



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2024

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 1

TUESDAY, 14 MAY 2024

A SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA, COMMENCED AND HOLDEN IN THE CITY OF HOBART ON TUESDAY THE FOURTEENTH DAY OF MAY IN THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR SOVEREIGN, KING CHARLES THE THIRD AND IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FOUR.

### PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

**1 COUNCIL MEETS.**— On which day being the first day of the meeting of this Session of Parliament for the despatch of business, pursuant to Proclamation hereunder annexed, the Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.

**2 PARLIAMENT OPENED BY COMMISSION.**— Her Excellency's Commissioners, the Honourable *Craig Maxwell Farrell*, the Honourable *Ruth Jane Forrest*, and the Honourable *Tania Verene Rattray* appointed by Her Excellency the Governor, having been introduced to the Council Chamber by the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr *Craig David Muir*, and being seated on the dais, the Honourable *Craig Maxwell Farrell* in the centre with the Honourable *Ruth Jane Forrest* on his right hand, and the Honourable *Tania Verene Rattray* on his left hand; the Clerk of the Council read Her Excellency's Proclamation, as follows:—

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS by the *Constitution Act 1934* it is provided that the Governor shall call the Parliament of Tasmania together for the despatch of business after every general election of members of the Assembly, within 90 days after the dissolution of the Assembly.

AND WHEREAS the Assembly was dissolved on 14 February 2024 and a general election of members of the Assembly was held on 23 March 2024.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that I call Parliament together for the despatch of business as soon as practicable:

NOW THEREFORE I, 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, exercising the power and authority vested in me, do hereby fix 11:00 am on Tuesday 14 May 2024, in the Houses of Parliament situated in the City of Hobart in Tasmania, as the time and place that the said Parliament shall assemble for the despatch of business; and the members of the said Parliament are hereby required to give their attendance at the same time and place accordingly.

GIVEN under my hand at Hobart in Tasmania on 19 April 2024.

B. BAKER Governor

By Her Excellency's Command,

JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier

**3 MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN ATTENDANCE.**— The Senior Commissioner commanded the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr *Craig David Muir*, to let the Members of the House of Assembly know —

“The Commissioners desire their immediate attendance in the Council to hear the Commission read”.

Who being come;

The Honourable *Craig Maxwell Farrell* said:— “Honourable Members of the Legislative Council; Members of the House of Assembly:— Her Excellency the Governor, not thinking fit to be here at this time, has been pleased to cause a Commission under the Seal of State to be prepared in order to the opening and holding of this Parliament. This will more fully appear by the Letters Patent themselves, which the Clerk of the Council will now read”.

**4 LETTERS PATENT READ.**— The said Letters Patent were read by the Clerk of the Council as follows: —

CHARLES THE THIRD, by the Grace of God, King of Australia and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.

To the HONOURABLE CRAIG MAXWELL FARRELL, the HONOURABLE RUTH JANE FORREST, the HONOURABLE TANIA VERENE RATTRAY being Members of Our Legislative Council; And to all to whom these presents shall come—

GREETING:

WHEREAS by a Proclamation under the hand of 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, dated 19 April 2024, a session of Our Parliament of Tasmania was summoned to be held for the despatch of business on 14 May 2024.

AND WHEREAS it is expedient for the session of the Parliament of Our State to be opened by Commissioners:

WE do by these Our Letters Patent appoint you the said CRAIG MAXWELL FARRELL, RUTH JANE FORREST AND TANIA VERENE RATTRAY, or any two of you, to be Commissioners with full power in Our name in the name of Our Governor of Our said State to do things which are to be done on Their part in this Parliament.

AND further by these presents we command that all and every of the members of Our Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and all others whom they concern, meet in Our said Parliament there to diligently attend to the business thereof.

IN testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of Our said State to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS 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 at Hobart in Tasmania on 29 April 2024, and in the second year of Our reign.

By Her Excellency's Command,

BARBARA BAKER, Governor

JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier

Then the Honourable CRAIG MAXWELL FARRELL, said: “Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly: We have it in command from Her Excellency the Governor to let you know that as soon as the new Members of the House of Assembly shall be sworn and the House of Assembly has elected its Speaker in accordance with the Constitution Act, Her Excellency will in person at three o’clock this afternoon in this place declare the causes of her calling this Parliament together”.

The Members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

**5 SITTING SUSPENDED.**— At 11.16 o'clock a.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the sitting at 3.00 o'clock p.m.

**6 GOVERNOR PRESENT.**— Her Excellency the Governor entered the Council, and being seated, commanded the Usher of the Black Rod, Mr *Craig David Muir*, to let the Assembly know that it is Her Excellency’s pleasure that they attend her immediately in this House’.

Who being come with their Speaker.

Her Excellency was pleased to speak as follows:—

**Mr President and Honourable Members of the Legislative Council, Madam Speaker and members of the House of Assembly.**

As the 29<sup>th</sup> Governor of this State I welcome you to the first Session of the 51<sup>st</sup> Parliament of Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Liberal Government has been returned for a fourth consecutive term - the first time in our State’s history.

As Premier of Tasmania, the Honourable Jeremy Rockliff will deliver the Government’s 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania’s Future for the people of Tasmania— to keep the State’s economy strong, create more jobs, and make Tasmania the best place to live, work and raise a family.

My Government has a plan to build on the successes of the past 10 years, to deliver the certainty and stability that Tasmanians deserve, while taking action on the issues affecting Tasmanians now, particularly cost of living, health and housing.

Importantly, the Government’s Plan aims to ensure that young Tasmanians have a future here in Tasmania, no longer needing to move away to learn a trade or get a job, instead flourishing here in their local community.

The Premier has committed the new Government’s decisions and actions to be taken in the best interests of the State and to be a government that listens to all Tasmanians.

Tasmanians are fortunate to live in a democracy. Where they are free to speak, free to believe, and free to vote - without fear.

Democratic countries agree to differ, that’s the beauty of democracy.

This is the Parliament for which Tasmanians have democratically voted.

This Parliament will be different to previous years.

This Parliament will require a collaborative and consultative approach, though there will be times where views differ.

My Government recognises the goodwill of those who have, in good faith, provided the certainty and stability for Tasmanians to have a workable Parliament in this term.

A stable government is the best thing for Tasmania, and past experience proves this.

A stable government provides confidence for Tasmanian businesses. A stable government provides certainty for the economy.

My Government believes it is incumbent on all Members of Parliament to provide the stability and certainty Tasmanians deserve and need.

Today is the first sitting of our newly commissioned Government, however the important work that was underway will continue.

My Government is committed to keeping Tasmania's children safe and has ensured the vital work to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry continues.

Tasmania is now a growing state with a story to tell – growing in diversity, industry, innovation, attraction, and creativity.

Our reputation as a global gateway for innovation and commerce is building.

But to secure Tasmania as a globally unique place to live, work and visit, we need the facilities and infrastructure to deliver the services our people need.

My Government has a strong record of economic management. However, with national economic headwinds growing, it is more important than ever to have a strong plan for economic development and job creation.

My Government has created more than 50,000 jobs and has a plan for 20,000 more over the next five years.

Unemployment has fallen to record lows of just 4 per cent.

Tasmania's tourism sector has been breaking records, in employment and visitor spending.

Our exports are at record highs.

This has allowed our Government to invest in the priorities Tasmanians care about, like health, housing and cost of living.

My Government will act on the issues now facing Tasmanians.

We shall start by easing people's hip-pocket pressures, right now, with energy bills, half price bus fares, and healthy lunches in schools.

Tasmania's energy prices are already the lowest in the nation, but more needs to be done.

We shall deliver a new supercharged Renewable Energy Dividend, 254,000 Tasmanian households will receive \$250 off their energy bill for the winter period. A further 35,000 small businesses will also receive \$300.

From 1 June, our Government will halve the cost of bus fares and Derwent ferries, across all operators and fare types, and will deliver thousands of dollars daily in immediate relief to Tasmanians.

Our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future will also provide cost of living relief for Tasmanian families through our highly successful Healthy School Lunch program.

This initiative is having positive impacts on student attendance, behaviour and health. More children are likely to attend, concentrate and enjoy school when they have a healthy lunch.

Healthy School Lunches provide affordable, healthy lunches, with a voluntary gold-coin contribution per lunch for those who can afford it, saving families up to \$950 each year, per child.

Over the past decade Tasmania has undergone an unprecedented period of population growth, increasing from 513,000 in 2014 to 573,000 today.

In response, our Government has committed to delivering 10,000 more social and affordable homes by 2032.

Despite this, owning a first home lies beyond reach for many Tasmanians, and rental prices are still too high.

In addition, my Government will help to advance the Great Australian Dream of homeownership through a new \$35 million Homes Faster! Package to deliver hundreds more houses, apartments and units over the next two years.

This Package will Stamp Out Stamp Duty so that Tasmanians buying their own home will not pay any stamp duty for a home valued up to \$750,000. This offers savings of up to \$28,935.

It will also add a \$10,000 per unit incentive for developers with up to 50 units, to get more new infill medium or high-density units built close to identified key development areas, along with short-term interest-free loans up to \$1 million for medium density units and apartments to assist with early headworks charges.

The Government's successful MyHome Program will be enhanced to provide home ownership opportunities to even more Tasmanians.

For many Tasmanians, it is hard to secure a rental property in the current market. The 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future will unlock more affordable rentals for Tasmanians through three new initiatives that will directly and immediately help.

The Private Rental Incentive Scheme will be boosted with an additional 200 rentals. The Scheme is an innovative program providing stable and affordable housing. It incentivises landlords to make their properties available at 25-30 per cent below median rates for two years, bringing properties into the market that otherwise would not be available to people on lower incomes.

One hundred per cent land tax exemptions for property owners will also be offered to those who either build-for-rent or switch a short stay home to rent.

In the last four years, my Government has delivered 3,000 more homes for Tasmanians.

Homes Tasmania was established to build opportunities for Tasmanians by working with industry, the private sector and the social housing and homelessness sector to get more homes built more quickly than ever before for those in need.

This term, a target of at least 2,000 'social-housing-only' homes by 30 June 2027 has been set and work is underway to achieve that.

Giving children the best possible start in life and learning, and improving access to early education, regardless of where you live or family circumstances, is a focus of this Government.

Child and family learning centres are providing more opportunities for our young ones and improving educational outcomes.

They offer early learning and educational services in the one place to support families with young children.

My Government will support four new supersized Child and Family Learning Centres – in Huonville, Smithton, Longford and Scottsdale.

These Centres will house free access to psychologists, speech pathologists and social workers, ensuring children are meeting their early educational objectives and are well placed to start Kindergarten.

To access quality early childhood education and care, the workforce needs to grow.

Over the next four years, an Early Years Workforce Fund will be established to grow and upskill our workforce. The Fund will include scholarships and incentives designed to attract and retain early childhood workers, speech pathologists and psychologists.

Upgrades to schools will also continue so that students can access world-class infrastructure, building on the \$8.9 billion investment into education and skills.

Since 2014, 73 school upgrades have been undertaken across our State, including three new schools at Brighton, Legana and Sorell.

More schools need major upgrades, and over the next six years, 16 more schools will be upgraded as part of our School Building Blitz.

An important part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future is to lift literacy outcomes for all students.

Ninety-five per cent of all children will learn to read, write and spell if evidence based structured literacy is implemented in all schools, which includes phonics.

Under this Government, structured literacy will be extended to all Kinder to Year 3 students in government primary schools by 2026 and the Year 1 Phonics Check for all Year 1 students.

Our children are our future, and it is imperative to get these basics right at each and every school, for each and every child.

Our health is most important.

Every day, \$8.3 million is invested into health services.

Since 2014, 298 hospital beds have been opened, and an extra 2,500 health professionals employed, including 1,390 nurses.

But there is more to do.

My Government has begun implementing the most comprehensive package of improvements to our health system in a generation.

Whether it's a check-up at the GP, calling for an ambulance, or accessing the hospital facilities you need, the 2030 Strong Plan addresses the needs of all Tasmanians.

When it comes to health, timely access to GPs is for most people, the most important.

Unfortunately, currently there are simply not enough GPs to meet demand.

So, my Government is stepping up to the plate and taking action, right now.

Under the new GP Guarantee, when you need a GP, you'll be able to see a GP.

A GP NOW Rapid Response Team is being established with a dedicated team of 10 GPs to be deployed to places of GP shortage while longer-term options are investigated.

Where a GP practice closes on short notice, the GP NOW Rapid Response Team will be deployed so the community has continued GP access.

Up to 40 new regional and rural GPs may be attracted to Tasmania, with offers to pay off their HECS debt up to \$100,000.

To help ensure our hard-working medical professionals, and Tasmanians who need treatment in a hospital, have the best possible facilities. Tasmania's four major public hospitals will be upgraded.

At the Royal Hobart Hospital, \$187 million in capital works will be undertaken over the next six years, including a new diagnostic breast clinic, a new neurology and stroke ward, and a new rapid assessment medical unit.

At the Launceston General Hospital, the size of the Emergency Department will nearly double, a new mental health precinct will be built, along with a new multi-story carpark.

A new Northern Heart Centre will be delivered, strengthening the role of the LGH as a specialist cardiology service for the North and North-West, with recognised best practice cardiac care, and aiming to attract and retain specialist health professionals.

At the North West Regional Hospital in Burnie a new Medical Inpatient building will be constructed, with a new medical ward, critical clinical diagnostics, dialysis and a lung function lab. Additional car parking which has been long sought after will be organised.

At the Mersey Community Hospital, a new sub-acute building for medical oncology services and an inpatient unit for geriatric evaluation and management will be built.

Ramping is a serious problem. Under my Government it will end, so Tasmanians who need emergency hospital care will get the specialist care they need, when they need it.

Last month, a new protocol for patients arriving by ambulance to be transferred to the care of Emergency Department staff within 60 minutes commenced.

The protocol is seeing positive results with the overwhelming target of 80 per cent being reached regularly.

In time, this 60-minute window will reduce to just 30 minutes which is around the average time it takes an ambulance crew to safely transfer their patient to the care of the hospital, freeing up paramedics to deal with other Tasmanians who need their care.

Paramedics and hospitals will need additional resources to implement this policy effectively and the state's largest ever recruitment blitz has already commenced, with advertising for hundreds of new doctors, nurses, paramedics and allied health professionals underway.

An additional 78 full-time paramedics will be recruited in line with immediate demand pressures, including 27 full-time community paramedics for rural and regional communities.

To accommodate these extra paramedics, new ambulance stations will be built at Legana, Snug Cygnet and King Island.

Recruitment will also include more nurses and midwives, albeit in a competitive national market for the same workforce.

To support recruitment, an incentive package will deliver hundreds of nurses into the Tasmanian Health System, offering relocation allowances of up to \$15,000 and \$10,000 scholarships for new Tasmanian graduate nurses.

Health care and childcare professionals are not the only workers Tasmania needs more of and it's important that we encourage young Tasmanians to pursue a career, right here at home.

My Government will partner with industry to address their skills and training requirements so that the economy can continue to grow and create jobs.

In 2014, the Government embarked on the single biggest education reform in a generation – bringing Year 11 and 12 to every high school in the State, to ensure more young people remained engaged in learning, for longer and to create a job-ready generation of young Tasmanians.

Turbo charging Vocational Education and Training is the next step to deliver the workforce of the future.

Twenty per cent of senior secondary school students currently study VET in our schools but the goal is to increase this to 50 per cent by 2030.

With the Tasmanian economy growing and demand for skilled labour at sky-high levels \$2.5 million will be invested to provide more vocational learning in all secondary schools for Year 9 and 10 students.

My Government will partner with peak industry bodies, to design and implement vocational learning that prepares students for apprenticeships and careers in high demand industries, including early education and care services, tourism and hospitality, health and community services, agriculture, and manufacturing.

Youth Build will be expanded to all secondary schools, delivering vocational learning to 3000 students over the next four years.

It offers students with in-classroom and practical learning in construction and architecture, leading to careers in engineering, plumbing, carpentry, electricians, painting and plastering, just to name a few.

It will also create the next generation of young Tasmanians ready to help build our trades workforce of the future, getting more students into apprenticeships and jobs, helping to deliver the strong pipeline of work generated by our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.

As a result of this Government's vision to build game-changing infrastructure in Tasmania, there is a \$27 billion infrastructure pipeline over the next decade.

This means that Tasmania will require 40,000 workers by 2033 to help build the infrastructure Tasmanians need.

To achieve this, a second wave of the highly successful High Vis Army will be deployed with plumbers and sparkies now included.

The High Vis Army adds to the commitment to build a new Earthworks Training – Dig, Drive, Go site at Quercus Park and a new north-west industry training facility with a focus on renewable energy skills.

Together, these investments will enhance our existing construction sector, and attract even more younger workers to deliver our Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future.

There is no doubt that our most significant economic, environmental, social and community game-changer lies in our globally leading renewable energy strategy.

Tasmanians are proud of their Hydro. It's placed us at the forefront of renewable energy development in Australia. Hydro will once again be a Tasmanian powerhouse that drives our economic growth into the future.

In recent years, Hydro has drifted from its foundational principles.

Hydro will return to these foundational principles with a new Ministerial Charter and directive that Tasmanian prices and Tasmanian jobs must come first.

This will ensure that the Hydro returns to its place as a key economic powerhouse for Tasmania, and once again works to ensure that Tasmanians pay the lowest possible prices for the electricity it generates.

New generation will be driven through the Hydro Tasmania First directive.

But, to bring new generation online for Tasmania's future energy needs, more wind and solar farms need to be built.

Refocusing Hydro Tasmania will help increase new on-island generation for Tasmania's future, supporting wind and solar farm developments, in addition to increasing its hydro generation capacity.

Hydro will be directed to partner with energy generators to build and deliver energy products to market that benefit Tasmania.

They will play a key role in increasing our on-island generation. This will ensure our energy needs are met into the future and provide ongoing energy security for Tasmania.

My government will continue to take action on the things that matter to Tasmanians, such as:

- Tackling cost of living;
- Supporting more Tasmanians into their own homes;
- Ensuring Tasmanians get the healthcare system they deserve;
- Keeping our economy strong, creating jobs, and improving education; and
- Making Tasmania the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Tasmania has come a long way and written a story of strength and resilience.

But there is more work to do.

Now is the time to keep Tasmania moving forward, to maintain the momentum, and raise our sights even higher.

To grow our population further, to build more confidence, to support new and innovative industries, and to attract more investment.

My Government will bring Tasmanians along this journey with them. By standing up for them, every day.

We shall work hard to build a better Tasmania, through innovation and hard work.

We shall keep our economy strong so it can deliver the infrastructure and services Tasmanians need and deserve.

We shall get things done, facing the challenges ahead in housing, health, cost of living and economic growth.

And we shall deliver the stability and certainty that Tasmanians need and deserve.

Tasmania does best when our economy is strong, confidence is high, and opportunities are endless.

This is what the 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future is all about.

And it will deliver a better Tasmania.

The Governor withdrew.

The Members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

**7 SITTING SUSPENDED.**— At 3.32 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the sitting at 5.05 o'clock p.m.

**8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said: "We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the traditional and original owners and the continuing custodians of this land."

**9 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.**— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

**10 BILL NO. 2.**— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to bring in a Bill for an Act to amend the *Partition Act 1869*.

And Mrs *Hiscutt* having presented the said Bill, the same was read the First time.

*Ordered*, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)



**11 PRESIDENT REPORTS SPEECH.**— The President reported the Speech of Her Excellency the Governor.

**12 ADDRESS-IN-REPLY.**— A Motion was made (Mr *Edmunds*) and the Question was proposed — 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 Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, desire to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which you have been pleased to address to both Houses of Parliament.

We desire to record our continued loyalty to the throne and Person of His Majesty King Charles the Third and at the same time to assure Your Excellency that the measures which will be laid before us during the Session will receive our careful consideration.

*Ordered*, That the Debate be adjourned. (Mr *Edmunds*)

**13 PAPERS.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B' – Final Report into the Roles and Functions of the Office of Racing Integrity. Dated 12 December 2023. Presented to the President on 15 December 2023.
- (2) Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'B' – Special Report on Resolution to Establish Inquiry on Homes Tasmania dated. Dated 12 December 2023. Presented to the President on 15 December 2023.
- (3) *Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act 1932*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 73, containing Supreme Court Amendment Rules 2023.
- (4) *Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 75, containing Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Regulations 2023.
- (5) *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 76, containing Public Interest Disclosures Regulations 2023.
- (6) *Magistrates Court (Civil Division) Act 1992*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 77, containing Magistrates Court (Civil Division) (Minor Civil Claims) Regulations 2023.
- (7) *Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification Act 2003*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 79, containing Tasmanian Assessment, Standards and Certification (Fees) Regulations 2023.
- (8) *Criminal Investigation (Extra-Territorial Offences) Act 1987*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 81, containing Criminal Investigation (Extra-Territorial Offences) Regulations 2023.
- (9) *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 82, containing Child and Youth Safe Organisations Regulations 2023.
- (10) *Appeal Costs Fund Act 1968*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 83, containing Appeal Costs Fund Regulations 2023.
- (11) *Relationships Act 2003*: Statutory Rules 2023, No. 84, containing Relationships Regulations 2023.

**14 STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT: RESIGNATIONS OF MR JOSH WILLIE AND MS JANE HOWLETT.**— The President said —

“Honourable Members I wish to advise that I received the following correspondence from Government House —

27 February 2024

The Honourable Craig Farrell MLC  
President of the Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr President,

I enclose the resignation of Mr Josh Willie as a Member of the Legislative Council which was received by me on 27 February 2024.

I have asked the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner to take the appropriate action to fill the vacancy for the electoral Division of Elwick.

Mr Willie has also tendered his resignation as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Baker  
Governor

---

27 February 2024

Her Excellency  
The Honourable Barbara Baker AC  
Governor of Tasmania  
Government House  
HOBART 7000

Your Excellency

In accordance with Section 15 of the Constitution Act 1934, I hereby tender my resignation as a Member of the Legislative Council for the electoral Division of Elwick with effect from 27 February 2024. I also tender my resignation from the Public Accounts Committee.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the elected Member for Elwick.

Yours sincerely

Josh Willie MLC  
Member for Elwick

---

27 February 2024

The Honourable Craig Farrell MLC  
President of the Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr President,

I enclose the resignation of Ms Jane Howlett as a Member of the Legislative Council which was received by Her Excellency the Governor on 27 February 2024.

Her Excellency has asked the Tasmanian Electoral Commissioner to take the appropriate action to fill the vacancy.

Yours sincerely

David Owen  
Official Secretary

---

27 February 2024

Her Excellency  
The Honourable Barbara Baker AC  
Governor of Tasmania  
Government House  
HOBART 7000

Your Excellency

In accordance with Section 15 of the Constitution Act 1934, I hereby tender my resignation as a Member of the Legislative Council for the electoral Division of Prosser with effect from 27 February 2024.

It has been an honour and a privilege to be the elected Member for Prosser.

Yours sincerely

Jane Howlett MLC  
Deputy Leader for Government Business in the Legislative Council  
Liberal Member for Prosser”

**15 WRITS FOR THE RETURN OF NEW MEMBERS.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table of the Council writs for the return of new Members for the Electoral Divisions of Elwick, Hobart and Prosser, certifying to Rebecca Jane Thomas, Cassandra Stanwell O’Connor and Kerry John Vincent respectively, having been chosen on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024 to serve in the Legislative Council.

**16 NEW MEMBERS SWORN.**— The Clerk of the Council said:

“Mr President, I advise the Council that that Cassandra Stanwell O’Connor returned upon a new writ for Hobart, Kerry John Vincent returned upon a new writ for Prosser and Rebecca Jane Thomas returned upon a new writ for Elwick, have each previously made and taken the affirmation of allegiance as required by law.”

**17 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.**— The President said —

“I take this opportunity to welcome to this House and the Parliament the newly elected Members for Elwick, Hobart and Prosser and wish them well in their roles representing the people that have duly elected them.

I know that I speak on behalf of all Members, parliamentary officers and staff when I say we are ready to offer any support, advice or assistance that you may require, particularly in the early stages of your elected term. Please do not hesitate to ask. You will find, I am sure, that your role at times will be challenging but I know you can be assured that you will find it satisfying and rewarding as you now get not only the opportunity to assist and represent the people of your electorates here in the Legislative Council but to also contribute to the improved welfare of the people of Tasmania”.

I extend a warm welcome to you.”

**18 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.**— Mrs *Hiscutt* made a Ministerial Statement in regard to Ministerial Appointments as follows:

“Mr President, I wish to inform the Council that as a result of the general election for the House of Assembly held on 23 March 2024, Her Excellency the Governor made the following ministerial appointments at Government House on 11 April 2024:

The Honourable JEREMY PAGE ROCKLIFF MP  
Premier  
Minister for Tourism and Hospitality  
Minister for Trade and Major Investment

The Honourable MICHAEL DARREL JOSEPH FERGUSON MP  
Deputy Premier  
Treasurer  
Minister for Infrastructure

The Honourable ERIC ABETZ MP  
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources  
Minister for Transport  
Leader of the House

The Honourable GUY BARNETT MP  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Justice  
Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing  
Minister for Veterans’ Affairs

The Honourable NICHOLAS JOHN HENRY DUIGAN MLC  
Minster for Energy and Renewables  
Minister for Parks and Environment

The Honourable FELIX ASHTON ELLIS MP  
Minister for Housing and Planning  
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Minister for Skills and Training

The Honourable JANE COLLEEN HOWLETT, MLC  
Minister for Primary Industries and Water  
Minister for Racing

The Honourable ROGER CHARLES JAENSCH MP  
Minister for Children and Youth  
Minister for Community Services  
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Honourable MADELEINE RUTH OGILVIE MP  
Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Minister for Arts  
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

The Honourable JOANNE LESLEY PALMER MLC  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Disability Services  
Deputy Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council

The Honourable NICHOLAS ADAM STREET MP  
Minister for Finance  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Sport and Events

I formally advise the Council that on the same day the Honourable Premier appointed me Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council.

I also announce the appointment of Mrs Jacqui Petrusma MP as Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier; Mr Simon Wood MP as Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health and Wellbeing and Government Whip; and Mr Simon Behrakis MP as Parliamentary Secretary for Housing and Planning.”

**19 PRESIDENT’S AUTHORITY** .— The President said —

"By my authority I have determined that Advisers to the Honourable the Leader of the Government, and the Deputy Leader of the Government be authorised to go onto the floor of this House for the duration of the Session in order to advise and support those Honourable Members”.

**20 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.**— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move Motions without Notice to establish certain Sessional and other Orders.

**21 SESSIONAL ORDER: E-PETITIONS.**— *Ordered*, That the Sessional Orders relating to E-petitions which were in place in the last session of the Third Session of the Fiftieth Parliament, be again approved for this session.

The sessional orders were as follows: —

1. An E-Petition is a Petition:
  - (a) in the correct form, stating a grievance and containing a request for action by the Council;
  - (b) sponsored by a Member and lodged with the Clerk for publication on the Parliament's Internet Website for a nominated period ("posted period");
  - (c) persons may elect to indicate their support of ("join the petition") by electronically providing their name, address (including postcode) and signifying their intention to join the Petition.
2. The posted period for an E-Petition is to be a minimum of one week and a maximum of six months from the date of publication on the Parliament's Internet Website.
3. The Member sponsoring the E-Petition must provide the Clerk with the details of the Petition in the correct form; the posted period and a signed acknowledgment that they are prepared to sponsor the E-Petition.
4. Once published on the Parliament's Internet Website an E-Petition cannot be altered.
5. Only one E-Petition dealing with substantially the same grievance and requesting substantially the same action by the Council shall be published on the Parliament's Internet Website at the same time.
6. Once the posted period for an E-Petition has elapsed, a paper copy of the Petition shall be printed by the Clerk in full (including the details of the persons who joined the Petition) and presented to the Council in the name of the Member that sponsored the E-Petition.
7. An E-Petition published on the Council's Internet Website, but not presented to the Council prior to the prorogation or dissolution of Parliament, shall be presented to the subsequent Parliament and becomes a Petition of the subsequent Parliament.
8. An E-Petition may be sponsored during any adjournment of the Legislative Council and during any period of prorogation.
9. Persons must join an E-Petition by filling out their correct details and personally agreeing to join the E-Petition, and by no one else, except in the case of incapacity from sickness.
10. A person cannot sign or join an E-Petition more than once.
11. Only the name and address of the Principal Petitioner shall be made public on the Legislative Council's website.
12. The Clerk may decline to publish an E-Petition on the website not in conformity with these Orders and shall advise the sponsoring Member accordingly.

13. The Clerk shall ensure that all Government responses to E-Petitions are posted on the website.
14. The Clerk or any Member may seek a ruling from the President of the Legislative Council relating to the conformity or otherwise of any E-Petition with these Orders.
15. The Clerk is authorised to create and maintain an appropriate internet website on which to publish E-Petitions, responses to E-Petitions and other explanatory information and do all things necessary in order to give effect to these Orders.
16. The Clerk must dispose of all electronic personal data relating to the posting and joining of an E-Petition within six months after an E-Petition is printed and presented to the Legislative Council.
17. The Standing Orders for petitions have application to E-Petitions insofar as they can be applied. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**22 SESSIONAL ORDERS: IN LIEU OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 29(2), 138(2) AND (4).—** *Ordered*, That the following Sessional Orders apply in lieu of Standing Orders 29(2), 138(2) and (4) —

**29. Adjournment for want of a Quorum when notice taken by Member**

- (2) At any time after the Council has proceeded to business, if a Member notices that seven Members including the President or Deputy President are not present, and so states, the Bells shall be rung as for a Division, and if a quorum is not present at the expiration of *four* minutes the President shall adjourn the Council without a Question first put, until the next ordinary sitting time.

**138. After division called —**

**How Division taken**

- (2) The President will order the division bells to be rung for *four* minutes.

**Locking of Doors**

- (4) After the *four* minutes have expired, or such lesser time at the discretion of the President, he or she will order the doors to be locked and no Member will enter or leave the Chamber until after the division. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**23 SESSIONAL ORDER: IN LIEU OF STANDING ORDER NO. 200 —** *Ordered*, That the following Sessional Order apply in lieu of Standing Order 200 —

**200:**

- (1) The evidence taken by any Select Committee of the Council, and documents presented to such Committee, which have not been reported to the Council shall not, unless authorised by the Committee, be referred to in the Council by any Member or published or disclosed by any Member or by any other person.
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to —
  - (a) any proceedings of the Committee that are open to the public and the news media;
  - (b) press releases or statements made by a Member of the Committee on the authority of the Committee; and
  - (c) written submissions presented to a Select Committee and authorised to be published by the Committee. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**24 SESSIONAL ORDER: SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS —** *Ordered*, That so much of Standing Order 39 be suspended for the duration of this Session to enable Special Interest Matters be called on each sitting Tuesday before Notices of Motion and Orders of the Day are proceeded with. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**25 PRAYERS.**— *Ordered*, That upon the President taking the Chair at the commencement of each day's sitting, the following prayers shall be read —

"Almighty God, we humbly beseech thee to vouchsafe thy blessing upon this parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Tasmania.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen". (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**26 AFTERNOON TEA.**— A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed, That for the period commencing on and from this day through to and including Wednesday, 27 November 2024, whenever the Council is sitting at 4 o'clock pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, the sitting will be suspended for thirty minutes".

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**27 PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT: STAFF APPOINTMENT.**— The President said:—

"Honourable Members I am very pleased to advise that on 3 April 2024 Ramona Long joined the Legislative Council as Deputy Usher of the Black Rod.

Ramona is undertaking a secondment with us from the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory. Ramona's role in the Northern Territory Parliament is the Procedural Support Manager in the Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory, with responsibility for managing the Table Office. She formerly held the graduate position of Clerk's Associate, providing direct administrative and operational support to the Office of the Clerk.

Ramona is joining our team through a secondment arrangement through to the end of the year. I am grateful to the Clerk of the Northern Territory Parliament for releasing Ramona to assist the Council, particularly in the area of chamber and table support. I am also pleased and proud that the Council has been able to offer Ramona a placement to further her professional development and parliamentary experience. Ramona has already demonstrated exemplary service to the Council in her work with the Usher of the Black Rod in organising the Opening of Parliament and I am sure she will contribute further to the Council and the Chamber for the remainder of the year.

On behalf of all Members I welcome Ramona to the Legislative Council."

**28 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES.**— *Ordered*, That the Honourable Member for McIntyre, (Ms *Rattray*) be appointed Deputy Chair of Committees, the Honourable Member for Launceston, (Ms *Armitage*) be appointed Second Deputy Chair and the Honourable Member for Nelson, (Ms *Webb*) be appointed Third Deputy Chair of Committees of this Council. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**29 ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO ARE MINISTERS OF THE CROWN AT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY QUESTION TIME.**— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly having agreed to the following Resolution, begs now to transmit the same to the Legislative Council, and to request its concurrence therein—

*Resolved*, That pursuant to the provisions of the House of Assembly Standing Order 50, a Message be transmitted to the Legislative Council, requesting that the Legislative Council give leave for any Member of the Legislative Council who is a Minister of the Crown to attend the Assembly so as to respond specifically to Questions without Notice seeking information of the kind covered by the Standing Orders of the Assembly.

*House of Assembly, 14 May 2024*

MICHELLE O'BYRNE, *Speaker*

A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed that the Message be taken into consideration forthwith.

A Debate arose and the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**30 ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO ARE MINISTERS OF THE CROWN AT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY QUESTION TIME.** — A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*), and the Question was proposed, That leave be granted to Members of the Legislative Council who are Ministers of the Crown to attend the House of Assembly, if they think fit, so as to respond specifically to Questions without Notice seeking information of the kind covered by the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

*Ordered*, That a Message be transmitted to the House of Assembly acquainting the House accordingly. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

**31 ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WHO ARE MINISTERS OF THE CROWN AT HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY QUESTION TIME.** — A Message to the House of Assembly:—

MADAM SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council desires to inform the House of Assembly that it agrees to the request of the Assembly in its Message dated 14 May 2024 and has granted leave to Members of the Legislative Council who are Ministers of the Crown to attend the House of Assembly if they think fit so as to respond specifically to Questions without Notice seeking information of the kind covered by the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly.

*Legislative Council, 14 May 2024*

C.M. FARRELL, *President*

**32 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 9.30 o'clock a.m. on Friday, 17 May 2024. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

*Resolved*, That the Council do now adjourn. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

The Council adjourned at 5.41 o'clock p.m.

C.L. VICKERS, *Clerk of the Council*.