am sick of being verballed by you.

Ms O'CONNOR - I have not verballed you for months.

Mr SPEAKER - The comments have been withdrawn. If we could get back onto the subject.

Ms O'CONNOR - We have a government that has still got on the statutes the Workplace (Protection from Protesters) Act which was found by the High Court to be unconstitutional. The Government tried to put a shine on a cow pat with an amendment bill that they rubber-stamped through this place with Ms Ogilvie's support that thankfully got knocked off by the upper House. There is still a statute on the books here that seeks to frighten people out of exercising their right to peaceful protests. I can indicate we will be tabling our repeal bill for that legislation in the near future.

Over there on the Labor side we have at least one member of the Parliamentary Labor Party who wants to introduce aggravated trespass laws. There is a tendency here towards at least low-grade authoritarianism but there is certainly a tendency from both the major parties in this place to target conservationists and forest protesters, many of us who, over our lifetime in this place, have gathered on the lawns of parliament hundreds of times in order to stand together for nature.

We believe the Greens should be on the House Committee. It should be a much more representative committee than being stitched up by the two major parties in this place. It would not have hurt the government to make at least the House Committee a bit more inclusive. We know we are a thorn in the side of the government of the day and we wear that as a badge of honour. The government of the day also knows that when they need us to stand by them in the interests of the people of Tasmania, as we did during the COVID-19 emergency, we will do that and we will do it constructively and co-operatively and with good hearts because we mean it. You should have Greens on the Integrity Committee and you should have a Green on the House Committee.

There should be a more inclusive approach to these committees. We have in this House, three newly-elected former mayors who would bring real knowledge, administrative and governance knowledge to some of these committees, and yet, the independent member of this place, who until a very short time ago was managing the City of Glenorchy, has no opportunity to be on any of these committees. They are stitched up by the two major parties in this place out of mutual self-interest and it is disappointing for the healthy functioning of the House but also for the amount of faith that the people of Tasmania have in the Integrity Commission and the Integrity committee. I commend the motion to the House.

[6.14 p.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon) - Mr Speaker, we are very comfortable with the composition of committees that has been presented to the house this evening and I congratulate each of the

members who have been appointed to those. When it comes to the Joint Integrity Committee appointment our understanding is that that appointment is included as part of the Integrity Commission Act 2009 and currently due to the number of elected party members in the House of Assembly, the Greens are not eligible. They currently have two and they require three to be on the committee.

We are the first to admit integrity is not a strong point of this Government and the last election is a good case in point. As the only opposition party with enough members to be on the committee we will continue to scrutinise the integrity of this Government in this place as of today and always and that will be our dedicated focus.

We will not be supporting the Greens amendment, despite understanding where Ms O'Connor is coming from. If the Greens are serious about wanting to be on the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity, rather than pulling a parliamentary stunt they should propose an amendment to the Integrity Committee Act 2009.

Ms O'Connor - It's coming, as I flagged.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, you have had an opportunity, so please allow Ms Dow to finish.

Ms DOW - With all due respect you did not flag an amendment to the composition of the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity. I encourage you to do that if you are serious about this because we think that would be the most appropriate mechanism.

[6.16 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I want to respond to Ms Dow's concerning lack of examination of the act and of the history of the integrity committee, because I was a member of the committee as the member representative of the Tasmanian Greens previously, so I do not know which part she is wilfully misunderstanding. If the Labor Party had done the work and read the clause they would realise we were proposing to adjust the membership of the committee. It is about seeking to have diversity and having full scrutiny of the Integrity Commission and the responsibility the integrity committee has in making sure transparency and accountability is put first and foremost in the Tasmanian parliament. It is really disappointing that at the first hurdle the Labor Party has tripped and fallen.

We would expect that after this election, of all elections, they might have realised there is nothing to be gained in refusing to never back in reasonable motions that the Greens put up that are fundamentally about increasing the accountability of this place.

[6.17 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, that was actually a good debate. I quite enjoyed that and thank you to Ms O'Connor for her amendment. I would have preferred we just united around the motion because these are housekeeping matters that are very important. The best of us is when the nominations have come forward in the way that they have, and I particularly point out that the Opposition is the official Opposition here in Tasmania and it has the greater right to committee positions over and above the Greens, with respect. It is a simple fact and I will make the point as well -

Ms O'Connor - You are deliberately not reading the act properly.

Mr FERGUSON - I do not think anybody here is misreading the act but potentially you are, Ms O'Connor, because my understanding is that the act states that at least one member of any political party that has three or more members in the House of Assembly is to be a member of the joint committee.

Ms O'Connor - Exactly.

Mr FERGUSON - At least one member. The last time I looked the Greens have lost party status under the other act and in respect of the Integrity Commission Act they have fallen even below the lower threshold of three members. That does not mean, strictly speaking, that the House could not appoint a Greens member to the committee, but that is not the point. The point is that this is the composition provided for in the nominations process. The Government and the Opposition have dealt with the nominations and you failed to mention that it is a joint House committee which means three members of the Legislative Council will form part of that committee and there will be a total of six people on that committee.

While you were flailing around making your arguments I did not hear you once suggest that it should not be Dr Woodruff but perhaps another member of the House like Ms Johnston, for example. You just want to replace Liberals on each of those committees. I have never heard so much debate as to attendance on a House committee, I have to say. That is interesting and it is good to see a little bit more interest in that committee. In fact, I would be doubtful that in my lifetime a House committee has been debated on this Floor of this House.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Mr FERGUSON - I am glad that the joint House committee is back in fashion.

Jokes aside, it is a fair, reasonable and responsible approach that has been adopted and I commend members here who have wanted to serve on these committees. I make the further point that it would be entirely reasonable to assume that members other than those nominated by the Labor Party wanted to be on some of these committees but within their internal process they made a different decision. The same goes on the Liberal side. I do not know what goes on in the Greens but not everybody can be on a committee because the committee system is, by its very definition, a subset of the House.

I love this House and I want it and the committees to work and so should we all, but I would say to Ms O'Connor that no member of this House is prevented from being in contact with, making a submission to, or asking for some consideration of a matter by any one of these committees, and if Ms O'Connor, who has a steely practice of weaponising the Integrity Commission, wants to now be on the committee that is oversighting it, the hypocrisy is writ large indeed.

It has been a reasonable debate. I thank members of the House who have not taken an easy, cheap political opportunity here and who want the committees to work.

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order, Mr Speaker. I ask Mr Ferguson to withdraw those words. We moved this amendment in good faith in the interests of a more transparent and accountable parliament. I do not know if Mr Ferguson occupies himself with easy, cheap political tricks, but that is not us.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, if you are personally offended I can ask the minister, but if it is simply a statement -

Ms O'Connor - It is personally offensive. He has basically said everything we're doing is cheap politics.

Mr FERGUSON - Mr Speaker, I do not know how to withdraw that. I am not sure it would be required nor should I apologise and set that as the new standard for offending a member. Mr Speaker, if you rule that I should withdraw I simply will but I ask that the matter be reflected upon because that is a ridiculously low threshold to cause any member of this House to start apologising for reflecting on another member playing cheap politics, but I will follow your guidance.

In conclusion, thank you for the debate. I want the committees to work. They need to work. This House needs to work. We have a big job to do for Tasmania. Thank you to everybody for their contributions but ultimately every member of this House, all 25 of us, have a constituency. People put us here. We all have a job to do and whether we are in the Government or the Opposition or on the crossbench, everybody should have the opportunity to raise issues on behalf of their constituents. In respect of committees and the people who have been unable to be nominated, the simple fact is that they are able to raise issues through that committee and I invite them to do so.

The House divided -

AYES 2

Ms O'Connor
Dr Woodruff (Teller)

NOES 22

Ms Archer
Mr Barnett
Dr Broad
Ms Butler
Ms Courtney
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis (Teller)
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Mr Gutwein
Ms Haddad
Mr Jaensch
Ms Johnston
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton

Mr Street
Mr Tucker
Ms White
Mr Winter

Amendment negatived.

Motion agreed to.

SUPPLY BILL (No. 1) 2021 (No. 10)

SUPPLY BILL (No. 2) 2021 (No. 11)

**TREASURY MISCELLANEOUS (COST OF LIVING AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING SUPPORT) BILL 2021 (No. 12)**

Bills presented by Mr Ferguson and read the first time.

**LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (TASMANIAN
PLANNING SCHEME MODIFICATION) BILL 2021 (No. 13)**

Bill presented by Mr Jaensch and read the first time.

SAFE CLIMATE BILL 2021 (No. 16)

Bill presented by Dr Woodruff and read the first time.

**LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (WELLINGTON
PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST VETO) BILL 2021 (No. 18)**

**CABLE CAR, (kunanyi/MOUNT WELLINGTON) FACILITATION REPEAL
BILL 2021 (No. 17)**

Bills presented by Ms O'Connor and read the first time.

ADJOURNMENT

[6.32 p.m.]

Mr FERGUSON (Bass - Leader of the House) - Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Jennifer Houston - Tribute

Alison Standen - Tribute

Ms WHITE (Lyons) - Mr Speaker, I rise to reflect on the achievements and contributions of two former members of this place - Alison Standen and Jennifer Houston. Both of these

women were elected in 2018 to represent their respective electorates and they both brought with them a diversity of experience and great talent.

First, I would like to speak about Jennifer. Jen has an incredible life story to date and I keep telling her that she should write a book. She is articulate, a lovely writer, and cares deeply about Tasmania. I was reading back over her inaugural speech and was struck again by her tenacity that has helped her overcome so many struggles in her life. Even during the term of the last parliament, Jen had to find a way to cope with the terrible ordeal of discovering that her youngest child, Zara, had cancer and advocating for her to make sure she could access the best treatment options. Thankfully, Zara is well again today but for many months Jen travelled between Launceston and Melbourne with Zara while she was undergoing treatment and beating her cancer. Times like that put in perspective what truly matters and for Jen it has always been her family.

Her dedication to her loved ones is her number one priority. I know the sense of obligation she feels to look after them all is enormous. That sense of obligation has been heightened now that she is without work, having sadly lost her seat in the parliament, whilst she is still trying to support three of her children through their education.

There is no parliamentary pension anymore and there are no special perks that are bestowed upon people when they leave politics and, once they leave this place, they are treated no differently to anyone else who has had a fixed term contract that has expired.

For some people that adjustment can be incredibly difficult, both emotionally but also financially. Jen is someone who has overcome incredible odds and challenges in her life to win herself a seat in this parliament. Her achievement is one to celebrate and should shine as a beacon of hope to many in our community who think becoming a member of parliament is something other people do.

Jen won her place in history when she won her seat as the member for Bass and no one can take that away from her. Before I finish speaking about Jen, I want to remind the House of some of her first words in this place because they were so powerful and sum up her character and her motivation so well. She said:

I am a proud Tasmanian. The roots of my family tree run deep into the ancient past of this island ... This island has been our home for thousands of generations. We've hunted, gathered fish and farmed here. We have built lives and raised families, formed from communities and we have left our mark upon this island, as it has upon us ... Even through such difficult times, we persevered and at times prospered, and we have contributed greatly to the social and economic fibre of this state.

I come from a long line of ordinary working people proud, honest, hardworking Tasmanians who have toiled for centuries to shape our state ... We are working-class Tasmanians. I grew up in a family with strong Labor values; a family where fairness, honesty, justice and equality were impressed on me from a very early age ...

It has been a 33-year journey from pregnant teenager to my swearing-in to the House of Assembly. It was a journey with hardship and poverty, suffering

and hope. It was a journey marred by people in positions of authority and power telling me you could not have children and an education, or have a large family and a career, or work when you are pregnant or have small children. You could not be a politician. I have never taken well to being told I cannot do things and generally I respond by proving them wrong. It is a journey I could not have made without the opportunities provided to me by an education and the opportunity to re-engage with education as an adult.

Jennifer Houston is a proud palawa woman and she served us proud as a member of this parliament. I wish her all the best for the next challenge she faces and have no doubt that with grit and integrity she will succeed.

Members - Hear, hear.

Ms WHITE - Mr Speaker, I would also like to talk about Alison. Alison was an incredibly dedicated local member of parliament and was involved with many local organisations and charities in Franklin. Her care for others is evident in everything Alison does and I do not think there is anyone quite like her for attention to detail.

Alison is smart and hard-working and her time in this parliament saw her contribute greatly to debate about housing, voluntary assisted dying and matters of equality. Alison is the type of person who lives her values and I sincerely wish her all the very best with her tilt at the Senate for the upcoming federal election, because every Tasmanian, no matter their political affiliation, will be well-served by having her in the Australian Parliament.

Hare-Clark campaigns can be brutal and Alison gave her time in this place, her complete and utter attention and no-one can question her commitment to her job and to the electorate of Franklin. Alison can be proud of her contribution, her achievements and her wins on behalf of those constituents who had someone who would stand up and fight for them in Alison.

I reflected on Ali's inaugural speech as well and thought that her words do her justice in describing her empathy, her heart and her motivation. She said:

I have always said that there are no hard jobs, only hard workers. I worked as hard in my first paid job as a teenage casual in the retail system as I have as a senior public servant or community leader. As I stand in this place, I am uncertain what lies before me but I embrace the responsibility of my role as a member of parliament. I intend to work hard and I intend to take this opportunity to make a contribution to the lives of all Tasmanians, especially the people of Franklin and those most vulnerable and marginalised, to give them a voice and to make a difference ...

I am proud to be elected to this parliament comprising an historic majority of women. I am also proudly the first openly gay Labor member of the Tasmanian Parliament. ... Equality and diversity are important to me and although in my life time I have witnessed important social progress - marriage equality comes to mind - since women of my age and older and LGBTI people are currently the fastest-growing demographic for homelessness in Australia, clearly there is still some way to go. ...

I am a determined, no regrets kind of person. Anything is possible with hard work, some good people around you and a bit of luck from time to time. ... Hand on heart, I work hard, surround myself with good people and tackle the roots of inequality.

I will fight for the people of Franklin for access to good education, to a highly effective health system, for affordable housing, for career pathways and secure jobs. I will fight for a safe and kind society and wherever possible put good policy over politics with evidence-based decision-making.

That is what Alison did. True to her word and her values, Ali gave her all during her time as a member of this place. The strength of Ali's character is her goodwill towards others, her deep belief that we must do more to help those who are vulnerable and an unwavering determination to do something about it. That is why I believe we have not seen the last of Alison Standen and that is a good thing for Tasmania.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that this House will agree in sending our best wishes for the future to both Alison Standen and Jennifer Houston.

Members - Hear, hear.

Dr Eric Woehler - Medal of the Order of Australia

[6.39 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin) - Mr Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Tasmanian Greens and all bird lovers in this beautiful island to warmly congratulate Dr Eric Woehler, Tasmanian BirdLife convenor, who last week was awarded an Order of Australia medal for his lifetime services to bird ecology. According to the CEO of Birdlife Australia, Dr Woehler has been a renowned scientist and passionate volunteer who has led the conservation of Tasmania's birds for decades and remains a strong public advocate for the protection of our natural world.

Anyone who knows Eric knows that he is a true champion of nature and is so well-deserved of this recognition. He has been behind every bird conservation effort I am aware of over the last four decades. It has either had Eric out the front championing the birds, Eric on the side, Eric in the middle, Eric as an adviser, or Eric behind the research and the population data of the birds seeking to be saved.

Every single part of Tasmania's shoreline has been walked by Dr Eric. He has made it his own personal mission to document the populations, the species and the numbers of different birds, all around the shoreline of Tasmania. He says it is his way of keeping fit and gives him time to meditate. He is just the biggest fan of birds and nature and it obviously gives him a great deal of personal solace to be amongst the birds because he is also bearing witness to a number of changes in the ecology and really huge global shifts in threats to birds and he is right at the forefront of the research in Tasmania and for the whole southern Antarctic bird zone. He has been working as a researcher with the IMAS (Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies), leading research in the Antarctic, supervising PhDs and other students doing really important work.

Dr Eric Woehler's work along with Priscilla Park were key to the saving of Ralphs Bay. Eric gave a voice to the pied oyster catcher and it was through his work that we understood the enormous conservation values of Ralphs Bay which was why that area was saved.

Dr Eric has also done the incredible depth of work around the Robbins Passage-Boullanger Bay wetlands and the understanding we have of that world, a site that ought to be Ramsar listed. It has been identified for its extraordinary importance, thanks to Dr Eric's work and his leadership with other students. He brings other people with him to walk across Tasmania, to look at where fairy penguins have their nesting habitat, to understand the threats of dogs and foxes and cats.

He is there speaking out about swift parrots when their nesting trees are going to be bulldozed in the north-east, he is there speaking for the wedge-tailed eagles and the swift parrots. Just today, on behalf of Birdlife Tasmania, he submitted a submission against the proposed cable car on kunanyi and made the point that the proposed loss of between 75 and 90 feeding and nesting trees that provide critical habitat for critically endangered species is indefensible. The last thing a critically endangered woodland bird species needs is the deliberate destruction of nesting and feeding trees. 'It is sheer lunacy,' he said, on behalf of the birds of Kunanyi.

Dr Eric has married both passion and the cool head of a scientist in his work for Tasmanian birds. He has undertaken really pivotal long-term research on Australian shore birds as well as Tasmanian shore birds and that has directly contributed to the inventories we have and the assessment of population breeding changes. He has spoken up for migratory birds and dispersive birds, the native ducks that are threatened each year in Moulting Lagoon and elsewhere across Tasmania by duck shooting which really must be banned. Dr Eric has documented the different species and where they come from other parts of Australia.

He has also been working with locals to protect the birds that are 'softly protected', not strongly protected within the Orford Bird Sanctuary. The red-capped plovers, the pelicans, the little terns, the fairy terns and hooded plovers and pied oystercatchers, these are all the birds which he understands need greater protection in the Orford area than they currently have.

Hundreds of birds are caught each year in fish-farm nets. Dr Eric can detail all the birds that are caught, he understands the terrible problems with having nets that are catching hundreds of birds from cormorants and a whole range of seagulls as well as seals which drown.

So, thank you Dr Eric Woehler, on behalf of Tasmanians who live here now and in the future who listen to the sweet songs of birds and who are moved to tears to look at the beauty that native Tasmanian birds provide us in their natural habitat. He is there protecting them, he is doing the research which underpins that protection, and we hope he enjoys the rewards that he so richly deserved.

Bob Brown Foundation Forest Defenders

[6.46 p.m.]

Ms O'CONNOR - Mr Speaker, not long after Dr Woodruff and I were resoundingly re-elected, we went along with our chief of staff Alice Giblin into takayna to visit the Bob Brown Foundation forest defenders and to see for ourselves what was being proposed in the

forests east of Rosebery. These are forests that have been independently verified as having world heritage and national heritage value and at least 285 hectares of them are planned to be smashed, flattened and filled with toxic mine tailings by MMG Australia Pty Ltd which is 74 per cent owned by the Chinese Government.

We stayed in Tullah and had the great privilege of being invited to listen to some of the planning that the forest defenders undertake - very careful and thoughtful planning - in order to prevent MMG from flattening this beautiful rainforest gully. We went to the entrance to the proposed toxic mine dump site. It is the most extraordinary place. The Tarkine is a place like nowhere else on earth and we are the custodians of it. It is important to remember, that MMG itself has said in its documentation to the Federal Government that there are alternative sites.

It is also really important to remember that we are not talking about a tailings dam that 50 or 100 years from now would be a restored landscape. A tailings dam is a forever poisoned site because the content is acid sulphate-forming and therefore at the end of the tailings dam's life, you have got to cap it with clay and you cannot let anything grow on top of it because those acid sulphates will come to the surface.

We are the custodians of one of the most beautiful, wild and unspoilt places on earth and yet under this Liberal government we have mining and increased logging happening in the Tarkine right now, and we still have a plan to run tracks through one of the most significant archaeological sites on the planet - a plan that has been condemned by the aboriginal community and aboriginal heritage experts which even seven years after that promise was made, has not been met. We are very thankful to the forest defenders because they are defending species such as the Tasmanian devil, the spotted-tailed quoll, the masked owl, wedge-tailed eagle, the Tasmanian azure kingfisher, the white-throated needle tail, the swift parrot - which as we know, as a result of poor land use, and native forest logging and the introduction of the sugar glider - is estimated to be at 300 individual birds. Also there are hawk-tail swifts, grey egrets, sharp-tailed sandpipers, common sandpipers, white-bellied sea eagles, satin flycatchers and Tasmanian forest and woodlands dominated by Black gum or Brookers gum, which are critically endangered forest community.

I want to read now from a speech that actress Bonnie Sveen made at the Bob Brown Foundation's recent Tarkine exhibition, which is just closing at the Long Gallery today. Bonnie says:

When I think of takayna I think of the potent spirit of the place, that last truly wild place on earth, forests and coastlines we have not stripped and desecrated, rugged perfection, Gondwanan fern gully, ancient myrtles who I named my eldest twin daughter after. There is not a place or person more worthy of naming after as far as I am concerned. When I was 14 weeks pregnant Nath and I were fortunate to get to do the Tarkine Trails hikes at Tiger Ridge. That is the inspiration for Myrtle.

Experiencing these artworks tonight, I am reminded of what is important, of the future we want to bestow on our young ones, that they might visit her too and be recharged and be healed by her, so they can re-emerge back into their climate crisis-struck lives and continue the brave fight for the natural world. This legacy of protecting what we love, of standing up for precious takayna,

it is not something to take lightly as like most things in our aesthetically-driven lives.

I want to personally thank and commend every person who has challenged the mining, logging, the four-wheel drive tracks over middens, the bloody rubber mats and now mining giant MMG, each of the forest defenders, each of the 23 or more -

And as we know, it is now more than 30 people including Anthony Houston, respected businessman -

have been arrested for doing the vital work to delay the development of this toxic tailings dam and heavy metal waste site. We know the Tarkine is home to so many of our unique protected species, the masked owls, bats, orange-bellied parrots, goshawks, quolls, devils and freshwater crayfish, the intricate array of fungi, the emerald moss and the lichen, the aboriginal sites of incredible archaeological and spiritual significance.

Our disgraceful white Australia history - my history, and probably the history of many people in this room - ensured there was no future for the takayna people. We owe it to those mothers and fathers, the elders and the children, to their spirit which lives on in those beautiful ridges and continuing palawa culture, to do everything within our power to protect their sacred homeland and to push closer to frankly all of lutrawita being back in the hands of palawa people.

Now, sadly, we do not know just how bad the climate emergency is and how fast things will escalate. I believe we cannot afford to lose these forests based on the value of their carbon storage alone. So, thank you again to the artists for donating their pieces for this urgent cause. There is not a muse more beautiful or deserving.

Mr Speaker, it is such a privilege to be a Tasmanian, but to go into the Tarkine and to open your heart and to really look at it, surely is to want to protect it. Yet we have this extraordinary wilderness and cultural landscape which is under intensified assault. We are calling on the premier to take a stand here. His own economic and social recovery advisory council made it clear that good strong economic recovery demands of us looking after nature. One of the most important steps he could take is to engage with MMG on alternative sites.

MMG - Proposed Tailings Dam

[6.54 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - I am loathe, Mr Speaker, to ramp up policy on day one, but I could not really stand aside after the comments from the Leader of the Greens. It was only less than 10 years ago that the Greens authorised the logging of the site they are talking about, where MMG is proposing to build a tailings dam. This is a site that is in a permanent timber production zone.

What the Greens are saying is that an industry which makes up part of Tasmania's export, cannot explore an area on their existing mining lease. That is what we are talking about here. It is on an existing mining lease. Sovereign risk is an issue here, that the Greens do not even worry about. You have had your time and made your contribution, thank you. This is on the existing mining lease. No tailings dam means no mine - that is the fact. The Greens dress these things up. They say toxic -

Ms O'Connor - Dr Broad is totally misrepresenting what I said. I said the company needs to look at the alternative sites they have identified. He does this for his constituents in Braddon.

Mr SPEAKER - Thank you, Ms O'Connor. Any more interjections and you will not be here at the end of the day.

Dr Woodruff - You should at least be honest like we are while you are speaking to your constituents.

Dr BROAD - Absolutely intolerant on day one. We have a debate in this place so that people can put their points of view but every time you put an alternative point of view to something that the Greens want to talk about, they interfere, yell and obstruct.

The equation we are looking at here is a tailings dam to keep an 85-year old mine still going. That mine employs 500 people-plus. I am not sure of the exact total of the other people apart from the direct employees, but the multiplier in mining is multiples of four or five at least, so we are talking about a lot of people who are directly employed, not to mention the township of Rosebery. The township of Rosebery exists because of the mine. What the Greens are doing here is proposing to write-off the 500 jobs and the township of Rosebery for the sake of 200 hectares out of 447 000 hectares.

Dr Woodruff - That is also not true.

Mr SPEAKER - Order.

Dr BROAD - If we are going to do percentages, it is minuscule. The Greens and the Bob Brown Foundation love this site because they were already set up there. They were already blockading the road because of forestry operations that may or may not have occurred, because it is part of the permanent timber production zone that they voted for. They voted for all the trees in this area to be logged.

Ms O'Connor - No, we did not.

Dr BROAD - You did.

Ms O'Connor - We voted for a Signatories Council.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Ms O'Connor.

Ms O'Connor - He is just lying.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Ms O'Connor. You have to withdraw that comment. You cannot make that other than by a substantive statement or substantive motion.

Ms O'CONNOR - I withdraw it.

Mr SPEAKER - Thank you.

Dr BROAD - We can have a debate, we can be civil -

Ms O'Connor - Can't you tell the truth?

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Ms O'Connor.

Dr BROAD - So out of 447 000 hectares, 200 hectares for a tailings dam. In the bad old days they did not put in tailings dams, they just ran the tailings into the rivers. That does not happen anymore. The design of the tailings dams, the sites and the engineering that goes into tailings dams nowadays is amazing and really good engineers -

Dr Woodruff - Pumping it into one of the last temperate rain forests on the planet.

Mr SPEAKER - Order, Dr Woodruff.

Dr BROAD - The other 447 000 hectares is there; you are talking about 200 hectares to save 500 jobs and the township of Rosebery. The Greens are willing to write off Rosebery. They are willing to say Rosebery doesn't need to exist, the tailings dam should not go ahead -

Ms O'CONNOR - Point of order. That is untrue and insulting. I ask Dr Broad to withdraw it. We want Rosebery to flourish and we want the mine to look at other sites.

Mr SPEAKER - Ms O'Connor, you raised the issue in your adjournment contribution. Dr Broad is also clarifying and making a comment along those lines.

Dr BROAD - Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the Greens would also know that the other site proposed in there was a negotiation, a discussion, with the community about the tailings dam and the community's opinion was that the alternative site was not suitable. That is what the community said.

Dr Woodruff - Why?

Dr BROAD - Ask the community. Go and do your consultation instead of rocking up and signing up to the destruction of Rosebery and the destruction of 500 jobs. The Greens love it. They were already set up there, had their little protest, it is only about an hour and half, maybe two hours from the airport so you can fly in and fly out your mainland protesters and you get to say 'Chinese-owned'.

Dr Woodruff - Which bit of that is not true, Dr Broad?

Dr BROAD - Here we go again. Bob Brown loves saying 'Chinese-owned' in every single press release. There is a lot of Chinese ownership in Tasmania. MMG owns a large portion of the Rosebery mine but they employ 500 people. They keep Rosebery alive. Okay,

we will kick the Chinese out and then see what happens. Rosebery shuts, maybe Savage River, and we lose our major export.

This is a very simple equation. It is 500 jobs and the township of Rosebery versus 200 hectares out of 447 000. It is a pretty simple equation. The Greens are doing this for politicking and a massive fund-raising opportunity. They also get to say 'Chinese-owned' so it works really well for them.

What we should be doing in this place is standing up for the jobs at the Rosebery mine. It has been going 85 years. A tailings dam extends that well off into the distance and employs 500 Tasmanians in part of our biggest export industry, not to mention the royalties that help pay for our hospitals, education system, public services, and maintenance in our parks. We should be standing up for the 500 jobs, not the 200 hectares. I believe that is a price worth paying.

The House adjourned at 7.01 p.m.