

# Annual Report 2022-2023



Legislative Council  
Parliament of Tasmania

## About this Report

This Report covers the activities of the Legislative Council of Tasmania for the reporting period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The financial statements within this Report were prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, relevant Treasurer's Instructions and other authoritative requirements.

This Report is available online at:

<https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcannualreports>

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# THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2023

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament

Legislative Council of Tasmania

Parliament House

HOBART TAS 7000

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## Message from the Clerk

I take pleasure in presenting this Report for 2022-23.

This is my first preamble as the new incumbent Clerk as my colleague, David Pearce, announced his intention to resign during the reporting period and did so on 19 July 2023. During his nearly 42 years' career with the Parliament, David spent the last 16 years as Clerk of the Council. I thank him for his guidance during my time with Council and note that he was held in high esteem during his admirable tenure in Parliament.

This is the first year when the effects of COVID-19 did not substantially impact the daily operations of the Council. By and large, the Council continued to service the Members in their pursuit of providing due oversight and deliberation of the Government's proposed legislation and authorisation of the raising of revenue and the expenditure of State monies.

The Tasmanian Parliament was suspended twice during the reporting period. Firstly, the Parliament was prorogued between 1 and 16 August 2022 following the resignation of Hon Jacquie Petrusma MP on 25 July 2022. By convention during the prorogation, all Legislative Council committee activity ceased. Following the Commissioner's opening of the Parliament, the committees were re-established and a number of Bills were restored to the Notice Paper.

Parliament was also suspended from 13 to 27 September 2022 following the demise of the Crown and the passing of a condolence motion of both Houses in commemoration of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As part of ongoing workplace culture improvement initiatives, all three arms of Parliament (Legislative Council, House of Assembly and Legislature-General) collaborated to adopt a new common set of values to guide our work and behaviours (see [Strategic Direction](#)). In addition, a Parliamentary Consultative Committee was established to assist the Joint Governance Committee in its pursuit of establishing a contemporary work culture across parliamentary operations and administration.

I am proud of the work Council does and the dedicated staff who work behind the scenes to ensure all Members are appropriately supported to fulfill their duties to Parliament and the Tasmanian community. I express my appreciation for all their work and the professional and positive manner in which they conduct themselves.

I also express my appreciation to our colleagues in the House of Assembly and Legislature-General who have continued to support the Council and its activities throughout the year.

**C L Vickers**

**Clerk of the Legislative Council**

# Overview of Legislative Council

## A Constituent part of the Parliament

The Legislative Council together with the House of Assembly and Her Excellency the Governor constitute the Parliament of Tasmania.

Government is formed in the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council is the Upper House, often described as a house of review with an independent character. The Council has a number of roles including the following:

- to examine the merits of legislation and pass law;
- to authorise the raising of revenue and the expenditure of State monies; and
- inquiry and scrutiny and to provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day.

In modern times the role of the Legislative Council has expanded from being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself in the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government.

The Clerk of the Council is also responsible for preparing the Bills that have passed both Houses of Parliament for the Royal Assent.

## Council Elections

For Legislative Council elections, the State is divided into fifteen single Member electoral divisions. Elections are conducted in each of these electorates on a six year periodic cycle. Elections for three Members are held in May one year, with elections for two Members held in May the following year and so on. Each elector may only have one opportunity to vote in Legislative Council elections once every six years. There are never any general elections for the Council and the Council cannot be dissolved.

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

During this reporting period, in addition to the expected Legislative Council elections, an Election in the Division of Pembroke was also held necessitated by the resignation of Ms Jo Siejka on 10 September 2022, with the Hon Luke Edmunds elected to the seat for the remainder of the former Member's term. Legislative Council elections were also held on 6 May 2023 for the Divisions of Launceston, Murchison and Rumney. All three incumbent Members namely, the Hon Rosemary Armitage, the Hon Ruth Forrest and the Hon Sarah Lovell were returned as Members of the Legislative Council to their respective Divisions.

A list of Members as at 30 June 2023 is included in [Appendix 1](#).

## Disclosure of Interests

The *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996* establishes a Register of Interests of Members in each House. The Register contains information on the pecuniary, property, gifts and other interests Members may have on an annual basis. New Members are required to lodge a primary return within three months on taking an oath of allegiance or affirmation of office.

On 19 October 2022, in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of that Act, the Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table of the Council the Primary Return of the newly elected Member for Pembroke and the Register of Members' Interests for 2021-2022 for Members representing the electoral divisions of Derwent, Elwick, Hobart, Launceston, McIntyre, Mersey, Montgomery, Murchison, Nelson, Prosser, Rosevears, Rumney, and Windermere. The Primary Return and the Ordinary Returns, having been lodged with the President and Tabled and placed on the public record, are deemed to have been published. All Disclosure of Interest Returns once Tabled are published on the Legislative Council's website.<sup>1</sup>

## Sitting Days

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

Tuesday is reserved for non-government and private members' business. Wednesday and Thursday are set aside for government business predominantly the debated passage of Government Bills.

In general, visitors may attend the sittings at any time and observe proceedings from the public gallery.

## Office Hours

Excluding public holidays, the Legislative Council is open weekdays, between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm on non-sitting days, and from 8.30 am until the adjournment of the Council on sitting days.

## Visits to the Chamber

Visitors to Parliament in general, and more specifically the Legislative Council, are interested in observing proceedings, seeing the Chamber and appreciating the history of building. The House of Assembly Education Office conducts the majority of the visits which consist of secondary and primary school groups. The work undertaken by the House of Assembly Education Office, House of Assembly and Legislative Council officers and attendants is acknowledged and appreciated by Members and staff of the Legislative Council.

The majority of other groups and visitors who visit the Parliament do so when the Houses are in session giving them a valuable insight into the debating activity that occurs on the Floor of both places.

Visitors to the Legislative Council during non-sitting times are personally conducted through the Parliament by parliamentary officers. During times when the Council is in session personal tours are not available as staff are required to perform other duties, however, at these times visitors have a unique opportunity to view proceedings in the Chamber as they happen.

## Parliamentary Outreach and Visitation

Since 2007, the Parliament of Tasmania, under the auspices of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, has been twinned with the Legislative Assembly of Samoa.

In the 2022-23 year, there were two official delegations from the Parliament of Samoa. These visits provided Members and staff an opportunity to meet Presiding Officers, Members and parliamentary

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<sup>1</sup> See Register of Members Interests, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/legislative-council/lcmembersinterests>



officers, observe parliamentary practices and procedures, and strengthen our ties and relationships with our twin.

In addition the President also received a number official visitors and the details of these are included in [Appendix 2](#).

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# Legislative Council Administration

Administration of the Legislative Council, as distinct from the proceedings of the Legislative Council as House of Parliament, provides procedural, administrative and support services to assist the Members of the Legislative Council in performing their parliamentary duties. These services include research and advice on parliamentary practice and procedure, the preparation of documents for use in the House and the provision of staff and resources. The principal outcome of the Council's administration is to support a functioning House of Parliament in which Members of the Legislative Council are able to discharge their constitutional duties in respect of the consideration of legislation and other parliamentary business, including committee work.

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

The Head of the Administration is the Clerk of the Legislative Council. In addition, the Clerk is responsible, together with the Clerk of the House of Assembly, for ensuring the effective administration and operation of the joint services of the Parliament.

## Strategic Direction

### Purpose

The Administration's purpose may be summarised as follows:

*To provide apolitical, professional and support services to the Legislative Council and its elected Members to support Members in the discharge of their parliamentary and constitutional duties.*

### Values

During the 2022-23 year, all three arms of Parliament adopted the following values to guide our collected work and behaviours:

<b>Respect</b>	We treat other with dignity and courtesy while valuing their contribution
<b>Integrity</b>	We value honesty and transparency, and act ethically and impartially
<b>Trust</b>	We build trust and feel confident in each other to behave in a professional manner
<b>Inclusivity</b>	We embrace and value difference and diversity
<b>Empowerment</b>	We enable our people to take ownership of their work while recognising and celebrating achievement
<b>Collaboration</b>	We value each other's skills and experiences, creating excellence by actively working together across the organisation

## **Service Objectives**

As noted in the Government Services Budget Paper Number 2, Volume 2,<sup>2</sup> there are two main outputs that are administered for the Legislative Council:

- Legislative Council Support Services (inclusive of Committee Support Services), and
- Payments Administered by the Legislative Council.

Accordingly, the major service objectives and responsibilities of officers and staff of the Legislative Council are to:

- support the Legislative Council in its constitutional role
- provide effective apolitical support, including administrative, research, policy and procedural support and advice to the President of the Legislative Council and other elected Honourable Members
- ensure the effective custody of documents including Journals, Records and Papers of the Legislative Council which responsibility, in accordance with Standing Orders, is vested in the Clerk of the Legislative Council
- ensure the effective functioning of Standing, Sessional and Select Committees including the provision of adequate and appropriate resources
- provide an accurate retrieval and assessment system of parliamentary law, practice, precedent and convention necessary for the effective functioning of the Legislative Council, its committees and Members
- accurately and efficiently prepare and present legislation, once passed through both Houses, to Her Excellency the Governor for the Royal Assent
- maintain appropriate standards of integrity and conduct, and concern for the public interest
- promote public awareness of the purpose, functions and work of the Legislative Council and the Parliament of Tasmania as a constituent part of our democratic system of Government
- be a fair, merit based and responsible employer, supporting all staff through contemporary management practices and in compliance with the law, and
- effectively and efficiently manage resources in accordance with contemporary public sector standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

## **Procedural Support and Advice**

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

Advice provided focused principally on areas of parliamentary law, practice and procedure involving proceedings in the Chamber and the work of committees.

## **Executive Assistance and Support to Members**

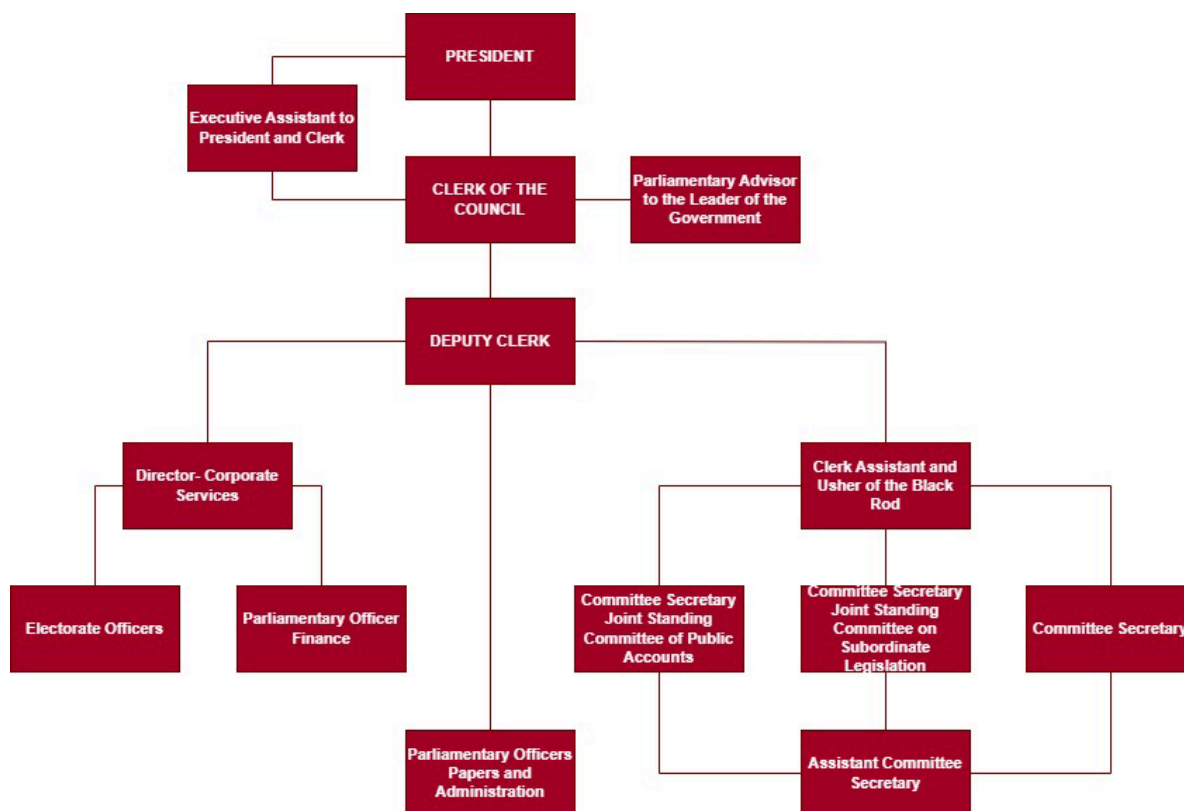
It is the Clerk's responsibility to ensure that electorate office and other support is provided to all Members of the Council. It is considered essential that Members have access to high quality

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/Documents/2022-23-Budget-Paper-No-2-Volume-2.pdf>

administrative and personal support to enable them to adequately discharge their responsibilities. Electorate Officer and Executive Assistant support continues to be assessed on an ongoing basis by the President and Clerk within the Legislative Council’s budget allocation.

## Legislative Council Organisational Chart



1. Legislative Council Organisational Chart as at 30 June 2022

## Documents and publications produced by the Legislative Council

The following summarises the major publications delivered by the Legislative Council:

<b>Notices of Question, Motion and Orders of the Day</b>	An official list of all business before the Council in the order in which it is proposed to be dealt with. The Notice Paper is produced in-house and is published for each day's sitting.
<b>Votes and Proceedings</b>	An official record of the proceedings of the Legislative Council being the Journals of the House. The Votes and Proceedings are produced in-house and are published for each day's sitting.
<b>Index to the Votes and Proceedings</b>	This index is also incorporated and printed in final form in the bound volumes of the Votes and Proceedings being the Journals of the House.
<b>Committee Reports</b>	Reports presented by committees and published as parliamentary papers.
<b>Annual Report</b>	The annual report on the activities of the Legislative Council is compiled and presented to both Houses of Parliament.

For the public, a Legislative Council information brochure and a brochure detailing the history of the Black Rod are available.

## Standing and Sessional Orders of the Legislative Council

The Standing Orders are approved by the Governor and set out the rules and orders of procedure for the operation of the Council and its committees. Additional rules and orders of procedure are in place by the use of a range of Sessional Orders which are agreed to by resolution of the Council.

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

- *Constitution Act 1934*
- *Electoral Act 2004*
- *Parliamentary Privilege Acts (1858, 1885, 1898 and 1957)*
- *Parliament House Act 1962*
- *Defamation Act 2005*
- *Evidence Act 2001*
- *Legislation Publication Act 1996*
- *Acts Enumeration Act 1947*
- *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*
- *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969*
- *Public Works Committee Act 1914*
- *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*
- *Integrity Commission Act 2009*
- *Promissory Oaths Act 2015*

## Financial Activity

According to law, the Clerk is responsible for the overall effective, efficient and economical financial management of the House. The Clerk must ensure that expenditure is in accordance with the law and that effective accounting and financial management information systems are maintained.

As provided under the *Financial Management Act 2016*, the guidance of Treasurer's Instructions together with other statutory provisions, the Clerk of the Council, in respect of the financial year ending on 30 June 2023, presented to the Parliament the Council's Annual Report. As required by law that Report contained the Council's duly audited Financial Statements to 30 June 2023.

The Financial Statements and accompanying Audit Report for the financial year ending on 30 June 2023 form part of this Annual Report.

## Risk Management

WLF Accounting & Advisory (WLF) are the internal auditors for the Parliament of Tasmania. In that capacity, in April 2021, WLF performed a governance review, which identified a number of areas for reform across governance, structures and processes (including compliance, financial and risk management). This initial governance project was finalised in April 2021 setting out a number of recommendations to be implemented over a staged period.

It is noted that in 2021-2022, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Sarah Bolt, undertook an investigation into the parliamentary workplace. The *Motion for Respect - Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services* (the Bolt Report) was published in August 2022. The Motion for Respect Report also included a number of recommendations relating to governance, audit and risk in the Parliament, as constituted by both Houses and Legislature-General. These findings and recommendations have been incorporated into the internal audit and risk workshops and governance reforms over the reporting period.

Following the 2021 Governance review work a risk identification workshop was held on 20 September 2022 and this formed the basis of the risk register. This work has encapsulated key strategic risks and action items for the Council and across the Parliament. These include:

- Public Perceptions, Awareness and Independence of the role of Parliament
- Governance and compliance
- People and culture – workforce capacity and capability as well as behaviour arising from the Motion for Respect Report released in August 2022
- Business continuity
- Asset and building – including the heritage nature of the building
- Cyber security.

Work continues to refine the risk register accountabilities, responsibilities, monitoring and reporting for each strategic risk.

In the reporting period the Internal Audit and Risk Committee was supported by Mr David Strong as the independent Chair. He concluded his term at the end of the reporting period and we thank Mr Strong for his leadership and support over his term of service.

Work continues on governance and compliance across the Parliament and this will continue over the 2023-24 reporting period.

Insurance arrangements are with the Tasmanian Risk Management Fund and insurance cover is for travel, general property, personal accident, transit, motor vehicles, general liability and workers compensation.

## **Asset Management**

The financial statements for 2022-23 contain full details of Legislative Council assets. These are recorded in accordance with the relevant accounting policies and procedures.

Administration maintains an inventory and asset register records for the following:

- Members' Equipment Register
- General Inventory
  - Legislative Council (furniture and general items), and
  - Regional Offices (furniture and general items)
- Antiques and Works of Art Inventory

These registers are reviewed as necessary.

## **Protecting Privacy**

Legislative Council Administration is committed to the protection of a person's privacy in the way we collect, use or disclose personal information. When dealing with personal and sensitive information, we do so in accordance with the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*.

No requests to access or amend personal information were received in 2022-23.

## **Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002**

It is a requirement for the Legislative Council to comply with the reporting requirements of section 86 of the above Act. Notwithstanding that the Legislative Council did not receive any disclosures or referred public interest disclosures or determined, referred or investigated any public interest disclosures it is still mandatory to list the reporting categories detailed hereunder. The Ombudsman

approved revised public interest disclosure procedures in March 2021. The procedures are accessible on the Parliament's internet.

The number and types of disclosures made to the relevant public body during the year and the number of disclosures determined to be a public interest disclosure.	None
The number of disclosures determined by the relevant public body to be public interest disclosures that it investigated during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body during the year by the Ombudsman.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman to investigate.	None
The number and types of investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the public body during the year.	None
The number and types of disclosed matters that the relevant public body has declined to investigate during the year.	None
The number and type of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation.	None
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the relevant public body.	None

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# Performance Metrics

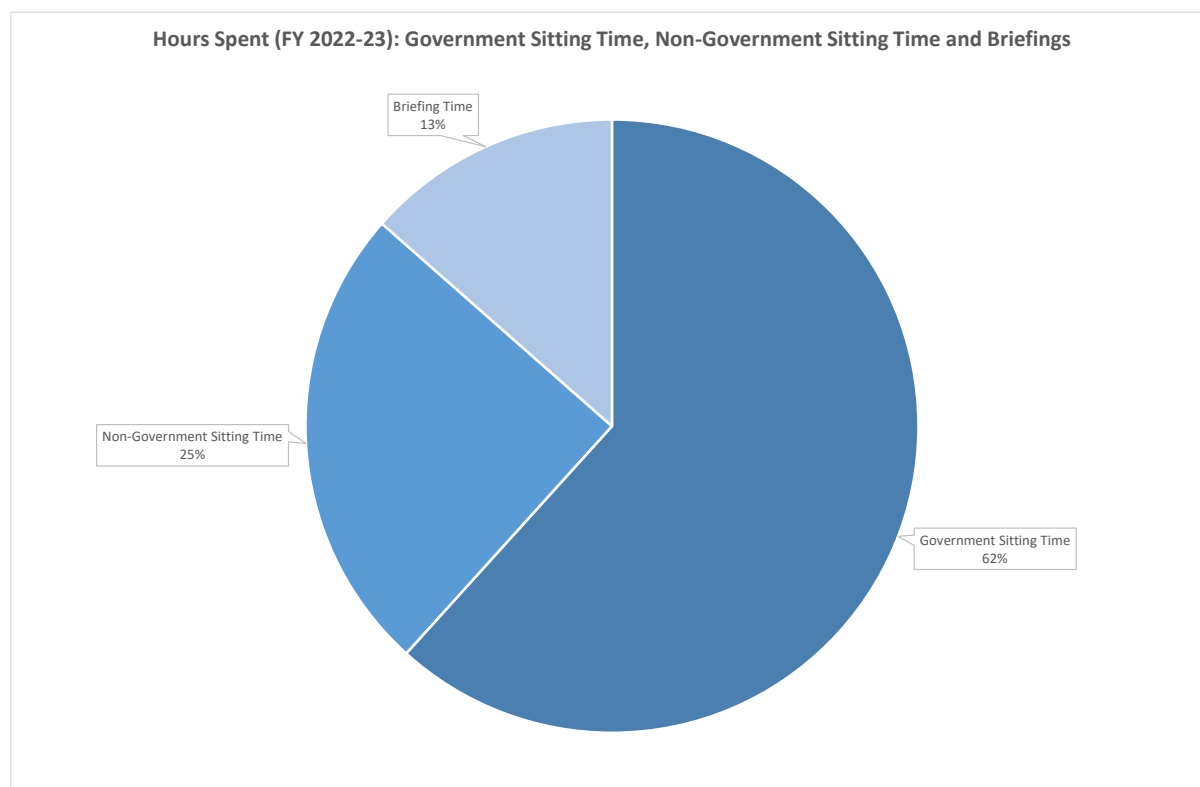
## Delivery of Services

Accurate forecasting of the volume of work and rate of activity required to be undertaken by officers and staff is difficult to determine due to the nature of the Legislative Council's operations.

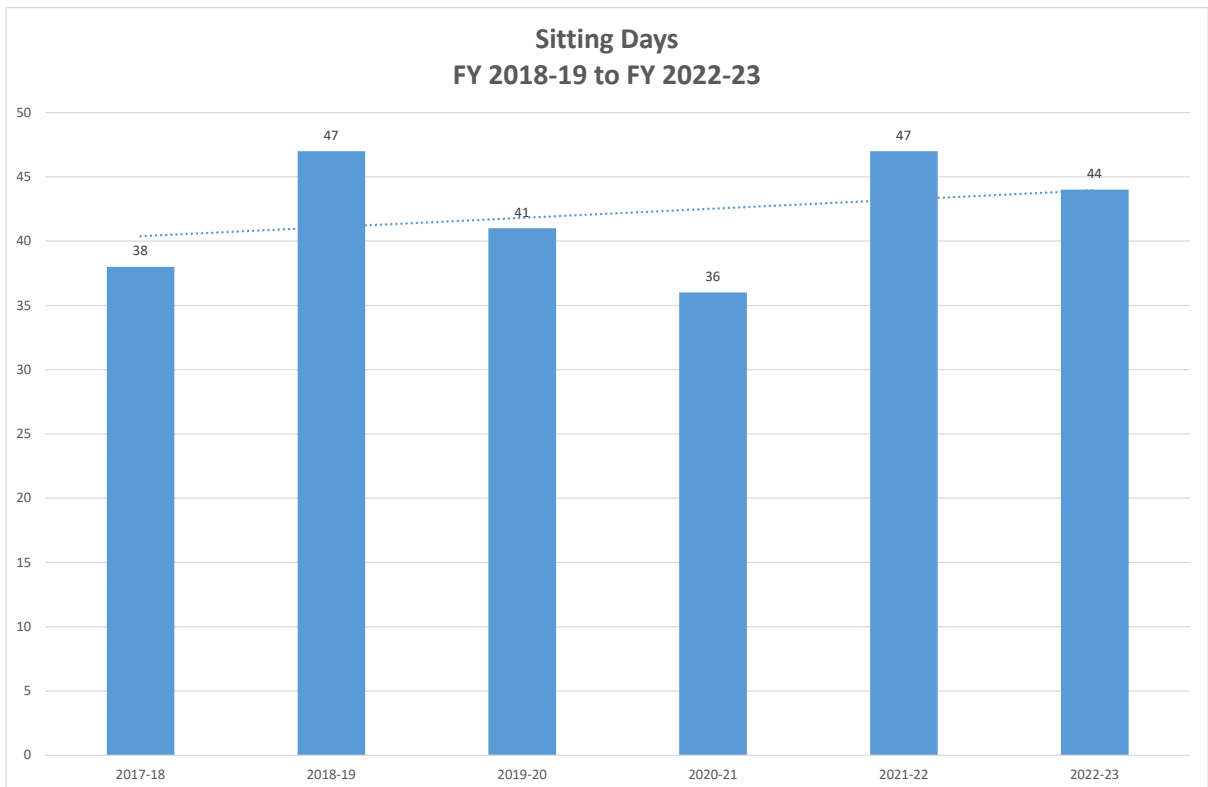
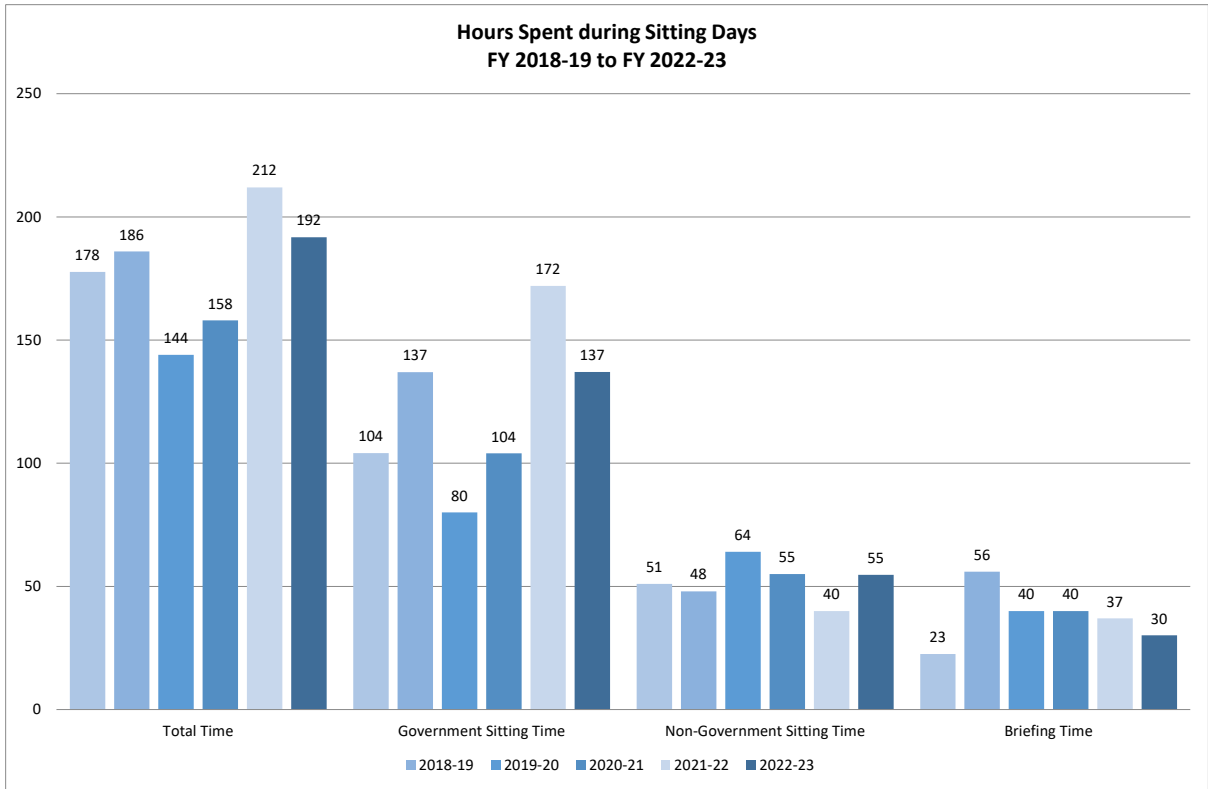
Indicators that affect workload, for example, the number of Legislative Council sitting days and establishment and activity of committees, are dependent upon Resolutions and decisions made by the House itself or by individual committees. A qualitative assessment of the Legislative Council's effectiveness in the provision of support to the Council, its committees and Honourable Members is undertaken on an ongoing basis by the President and Clerk. This examination is undertaken to ensure that necessary service and support is being provided by the staff to Honourable Members.

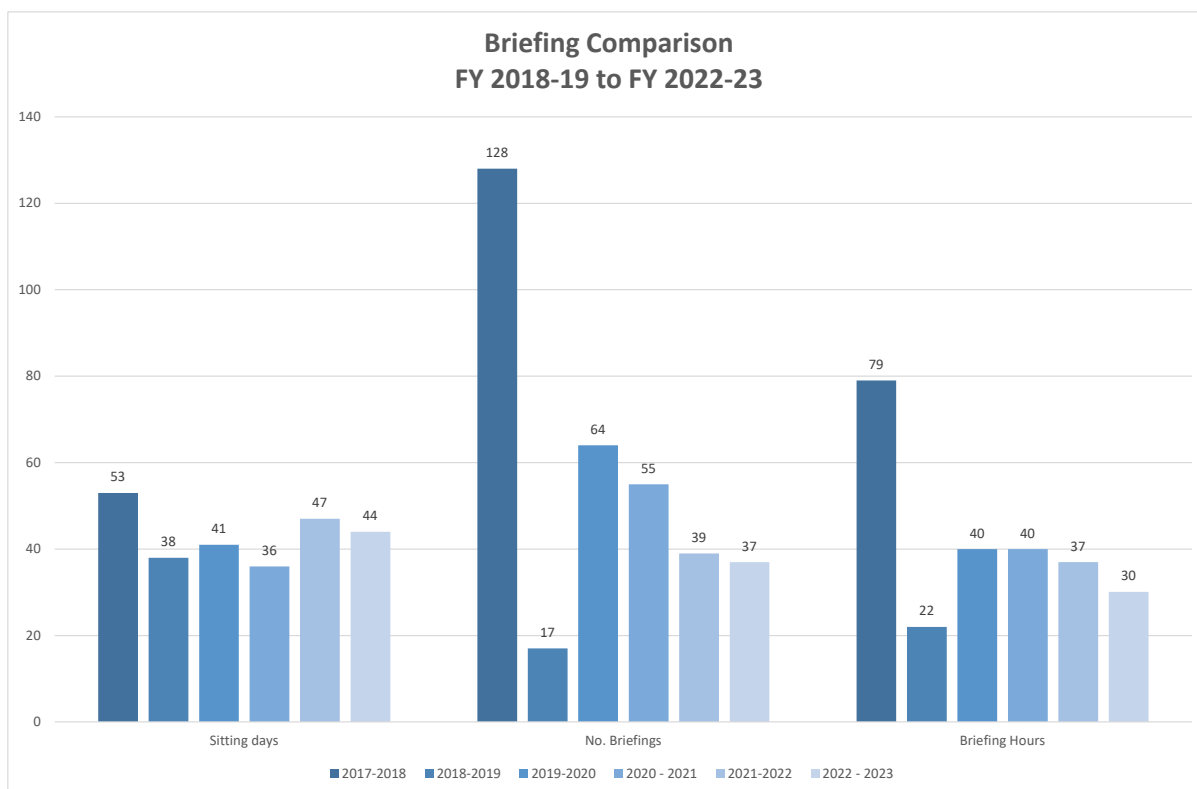
## Statistics

Over the 2022-23 period, a total of 222 hours over 44 sitting days were spent in the Chamber (a decrease of 27 hours and 3 sitting days from the previous year). This was made up of 192 hours of Chamber work (Government and Non-Government Sitting times) and 30 hours of Briefings. The loss of hours was in some part due to the prorogation of Parliament between 1 and 16 August 2022, and the suspension of Parliament from 13 to 27 September 2022 following the demise of the Crown and the passing of a condolence motion of both Houses in commemoration of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.









### ***Passage of Bills***

Bills	19 Mar 2019 - 30 Jun 2019	01 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2020	01 Jul 2020 - 30 Jun 2021	01 Jul 2021 - 30 Jun 2022	01 Jul 2022 - 30 Jun 2023
<b>Introduced</b>	16	51	33	45	41
<b>Lapsed</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Negated at Second Reading</b>	0	0	2	0	0
<b>Passed</b>	21	47	40	40	35
<b>Without Amendment</b>	17	42	33	32	28
<b>With Amendment</b>	4	5	7	8	7
<b>Number of Amendments</b>	31	6	218	23	60

## Summary of Activities

	Forty-Ninth Parliament Second Session 01 Jul 2019 - 30 Jun 2020	Forty-Ninth Parliament Second Session 01 Jul 2020 to 26 Mar 2021	Fiftieth Parliament First Session 22 Jun 2021 - 30 Jun 2021	Fiftieth Parliament First Session 01 Jul 2021- 25 Mar 2022 Second Session 03 May 2022 - 23 June 2022	Fiftieth Parliament Third Session 24 Jun 2022 - 30 Jun 2023
<b>Sitting Day<sup>3</sup></b>	41	35	6	47	44
<b>Hours of Sitting<sup>4</sup></b>	241	157	18	212	192
<b>Bills Amended</b>	8	6	0	11	0
<b>Bills Passed</b>	47	35	2	40	0
<b>Questions on Notice</b>	41	15	3	19	35
<b>Petitions</b>	4	5	0	4	3
<b>Substantive Motions</b>	25	13	3	29	41
<b>Matters of Public Importance</b>	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Divisions</b>	17	31	3	59	35
<b>Ministerial Statements</b>	0	0	1	3	1
<b>Motions of Disallowance of Regulations</b>	0	0	0	1	0

<sup>3</sup> Does not include Estimates Committees Meeting days

<sup>4</sup> Does not include Briefing Time

# House and Related Matters

## Government Briefings

Although not unique to the Legislative Council, briefings of Members arranged by the Leader's Office have become one of the methods by which Members of the Council may inform themselves of various matters being promoted by the Government or proposed Bills before the Parliament.

Briefings, although not formally part of the Standing Orders, have developed as a practice due to two factors: the political composition of the Legislative Council, which had until recently a majority of Independent Members; and the increased complexity of legislation. Due to the absence of any official caucusing by Independents, there is often no consensus view developed prior to the debate in the Chamber. As a result, through the 1990s Government briefings developed into an accepted mechanism for Government and Members to deal with complex or contentious issues.

Members are briefed by the various parties involved or interested in the issue; generally, this will include Government departments, professional associations, non-government organisations and service providers, grassroots and lobby groups and sometimes private individuals. By this method Members can obtain information and clarification more quickly than could normally occur in the Chamber. Briefings have their advantages such as: informality, the opportunity for frank discussions between Members and various presenters, expediting the passage of legislation, as well as clarifying aspects of a Bill or a proposal. While briefings offer these advantages, there are a number of aspects of the briefings process which should be noted. Firstly, it could be argued that a briefing may not be viewed as a proceeding in Parliament and may not therefore be protected by parliamentary privilege. Secondly, they are conducted outside of the Chamber and accordingly are not formally recorded. This requires Members to be vigilant in ensuring any undertakings or explanations of the effect of clauses in legislation are reaffirmed in the public debate in the Chamber.

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

Briefings can take up a significant portion of a sitting day. Briefings, although not compulsory, are well attended by Members. Briefing times are kept and presented as part of the Council's statistics for a sitting day. The trend in the use of briefings is unlikely to abate and continues to provide a valuable source of information to all Members in respect of Bills and other topics of interest that may be the subject of substantive debate or community interest.

Details of briefings conducted are as follows:

### **Legislative Council Briefings 2022-2023**

No.	Briefing	Date
1	Family Violence Reforms Bill 2022 (No. 10)	24/08/2022
2	Draft Nature Conservation Act Proclamations Disallowance Motions	24/08/2022
3	Police Offences Amendment (Workplace Protection) Bill 2022 (No. 15)	24/08/2022
4	Health Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 19)	7/09/2022
5	Homes Tasmania Bill 2022 (No. 35)	7/09/2022
6	Homes Tasmania (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 36)	7/09/2022
7	Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021 (No. 63)	28/09/2022
8	Venture Minerals	28/09/2022
9	Vehicle and Traffic Amendment (Driver Distraction and Speed Enforcement) Bill 2022 (No. 20)	29/09/2022
10	Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021 (No. 63)	19/10/2022

No.	Briefing	Date
11	Justice Miscellaneous (Advance Care Directives) Bill 2022 (No. 41)	19/10/2022
12	Occupational Licensing (Automatic Mutual Recognition Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 27)	26/10/2022
13	Roads and Jetties Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 12)	26/10/2022
14	Traffic Amendment (Electronic Billboards) Bill 2022 (No. 5)	26/10/2022
15	Electricity Safety Bill 2022 (No. 11)	26/10/2022
16	Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 29)	27/10/2022
17	Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 45)	9/11/2022
18	Environmental Management and Pollution Control Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 46)	9/11/2022
19	Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 42)	9/11/2022
20	Justice and Related Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2022 (No. 43)	10/11/2022
21	<i>Proclamation Under Nature Conservation Act 2002</i>	10/11/2022
22	Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2022-23) Bill 2022 (No. 49)	16/11/2022
23	Stadiums Tasmania Amendment (Transfers) Bill 2022 (No. 39)	16/11/2022
24	Retail Leases Bill 2022 (No. 30)	16/11/2022
25	Basslink/Marinus	17/11/2022
26	Expansion of House of Assembly Bill 2022 (No. 47)	17/11/2022
27	Public Interest Disclosures (Members of Parliament) Bill 2021 (No. 22)	22/11/2022
28	Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment Bill 2022 (No.48)	23/11/2022
29	Justice and Related Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2022 (No. 43)	22/03/2023
30	Carer Recognition Bill 2022 (No. 33)	23/03/2023
31	Justice Miscellaneous (Royal Commission Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 55)	23/03/2023
32	Appropriation (Further Supplementary Appropriation for 2022-23) Bill 2023 (No. 1)	29/03/2023
33	Mental Health Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 56)	29/03/2023
34	Electoral Matters (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 26)	30/03/2023
35	Electoral Disclosure and Funding Bill 2022 (No. 25)	30/03/2023
36	Justice and Related Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2022 (No. 43)	30/03/2023
37	Statutory Review of Scalefish Rules	10/05/2023
38	<i>Tasmanian Retirement Villages Act 2004</i>	10/05/2023
39	Electoral Matters (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 26)	16/05/2023
40	Electoral Disclosure and Funding Bill 2022 (No. 25)	16/05/2023
41	Tasmanian Community Fund	24/05/2023
42	Child and Youth Safe Organisations Bill 2022 (No. 54)	24/05/2023
43	Residential Building (Miscellaneous Consumer Protection Amendments) Bill 2022 (No. 44)	24/05/2023
44	Local Government Amendment (Code of Conduct) Bill 2022 (No. 52)	25/05/2023
45	Police Powers (Surveillance Devices) Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 57)	25/05/2023
46	Corrections Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 51)	31/05/2023
47	Police Powers (Surveillance Devices) Amendment Bill 2022 (No. 57)	28/06/2023
48	Justice Miscellaneous (Removal of Outdated Sex Terminology) Bill 2023 (No. 4)	28/06/2023
49	Police Offences Amendment (Nazi Symbol and Gesture Prohibition) Bill 2023 (No. 2)	29/06/2023
50	Justice Miscellaneous (Removal of Outdated Sex Terminology) Bill 2023 (No. 4)	29/06/2023

# Committees

## Overview

The main types of committees are:

- Statutory Standing Committees of both Houses
- Joint Standing Sessional Committees
- Sessional Committees of both Houses, and
- Select and Sessional Committees of one House.

There are at present four Standing Committees of both Houses established by Statute. These Committees are the Public Works Committee, the Subordinate Legislation Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Integrity Committee.

Two Joint Standing Sessional Committees are set up under the Standing Orders of both Houses. These are the House Committee, which manages and controls the building of the Parliament, the Dining Room and the grounds of Parliament House; and the Library Committee, which supervises the activities of the Parliamentary Library.

Following its establishment in the 2021-22 financial year, the Joint Sessional Gender and Equality Committee continued through the 2022-23 financial year. In addition, following a Resolution of both Houses, the Joint Sessional Workplace Culture Oversight Committee was established in the 2022-23 financial year.

The Legislative Council also has two Sessional Committees set up at the beginning of each Session to inquire into and report on any matter relating to:

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

Ministerial portfolio allocations for each Sessional Committee have changed from time to time in response to changes to Government Ministries.

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

## Standing Committees – Statutory in Nature

### Public Accounts

The Public Accounts Committee is a Joint Standing Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament established under the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*.

The Committee consists of six Members of Parliament: three are Members of the Legislative Council and three Members of the House of Assembly. The Committee is supported by a Legislative Council Committee Secretary.

Section 6 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* sets out the functions of the Public Accounts Committee. Essentially, the Committee's function is to inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances. The Committee may inquire into and report on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate.

### **Public Works**

The Public Works Committee is established under the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. It comprises three Members from the House of Assembly and two Members from the Legislative Council. The Committee is supported by a House of Assembly Committee Secretary.

The functions of the Committee are set out in section 15 of the *Public Works Committee Act 1914*. Its primary function is to report on proposed public works which are estimated to cost in excess of the statutory monetary threshold for construction works and works on roads and bridges having regard to public value and expediency of the proposed work.

### **Subordinate Legislation**

The Subordinate Legislation Committee is established under the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1969*. The Committee is comprised of three Members each from the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly. Ministers and Presiding Officers may not be members. The Committee is supported by a Legislative Council Committee Secretary.

The Committee's functions are set out in section 8 of the *Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969*. Essentially the Committee examines every regulation to ensure it is made in accordance with power of the principal Act and regulation - making processes have been complied with, in that certain matters such as the impact of the regulation on personal rights and liberties and the effects on competition and the economy have been considered in the subordinate legislation - making process. Regulation is defined to mean, 'regulation, rule, or by-law that is made under an Act and is required by law to be laid before both Houses of Parliament, but does not include rules of court made by the judges, or by a majority of them, under the authority of an Act'.

In addition to the scrutiny of regulations, section 7 of the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020* (the Act) provides that the Subordinate Legislation Committee is responsible for the scrutiny of notices under the Act as if the notices were regulations. In this reporting period an emergency cessation day was declared under the Act for 30 April 2023. Section 12 of the Act provides that no notices may be issued after this date.

### **Integrity**

The *Integrity Commission Act 2009* established the Joint Parliamentary Standing Committee on Integrity consisting of six Members of Parliament: three Members of the House of Assembly and three Members of the Legislative Council. The Committee is supported by a House of Assembly Committee Secretary.

Section 24 of the *Integrity Commission Act 2009* sets out the functions of the Joint Committee. Essentially the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity monitors and reviews the performance of the integrity entities and reports to both Houses on any matters relevant to an integrity entity. An integrity entity is defined to mean the Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman, the Auditor-General and the Custodial Inspector. The Committee may refer matters to the Integrity Commission and provide advice and guidance, but it cannot undertake its own investigations into complaints that the Integrity Commission is investigating, review decisions about investigations or inquiries, or make recommendations about particular investigations or inquiries.

## Sessional Committees

### Gender and Equality Committee

On 2 June 2022, the Hon Ruth Forrest MLC moved that a Joint Gender and Equality Committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon a range of matters related to gender and equality. This motion was agreed to by the Council, and following a message being transmitted to the House of Assembly seeking their concurrence the House also agreed, with some minor amendments to the Committee's terms of reference, to the establishment of the Joint Sessional Gender and Equality Committee.

After Parliament was prorogued during this reporting period, the Committee was re-established by the Houses. The House of Assembly provides secretariat support to this Committee.

### Workplace Culture Oversight Committee

In September 2022, the Houses agreed to the establishment of the Joint Sessional Workplace Culture Oversight Committee. This Committee is tasked with overseeing the implementation of recommendations contained in the *Motion for Respect – Report into Workplace Culture in the Tasmanian Ministerial and Parliamentary Services*.

### Government Administration Committees

Since 2010, at the beginning of each Session, the Legislative Council has established two sessional Committees of its Members across a split of government administration portfolios.

### Government Administration Committee A

The Committee held its first meeting of the reporting period on 16 August 2022. The Committee held three general meetings.

Committee Membership	
Hon Nick Duigan MLC	Hon Mike Gaffney MLC (Deputy Chair)
Hon Luke Edmunds MLC (from 28 Sep 2022)	Hon Dean Harriss MLC
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)	Hon Sarah Lovell MLC

The Committee met a total of eighteen times to 30 June 2023 relating to the Committee's inquiries into the application and operation of the *Financial Management Act 2016* Short Inquiry Process and the Subcommittee inquiry into Rural Health Services in Tasmania.

### *Inquiries*

The Committee had one ongoing inquiry and established one new short inquiry process (SIP) inquiry during the reporting period. The details of the inquiries for the current financial year are listed below.

### Rural Health Services in Tasmania

The Committee commenced an inquiry by resolution of 21 December 2020 into rural health services in Tasmania, and on 21 January 2021 the Committee resolved to establish a Subcommittee to conduct the inquiry.

Sub-Committee Membership	
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)	Hon Sarah Lovell MLC (Deputy Chair)
Hon Mike Gaffney MLC	Hon Nick Duigan MLC



During the reporting period the Committee held twelve meetings.

Public hearings were held on 18 August 2022. One individual provided verbal evidence at this hearing.

The Final Report was tabled on 25 October 2022.<sup>5</sup> The Final Report made thirteen recommendations. The Government's response to the Committee's report was tabled on 8 March 2023.<sup>6</sup>

### **Operations and Application of the *Financial Management Act 2016* (Short Inquiry Process)**

On 15 December 2022, the Government Administration Committee A resolved to initiate a Short Inquiry Process (SIP) into the operations and application of the *Financial Management Act 2016* (FMA) with the following terms of reference:

1. *To review and report upon the Financial Management Act 2016, with particular reference to the:*
  - a. *operation;*
  - b. *application;*
  - c. *efficacy;*
  - d. *financial decision making; and*
  - e. *timeliness and regularity of disclosures under the Financial Management Act 2016;*
2. *The ability of Parliament to undertake regular and timely scrutiny of Public Non-Financial Corporations (PNFCs); and*
3. *Any other matter incidental thereto.*

At its meeting on 15 December 2022 the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee 'A' agreed to the following resolution in accordance with Sessional Order 5(16): 'That for the purposes of the Committee inquiring into the operations and application of the *Financial Management Act 2016*, leave be granted for the following Member to join the Committee: the Hon Josh Willie MLC as substitute for the Hon Sarah Lovell MLC.'

<b>Committee Membership</b>	
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Chair)	Hon Mike Gaffney MLC
Hon Nick Duigan MLC	Hon Dean Harriss MLC
Hon Luke Edmunds MLC (Deputy Chair)	Hon Josh Willie MLC

The Committee called for submissions in Tasmania's three daily papers on Saturday 11 February 2023. Written submissions closed on Friday 17 March 2023. Two formal submissions were received by the Inquiry.

The Committee met three times during the reporting period. Public hearings were held in Hobart on 24 April and 15 June 2023. Three individuals or organisations provided evidence at these public hearings.

The Short Inquiry Process is ongoing, with a draft report under consideration by the Committee.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> See [https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/59723/final20report20sub-committee20rural20health20services20in20tasmania202520october202022.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0026/59723/final20report20sub-committee20rural20health20services20in20tasmania202520october202022.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0021/61392/tasmanian20government20response20-20inquiry20into20rural20health20services.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0021/61392/tasmanian20government20response20-20inquiry20into20rural20health20services.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> See Short Inquiry Process into the operations and application of the Financial Management Act 2016, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/sessional-committees/govadmina/current-inquiries/inquiry-into-the-operations-and-application-of-the-financial-management-act-2016>

## Government Administration Committee B

The Committee held its first meeting of the reporting period on 16 August 2022. At that meeting nominations were called for the Chair and Deputy Chair to which Hon Tania Rattray MLC and Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC were duly elected respectively. Over the reporting period, the Committee held 10 meetings (inclusive of public hearings).

Committee Membership	
Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC (Deputy Chair)	Hon Rob Valentine MLC
Hon Jane Howlett MLC	Hon Meg Webb MLC (from 28 Mar 2023)
Hon Tania Rattray MLC (Chair)	Hon Josh Willie MLC

### Inquiry into Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention

On 27 October 2022, in accordance with the Legislative Council Sessional Order 5(14), Government Administration Committee B resolved to form a committee to conduct an inquiry on the following Terms of Reference:

*To inquire into and report upon Tasmanian corrective services and justice system matters related to adult imprisonment and youth detention including:*

- 1. Factors influencing increases in Tasmania's prisoner population and associated costs*
- 2. The use of evidence-based strategies to reduce contact with the justice system and recidivism*
- 3. The provision of, and participation in, services for people in prison and leaving prison (health, housing and legal services)*
- 4. Training and support initiatives for corrective service staff related to increasing individual well-being, professionalism, resilience and reduced absenteeism*
- 5. Innovations and improvements to the management and delivery of corrective services that may be applied in Tasmania, including to future prison/detention centre design, and*
- 6. Any other incidental matters.*

Sixty-seven submissions were received by the Committee until the closing date in April 2023. Two public hearings were held over the period: both in Hobart. The Inquiry was still ongoing at the end of the reporting period.<sup>8</sup>

### Short Inquiry into the role and functions of the Office of Racing Integrity

On 28 March 2023, in accordance with Legislative Council Sessional Order 5(14), Government Administration Committee B resolved to establish a targeted inquiry into the role and functions of the Office of Racing Integrity with the following Terms of Reference:

- 1. To review and report on the functions of the Office of Racing Integrity, including:*
- 2. The regulation of the State's racing codes including how the Rules of Racing are effectively enforced and investigated; and*
- 3. Monitoring of the conduct of race meetings statewide;*
- 4. Progress on implementing the recommendations covered by the Review of the Racing Regulation Act 2004: Securing the Integrity of the Tasmanian Racing Industry (the Monteith Review); and*

<sup>8</sup> See Inquiry into Tasmanian Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention Matters, [https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/sessional-committees/govadminb/current-inquiries/govadminb\\_tasmanian20adult20imprisonment20and20youth20detention20matters](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/sessional-committees/govadminb/current-inquiries/govadminb_tasmanian20adult20imprisonment20and20youth20detention20matters)

5. Any other matter incidental thereto.

The Committee held two public hearings over the reporting period and the Inquiry was still ongoing.<sup>9</sup>

### **Government Estimates and Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees**

The Government Administration Committees also form the Estimates Committee that examine the State Budget and the Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee that examine the Government Business Enterprises and State-Owned Corporations as detailed below.

#### **Estimates Committees**

On 24 May 2023, the Legislative Council agreed to the establishment of two Estimates Committees 'A' and 'B' with the view of reporting upon the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bills (No. 1 and No. 2) and budget papers by no later than Friday, 23 June 2023:

<b>Committee A Membership</b>	
Hon Nick Duigan MLC	Hon Mike Gaffney MLC
Hon Luke Edmunds MLC	Hon Dean Harriss MLC
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC	Hon Sarah Lovell MLC

<b>Committee B Membership</b>	
Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC	Hon Rob Valentine MLC
Hon Jane Howlett MLC	Hon Meg Webb MLC
Hon Tania Rattray MLC	Hon Josh Willie MLC

Both Committee A and Committee B met on six occasions.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees**

On 25 October 2022 the Legislative Council established two Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees to report on the Government Businesses by no later than 16 December 2022.<sup>11</sup>

<b>Committee A Membership</b>	
Hon Nick Duigan MLC	Hon Mike Gaffney MLC
Hon Luke Edmunds MLC	Hon Dean Harriss MLC
Hon Ruth Forrest MLC	Hon Sarah Lovell MLC
<b>Government Businesses Allocated (Tuesday, 29 Nov 2022)</b>	
Metro Tasmania Pty Ltd, Motor Accidents Insurance Board, Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation, and Tasmanian Railways Pty Ltd.	

<b>Committee B Membership</b>	
Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC	Hon Rob Valentine MLC
Hon Jane Howlett MLC	Hon Meg Webb MLC
Hon Tania Rattray MLC	Hon Josh Willie MLC
<b>Government Businesses Allocated (Wednesday, 30 Nov 2022)</b>	
Aurora Energy Pty Ltd, Port Arthur Historic Site Management Authority, Tasmanian Irrigation Pty Ltd, Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd and TasRacing Pty Ltd.	

<sup>9</sup> See Short Inquiry into the role and functions of the Office of Racing Integrity, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/sessional-committees/govadminb/current-inquiries/short-inquiry-into-the-role-and-functions-of-the-office-of-racing-integrity>

<sup>10</sup> See Estimates Committee 2023, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/select-committees/estimates-committees-2023>

<sup>11</sup> As per Legislative Council Standing Orders covered under Part 22

Both Committee A and Committee B met on four occasions.<sup>12</sup>

## Select Committees

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

A Select Committee has a number of powers. It is able to summon witnesses to appear before it and call for such papers and records as it may require. All submissions, written or verbal, become the property of the Committee and cannot be made public until the Committee has reported to Parliament and tabled the associated documents, or the documents have been published to the Parliament of Tasmania website in accordance with a resolution of the Committee.

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

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

### **Select Committee Inquiries**

During the 2022-23 financial year there was activity associated with Select Committees as follows:

#### **Legislative Council Select Committee on Road Safety in Tasmania**

On 29 June 2021, the Legislative Council Select Committee on Road Safety in Tasmania was established. After the prorogation of Parliament on 5 April 2022, the Legislative Council resolved to re-establish the Committee under the original terms of reference on 3 May 2022.

During the reporting period, the Committee publicly advertised an invitation for interested individuals or organisations to provide written submissions to the Inquiry. A total of 94 submissions were received. Public hearings from a range of witnesses providing evidence to the Committee were held in Hobart on Monday, 25 October 2021 and Wednesday, 2 February 2022 and in Launceston on Monday, 29 November 2021.

The Committee tabled its final report on Road Safety in Tasmania (No.31 of 2022) on 25 October 2022. It contained five major findings (complemented by an additional 89 findings relative to broad road safety matters) and 49 overarching recommendations.

Submissions to the Inquiry, together with the Committee's Final Report<sup>13</sup> and the Tasmanian Government's response to that Report<sup>14</sup> may be found on the Committee's page on the Tasmanian Parliament's website.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> See Parliament of Tasmania - Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees 2022, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/select-committees/parliament-of-tasmania-government-businesses-scrutiny-committees-2022>

<sup>13</sup> See [https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/59259/inquiry20into20road20safety20in20tasmania20no.3120of202022-20-20final.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0030/59259/inquiry20into20road20safety20in20tasmania20no.3120of202022-20-20final.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> See [https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0031/68359/Tasmanian-Government-Response-21-March-2023.pdf](https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0031/68359/Tasmanian-Government-Response-21-March-2023.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> See Parliament of Tasmania - Road Safety in Tasmania Committee, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/select-committees/lc20select20-20road20safety>

Committee Membership	
Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC (Chair) Hon Jo Palmer MLC (up to 13 Jul 2022) Hon Tania Rattray MLC	Hon Dr Bastian Seidel MLC (Deputy Chair) (up to 7 Jan 2022) Hon Josh Willie (from 2 Sep 2021)

### Legislative Council Select Committee on the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*

The Legislative Council Select Committee on the Provisions of *the University of Tasmania Act 1992* was established by the Legislative Council on 24 May 2022 and first met on 23 June 2022.

The Committee called for submissions in Tasmania's three daily papers on Saturday 2 July 2022. Written submissions closed on Monday 29 August 2022. One hundred and fifty one submissions were received.

The Committee met sixteen times during the reporting period. Public hearings were held on 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13 December 2022, 27 February, 1 and 2 March, and 1, 4 and 12 May 2023 in Hobart. Thirty-three individuals and organisations provided verbal evidence at these public hearings.

The Inquiry is ongoing, with a draft report currently under consideration by the Committee. Submissions to the Inquiry may be found on the Committee's page on the Tasmanian Parliament's website.<sup>16</sup>

Committee Membership	
Hon Nick Duigan MLC Hon Mike Gaffney MLC Hon Rob Valentine MLC (Chair) Hon Meg Webb MLC (Deputy Chair)	Hon Jo Siejka MLC (until resignation from Parliament in August 2022) Hon Sarah Lovell MLC (from 16 August 2022)

### Legislative Council Standing Committees

In addition to these Committees the Legislative Council has two Standing Committees which relate to Privileges and Standing Orders.

The role of the Privileges Committee is to examine and report to the Council in relation to breaches of Parliamentary privilege.

The Standing Orders Committee is responsible for the Standing Orders and may inquire into and make recommendations as to any changes.

On 28 March 2023, the Council resolved as follows:

*That the Legislative Council give consideration to the introduction of time limits on the following Chamber processes:*

- 1. Second reading speeches,*
- 2. contributions made on the permitted three speaks during Committee stage consideration of a Bill or matter, and*
- 3. Third reading speeches.*

*That the matters determined in (1) above be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for its consideration and report back regarding:*

<sup>16</sup> See Inquiry into the Provisions of the University of Tasmania Act 1992, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/legislative-council/select-committees/lc20select20-20university20of20tasmania>

- *the efficacy and feasibility of introducing time limits, and*
- *recommendations as to the appropriate time limits to be applied to Chamber processes.*

The Standing Orders Committee met on 27 June 2023 to consider this reference. Work on the reference is ongoing.

## Legislative Council Committee Secretariat Summary 2022-23<sup>17</sup>

Name of Committee	No. of Meetings	Hearing Days	No. of Submissions	No. of Witnesses	Status 30 Jun 2022
<b>Estimates Committees (2023-24 Budget)</b>					
Estimates Committee A	6	4	-	-	Concluded
Estimates Committee B	6	4	-	-	Concluded
<b>Government Businesses Scrutiny Committees</b>					
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee A	4	1	-	-	Concluded
Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee B	4	1	-	-	Concluded
<b>Select Committees</b>					
Road Safety in Tasmania	6	-	94	27	Concluded
Provisions of the <i>University of Tasmania Act 1992</i>	16	11	151	33	Ongoing
<b>Sessional Committees</b>					
Government Administration Committee A	3	-	-	-	Ongoing
Rural Health Services in Tasmania	12	1	81	1	Concluded
Operations and Application of the <i>Financial Management Act 2016 (SIP)</i>	3	2	2	3	Ongoing
Government Administration Committee B	10	3	-	-	Ongoing
Adult Imprisonment and Youth Detention		2	67	14	Ongoing
Roles and functions of the Office of Racing Integrity		2	-	7	Ongoing
<b>Standing Committees</b>					
Standing Orders Committee	1	-	-	-	N/A

<sup>17</sup> Does not include joint standing Committee statistics which are reported by those Committee separately.

# Legislative Council Administrative Staff

## Industrial Agreement

The current Legislative Council Staff Industrial Agreement was first agreed between the parties and filed with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission in March 2009. The Agreement known as the Legislative Council Staff Industrial Agreement 2009, has been operative from the first full pay period on or after 5 March 2009 and still remains in force until varied between the parties to the Agreement.

## Superannuation Schemes

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

Superannuation Scheme	No. of staff for whom employer superannuation contributions were made (as at 30 June 2023)
RBF defined benefit scheme	6
Tasmanian Accumulation Scheme (TAS)	14
Other complying superannuation schemes	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

## Development and Training

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

The Council's Clerks-at-the-Table are members of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Clerks-at-the-Table (ANZACATT). That Association conducts annual professional development seminars in various parliamentary jurisdictions throughout Australia and New Zealand. Legislative Council participants attend these seminars whenever possible. The 2023 seminar was hosted by the Victorian Parliament in January and the theme of the conference was Contemporary Parliament: what traditions should be preserved in a changing world. The Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council, Ms Catherine Vickers, and the Clerk-Assistant, Mr Tim Mills, participated in the seminar.

The Legislative Council is also able to nominate officers to undertake the Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Program course. The course is conducted under an agreement with University of South Australia. This program is a legal course and provides an overview of the constitutional and legal frameworks underpinning Australia and New Zealand's parliamentary systems, as well as practical knowledge of parliamentary law and practice. Mr Tim Mills is currently undertaking the course and will complete it in 2024. Ms Julie Thompson is currently undertaking a graduate certificate in parliamentary law practice and procedure through the University of Tasmania.

In-house induction programs are conducted and training for new members of staff appointed both at Parliament House and across regional electorate offices is undertaken through an orientation program which runs over several days. Electorate officers meet each year to undergo specific training and education with their roles associated in supporting Members.

## Workplace Health and Safety

Workplace health and safety is a key management focus, particularly in light of the Motion for Respect Report, undertaken by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sarah Bolt, released in August 2022.

Elements of Workplace Health and Safety continue to be addressed through:

- recognition of psychosocial risks of bullying, harassment and disrespectful behaviour in the workplace
- the appointment of a Manager, People and Culture to drive the development of whole-of-Parliament policies to cover a range of issues such as standards of behaviour, grievances and managing workplace complaints
- assignment and consolidation of incident and accident reporting across the Parliament, investigation and follow up to the People and Culture team
- the appointment of a Manager Parliamentary Facilities and Services to work on a statutory maintenance contract and a strategic asset management plan to identify necessary upgrading of the building fabric and assets as part of the continuing works program onsite
- the continued access to an Employee Assistance Program, and
- work station ergonomic assessments

The Work Health and Safety Manual, which includes a Health and Safety Policy, is published on the Parliament's intranet.

The Parliament's Work Health and Safety Committee, which consists of staff representation from business units across the Parliament, has played a vital role in providing input into the manual and related health and safety policies together with ongoing consideration of matters directly relevant to staff work health and safety.

## Electorate Offices

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

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

The Leader of the Government has staff support in the Parliament House Office provided by a full-time permanent staff member of the Legislative Council. Support of a full-time permanent staff member of the Legislative Council in the Montgomery electorate office in Ulverstone is also provided.

The main electorate office overhead costs continue to be funded from provisions made available in the budget of Legislature-General and include allocations for rent and utilities.

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

The Member for Hobart has an electorate office based at Parliament House.



The Members for Launceston and Windermere are located on the Ground Floor of the Henty House building in Launceston. The remaining ten Members of the Legislative Council have individual offices located in their electorates. Offices are located in Devonport, Wynyard, Riverside, Scottsdale, Moonah, New Norfolk, Bellerive, Rokeby, Sorell and Kingston.

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

The issues and areas of interest dealt with within the electorate offices vary greatly. Common work and themes include:

- assisting constituents with completion of official paperwork to access federal, state and local services
- seeking community feedback through newsletter and survey mail-outs
- liaising with state and federal ministerial offices and local councils
- supporting local schools, community groups and businesses
- assisting constituents with local government issues, including:
  - road and footpath maintenance issues
  - planning processes
  - community consultation issues
- assisting constituents with service provider issues, including:
  - telecommunications providers
  - utilities services such as power, water and transport.

Matters of concern raised within electorate offices are broad and are based on the unique character of the electorate, include:

- |                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Housing                            | • Corrections and crime          |
| • Health                             | • Infrastructure                 |
| • Land use, building and development | • Child safety                   |
| • Road safety                        | • Aged Care                      |
| • Employment                         | • Transport                      |
| • Industry                           | • Immigration, and               |
| • Education                          | • Environment and Climate Change |

In addition to working with constituents, Electorate Officers support Members in a range of parliamentary work from researching issues, writing speeches, organising the MLC's parliamentary papers and ensuring the MLC is prepared for Chamber and committee work.

The Legislative Council's electorate officers are a highly skilled and professional group of parliamentary employees who not only support elected Members in the discharge of their constitutional and parliamentary responsibilities but also provide important and valuable assistance to many people in the community.

## **Meeting of Legislative Council Electorate Officers and Staff**

The meeting of Legislative Council Electorate Officers and staff provides an opportunity for staff from regional offices around the State to meet with colleagues based at Parliament House to discuss a range of matters associated with their work in supporting the elected Members of the Legislative Council and the work of the Legislative Council generally as a constituent part of the Parliament. The meeting was organised by the Deputy Clerk and the Director – Corporate Services. The theme for this year’s meeting was resilience and reflecting on role of electorate officer and goals.

## **Family Members Providing Support in Members’ Offices**

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

For the reporting period there were no approvals given by the President for the engagement of a family member in any Legislative Council Electorate Office.

## **Parliamentary Service Awards**

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

On 5 December 2022, Ms Allison Scott received a Parliamentary Service Award for 20 years of service to the Council.

## Appendix 1 – Members of the Legislative Council

The 15 Members of the Legislative Council as at 30 June 2023:

Member	Electorate Division	Party
Armitage, Hon Rosemary Lois <i>Third Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	Launceston	Independent
Duigan, Hon Nicholas John Henry	Windermere	Liberal Party
Edmunds, Hon Luke Matthew	Pembroke	Australian Labor Party
Farrell, Hon Craig Maxwell <i>President</i>	Derwent	Australian Labor Party
Forrest, Hon Ruth Jane <i>Deputy President and Chair of Committees</i>	Murchison	Independent
Gaffney, Hon Michael Victor	Mersey	Independent
Harriss, Hon Dean Andrew	Huon	Independent
Hiscutt, Hon Leonie Anne <i>Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council</i>	Montgomery	Liberal Party
Howlett, Hon Jane Colleen	Prosser	Liberal Party
Lovell, Hon Sarah Elizabeth	Rumney	Australian Labor Party
Palmer, Hon Joanne Lesley <i>Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council</i> <i>Minister for Primary Industries and Water</i> <i>Minister for Disability Services</i> <i>Minister for Women</i> <i>Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence</i>	Rosevears	Liberal Party
Ratray, Hon Tania Verene <i>Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	McIntyre	Independent
Valentine, Hon Robert Henry Francis <i>Second Deputy Chair of Committees</i>	Hobart	Independent
Webb, Hon Megan Therese	Nelson	Independent
Willie, Hon Joshua Barton	Elwick	Australian Labor Party

## Appendix 2 – Official Visitors to the Legislative Council

Date	Official Visitor
Tuesday, 19 July 2022	His Excellency Mr Mark Glauser High Commissioner of Canada
Thursday, 15 September 2022	His Excellency Mr Nguyễn Tất Thành Ambassador of Vietnam
Tuesday, 21 March 2023	Her Excellency Ms Arjaree Sriratanaban Ambassador of Thailand
Tuesday, 18 April 2023	His Excellency Mr Paolo Crudele Ambassador of Italy

## Appendix 3 – Legislative Council Staff

Legislative Council Staff as at 30 June 2023:

Title	Name
Clerk of the Council	Mr David Pearce
Deputy Clerk	Ms Catherine Vickers
Clerk-Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod	Mr Tim Mills
Executive Assistant to the President and Clerk	Mrs Sandra Phillips
Director – Corporate Services	Mrs Nicole Muller
	Mrs Jenny Mannering
Committee Secretaries	Ms Julie Thompson
	Mr Simon Scott
Assistant Committee Secretary	Ms Allison Scott
	Mrs Mandy Lowrie
Parliamentary Officers – Papers and Administration	Mrs Robyn Everist
	Ms Tamika Sharman
Parliamentary Officer – Trainee	Ms Aleira Chalker
Parliamentary Officer – Finance	Mr Craig Thorp
Parliamentary Adviser to the Leader of the Government	Ms Mandy Jenkins
	Ms Tahnee Byas
	Ms Debbie Cleaver
	Ms Elli Coleman
	Mr Jimmy Collins
	Ms Genevieve Cooley
	Ms Megan Graham
	Mr Jonathon Heather
Electorate Officers	Ms Cath Hughes
	Ms Lucinda McNeil
	Ms Melissa Partridge
	Ms Lisa Patterson
	Ms Kate Rainbird
	Ms Karen Shirley
	Ms Yvonne Stone
	Ms Meghan Windram
	Ms Candice Winter

## **Appendix 4 – Financial Statements**

Financial Report of the Legislative Council for the period ending on 30 June 2023 including the Independent Audit Report.

**Independent Auditor's Report**  
**To the Members of Parliament**  
**Legislative Council**  
**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of Legislative Council (the Council), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 and statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement of certification signed by the Clerk of the Council (the Clerk).

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- (a) present fairly, in all material respects, the Council's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended
- (b) are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Australian Accounting Standards.

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted the audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Council in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

The *Audit Act 2008* further promotes the independence of the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is the auditor of all Tasmanian public sector entities and can only be removed by Parliament. The Auditor-General may conduct an audit in any way considered appropriate and is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which audit powers are to be exercised. The Auditor-General has for the purposes of conducting an audit, access to all documents and property and can report to Parliament matters which in the Auditor-General's opinion are significant.

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

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

### **Responsibilities of the Clerk for the Financial Statements**

The Clerk is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of Section 42 (1) of the *Financial Management Act 2016*. This responsibility includes such internal control as determined necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Clerk is responsible for assessing the Council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council is to be dissolved by an Act of Parliament, or the Clerk intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Council's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Clerk.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Clerk's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material



uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusion is based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Clerk regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Rod Whitehead  
**Auditor-General**  
Tasmanian Audit Office

31 October 2023  
Hobart

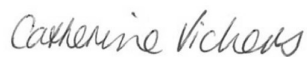
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## Statement of Certification

The accompanying Financial Statements of the Legislative Council are in agreement with the relevant accounts and records and have been prepared in compliance with the Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016* to present fairly the financial transactions for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position as at the end of the year.

At the date of signing, I am not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Catherine Vickers

Clerk

31 October 2023

## Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
Revenue from Government				
		7,798	7,809	7,552
		-	80	80
<b>Total revenue from continuing operations</b>	3.1	<b>7,798</b>	<b>7,889</b>	<b>7,632</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
Employee benefits	4.1	6,938	7,048	6,801
Depreciation and amortisation	4.2	3	73	61
Supplies and consumables	4.3	872	788	645
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>7,813</b>	<b>7,909</b>	<b>7,507</b>
<b>Net result from continuing operations</b>		<b>(15)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Result</b>		<b>(15)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>125</b>

This Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.1 of the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Assets</b>				
<i>Financial assets</i>				
Cash and cash equivalents	9.1	-	-	-
Receivables	5.1	17	51	2
<i>Non-financial assets</i>				
Plant and equipment	5.2	2,360	2,419	2,414
Other Assets	5.3	-	41	34
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,377</b>	<b>2,511</b>	<b>2,450</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>				
Payables	6.1	75	99	27
Employee benefit liabilities	6.2	911	886	877
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>986</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>904</b>
<b>Net assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,546</b>
<b>Equity</b>				
Reserves	8.1	848	848	848
Accumulated funds		543	678	698
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,391</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,546</b>

This Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.2 of the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
<i>Cash inflows</i>				
Appropriation receipts - operating		7,798	7,809	7,552
Appropriation receipts – other		-	80	80
GST receipts		70	87	78
<b>Total cash inflows</b>		<b>7,868</b>	<b>7,976</b>	<b>7,710</b>
<i>Cash outflows</i>				
Employee benefits		(6,926)	(7,088)	(6,799)
GST Payments		(70)	(87)	(78)
Supplies and consumables		(872)	(722)	(724)
<b>Total cash outflows</b>		<b>(7,868)</b>	<b>(7,897)</b>	<b>(7,601)</b>
<b>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</b>	9.2	-	79	109
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<i>Cash outflows</i>				
Payments for acquisition of non-financial assets		-	(79)	(109)
<b>Total cash outflows</b>		-	(79)	(109)
<b>Net cash from (used by) investing activities</b>		-	(79)	(109)
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held</b>		-	-	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		-	-	-
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>	9.1	-	-	-

This Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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

Explanations of material variances between budget and actual outcomes are provided in Note 2.3 of the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2022</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>1,546</b>
Total comprehensive result	-	(20)	(20)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1,526</b>

	Reserves	Accumulated Funds	Total Equity
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Balance as at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>1,421</b>
Total comprehensive result	-	125	125
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>1,546</b>

This Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

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## Note I Council Output Schedules

### I.1 Output Group Information

Comparative information has not been restated for external administrative restructures.

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

#### Output Group I – Legislative Council Support Services

	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
Revenue from appropriation	3,904	4,907	4,442
Other revenue	-	80	80
<b>Total revenue from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>4,987</b>	<b>4,522</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
Employee benefits	3,044	3,433	3,509
Depreciation and amortisation	3	73	61
Communications	-	99	100
Travel	-	106	81
Information technology	-	47	51
Other expenses	872	536	413
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>4,215</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>307</b>
<b>Expense by output</b>			
Legislative Council Support Services	3,919	4,294	4,215
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,919</b>	<b>4,294</b>	<b>4,215</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			
Total assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services		2,511	2,450
Total liabilities incurred for Legislative Council Support Services		(985)	(904)
<b>Net assets deployed for Legislative Council Support Services</b>		<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,546</b>

#### Output Group 2 – Payments administered by the Legislative Council

	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
Revenue from appropriation	3,894	2,902	3,110
<b>Total revenue from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,894</b>	<b>2,902</b>	<b>3,110</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
Travel and Communication	427	236	182
Parliamentary salaries and allowances	3,274	3,180	2,916
Parliamentary travelling allowances	153	177	163
Parliamentary Committee fees and allowances	40	22	31
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>3,894</b>	<b>3,615</b>	<b>3,292</b>
<b>Net result</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(713)</b>	<b>(182)</b>
<b>Expense by output</b>			
Payments Administered by the Legislative Council	3,894	3,615	3,292
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,894</b>	<b>3,615</b>	<b>3,292</b>

Legislative Council

Financial Statements 30 June 2023

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

	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
Total comprehensive result of Output Groups	(15)	(20)	125
Change in Asset Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(20)</b>	<b>125</b>

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

	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
Total net assets deployed for Output Groups	1,526	1,546
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,526</b>	<b>1,546</b>

## Note 2 Explanations of Material Variances between Budget and Actual Outcomes

Budget information refers to original estimates as disclosed in the 2022-23 Budget Papers and is not subject to audit.

Variances are considered material where the variance exceeds 10 per cent of Budget estimate and \$10,000.

### 2.1 Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
Depreciation	(a)	3	73	(70)	(2300)

#### Notes to Statement of Comprehensive Income variances

(a) The increase in depreciation is due the value of depreciating assets increasing following the completion of the Chamber redevelopment in 2019 and the establishment leases on new regional offices for Members of the Legislative Council.

### 2.2 Statement of Financial Position

Budget estimates for the 2022-23 Statement of Financial Position were compiled prior to the completion of the actual outcomes for 2022-23. As a result, the actual variance from the Original Budget estimate will be impacted by the difference between estimated and actual opening balances for 2022-23. The following variance analysis therefore includes major movements between the 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023 actual balances.

	Note	Budget \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000	2021 Actual \$'000	Budget Variance \$'000	Actual Variance %
Receivables		17	51	2	(34)	(49)
Payables		75	99	27	(24)	(72)

#### Notes to Statement of Financial Position variances

(a) The increase in receivables is due to receipt of funds occurring after the end of the financial year.

(b) The increase in payables is due to higher-than-expected accrued expenses at end of financial year.

### 2.3 Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	Budget \$'000	Actual \$'000	Variance \$'000	Variance %
GST Payments	(a)	70	87	(17)	(24)

#### Notes to Statement of Cash Flows variances

(a) The increase in GST payments is due to the increase in expenditure to the establishment of two new electorate offices.

## Note 3 Revenue

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

Income is recognised in accordance with the requirements of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, dependent on whether there is a contract with a customer defined by AASB 15.

### 3.1 Revenue from Government

Appropriations, whether operating or capital, are recognised as revenues in the period in which the Council gains control of the appropriated funds as they do not contain enforceable and sufficiently specific obligations as defined in AASB 15. Except for any amounts identified as carried forward, control arises in the period of appropriation.

Revenue from Government includes revenue from appropriations, unexpended appropriations rolled over under section 23 of the *Financial Management Act 2016* and Items Reserved by Law.

Section 23 of the Financial Management Act allows for an unexpended appropriation at the end of the financial year, as determined by the Treasurer, to be issued and applied from the Public Account in the following financial year. The amount determined by the Treasurer must not exceed five per cent of an Agency's appropriation for the financial year.

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

	2023 Budget \$'000	2023 Actual \$'000	2022 Actual \$'000
<b>Continuing operations</b>			
Appropriation revenue – operating			
Current year	4,331	4,507	4,522
Items Reserved by Law			
R003 Parliamentary Salaries and Allowances ( <i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i> )	3,274	3,194	2,916
R004 Travelling Allowances ( <i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i> )	153	166	163
R005 Members' Committee Fees and Allowances ( <i>Parliamentary Salaries, Superannuation and Allowances Act 2012 (No. 18 of 2012)</i> )	40	22	31
<b>Total revenue from Government from continuing operations</b>	<b>7,798</b>	<b>7,889</b>	<b>7,632</b>
<b>Total revenue from Government</b>	<b>7,798</b>	<b>7,889</b>	<b>7,632</b>

## Note 4 Expenses

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

### 4.1 Employee benefits

Employee benefits include, where applicable, entitlements to wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, long service leave, superannuation and any other post-employment benefits.

### (a) Employee expenses

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Wages and salaries	6,027	5,827
Annual leave	287	293
Long service leave	(4)	(13)
Fringe benefits tax	131	123
Superannuation – defined contribution scheme	537	498
Superannuation – defined benefit scheme	70	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,048</b>	<b>6,801</b>

Superannuation expenses relating to defined benefit schemes relate to payments into the Public Account. The amount of the payment is based on an employer contribution rate determined by the Treasurer, on the advice of the State Actuary. The current employer contribution is 12.95 per cent (2022: 12.95 per cent) of salary.

Superannuation expenses relating to defined contribution schemes are paid directly to superannuation funds at a rate of 10.5 per cent (2022: 10 per cent) of salary. In addition, departments are also required to pay into the Public Account a “gap” payment equivalent to 3.45 per cent (2022: 3.45 per cent) of salary in respect of employees who are members of contribution schemes.

### (b) Remuneration of Key management personnel

2023	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			Total
	Salary	Other Benefits	Superannuation	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave	Termination Benefits	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk – David Pearce	308	5	38	26	-	377
Deputy Clerk – Catherine Vickers	245	20	32	26	-	323
<b>Total</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>700</b>

2022	Short-term benefits		Long-term benefits			Total
	Salary	Other Benefits	Superannuation	Other Benefits and Long-service Leave	Termination Benefits	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<i>Key management personnel</i>						
Clerk – David Pearce	270	13	35	7	-	325
Deputy Clerk – Catherine Vickers	200	21	28	5	-	254
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>579</b>

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

Remuneration during 2022-23 for key personnel is set by the *Parliamentary Privilege Act 1898*. Remuneration and other terms of employment are specified in employment contracts. Remuneration includes salary, motor vehicle and other non-monetary benefits. Long-term employee expenses include long service leave and superannuation obligations.

*Acting Arrangements*

When members of key management personnel are unable to fulfil their duties, consideration is given to appoint other members of senior staff to their position during their period of absence. Individuals are considered members of key management personnel when acting arrangements are for more than a period of one month.

#### (c) Related party transactions

In accordance with AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors, related party transactions are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor. The Clerk is required to determine the materiality of any related party transactions.

The Clerk is also required to determine if additional action is required to ensure compliance with the disclosure requirements of AASB 124, including identification of related parties, identification of related party transactions and the adequacy of these disclosures.

There are no related party transactions requiring disclosure.

#### 4.2 Depreciation and amortisation

All applicable Non-financial assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their useful lives in a manner which reflects the consumption of their service potential.

##### *Key estimate and judgement*

Depreciation is provided for on a straight line basis, using rates which are reviewed annually.

All intangible assets having a limited useful life are systematically amortised over their useful lives reflecting the pattern in which the asset's future economic benefits are expected to be consumed by the Council.

##### (a) Depreciation

	Major depreciation Period	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Furniture and fittings	10 years	34	37
Computer equipment	3 years	3	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>

##### (b) Amortisation

	Major amortisation rate	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Leasehold improvements	10 years	36	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>61</b>

#### 4.3 Supplies and consumables

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Audit fees – financial audit	18	17
Lease expense	18	21
Communications	99	100
Information technology	47	102
Travel and transport	106	41
Regional office support	134	78
Resource Support	107	111
Committee expenses	13	2
Consultancy	99	65
Meal allowance	17	22
Maintenance	12	4
Uniforms	1	7
Stationery	9	9
Insurance	38	-
Other supplies and consumables	70	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>645</b>

Audit fees paid or payable to the Tasmanian Audit Office for the audit of the Council's financial statements were \$19,360 (2021-22, \$18,832).

## Note 5 Assets

Assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the Council and the asset has a cost or value that can be measured reliably.

### 5.1 Receivables

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are measured at the transaction price.

Receivables are held with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Any subsequent changes are recognised in the net result for the year when impaired, derecognised or through the amortisation process. An allowance for expected credit losses is recognised for all debt financial assets not held at fair value through profit and loss. The expected credit loss is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate.

For trade receivables, a simplified approach in calculating expected credit losses is applied, with a loss allowance based on lifetime expected credit losses recognised at each reporting date.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>
Settled within 12 months	51	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>

### 5.2 Plant and equipment

#### (i) Valuation basis

Heritage assets comprising antique furniture, artworks and artefacts are recorded at fair value. All other Non-current physical assets, including work in progress, are recorded at historic cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. All assets within a class of assets are measured on the same basis.

Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the asset. Purchased software that is integral to the functionality of the related equipment is capitalised as part of that equipment.

When parts of an item of plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items (major components) of plant and equipment.

Fair value is based on the highest and best use of the asset. Unless there is an explicit Government policy to the contrary, the highest and best use of an asset is the current purpose for which the asset is being used or build occupied.

(ii) *Subsequent Costs*

The cost of replacing part of an item of plant and equipment is recognised in the carrying amount of the item if it is probable that the future economic benefits embodied within the part will flow to the Council and its costs can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced part is derecognised. The costs of day to day servicing of plant and equipment are recognised in profit or loss as incurred.

(iii) *Asset recognition threshold*

The asset capitalisation threshold adopted by the Council is \$5,000. Assets valued at less than \$5,000 are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the year of purchase (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are material in total). Antique furniture and artworks and artefacts are treated as discrete groups of assets and all items in these groups are recorded as non-current assets.

(iv) *Revaluations*

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

Assets are grouped on the basis of having a similar nature or function in the operations of the Council.

Assets are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure they reflect fair value at balance date. Revaluations are shown on a fair value, five year basis.

(v) *Assets in respect of leases where the Council is the lessor*

The Council leases motor vehicles under operating leases with rental payments payable monthly. Lease payments include lease and operating costs.



(a) Carrying amount

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Antique furniture</b>		
At fair value	1,202	1,202
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>1,202</b>
<b>Artworks and Artefacts</b>		
At fair value	550	550
<b>Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>		
At cost	292	214
Less: Accumulated amortisation	(132)	(96)
	160	118
Work in progress (at cost)	29	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Furniture and Fittings</b>		
At cost	724	724
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(247)	(213)
<b>Total</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>511</b>
<b>Computer equipment</b>		
At cost	10	10
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(9)	(6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>2,414</b>

Antique Furniture was independently re-valued on 30 June 2020 by Mr A F Colman, Approved Government Valuer. Artworks and Artefacts were independently re-valued at 30 June 2020 by Mr W N Hurst, Fine Art Consultant. Valuations were based on a replacement value. The revaluation movements are reflected in the comprehensive result and asset revaluation reserve.

## (b) Reconciliation of movements

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current and previous financial year are set out below. Carrying value means the net amount after deducting accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

2023	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Carrying value at 1 July 2021</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,414</b>
<i>Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income</i>						
Additions	-	-	78	-	-	78
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(36)	(34)	(3)	(73)
<b>Carrying value at 30 June</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,419</b>

2022	Antique Furniture Level 3	Artwork and Artefacts Level 3	Leasehold improvements	Furniture and Fittings	Computer Equipment	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Carrying value at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,366</b>
<i>Gains/losses recognised in other comprehensive income</i>						
Additions	-	-	109	-	-	109
Depreciation and amortisation	-	-	(21)	(37)	(3)	(61)
<b>Carrying value at 30 June</b>	<b>1,202</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,414</b>

### (c) Level 3 significant valuation inputs and relationship to fair value

Description	Fair value at 30 June	Significant unobservable inputs used in valuation	Possible alternative values for level 3 inputs	Sensitivity of fair value to changes in level 3 inputs
	\$'000			
Antique Furniture	1,202	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing antique furniture is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values.	Not applicable
Artwork and Artefacts	550	A – Rarity of asset B – Age of asset C – Condition of asset	Valuing artwork and artefacts is an inexact science and it is not likely, that alternative values, applying other inputs would result in materially different values.	Not applicable

### 5.3 Other Assets

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Other current assets</b>		
Prepayments	41	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>

## Note 6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will result from the settlement of a present obligation and the amount at which the settlement will take place can be measured reliably.

### 6.1 Payables

Payables, including goods received and services incurred but not yet invoiced, are recognised at amortised cost, which due to the short settlement period, equates to face value, when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets and services.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Creditors	15	-
Accrued Expenses	84	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>27</b>
Settled within 12 months	99	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>27</b>

### 6.2 Employee benefit liabilities

*Key estimate and judgement*

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised when an employee becomes entitled to receive a benefit. Those liabilities expected to be realised within 12 months are measured as the amount expected to be paid. Other employee entitlements are measured as the present value of the benefit at 30 June, where the impact of discounting is material, and at the amount expected to be paid if discounting is not material.

A liability for long service leave is recognised, and is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Accrued salaries	96	66
Annual leave	324	319
Long service leave	466	492
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>877</b>
Expected to settle wholly within 12 months	501	473
Expected to settle wholly after 12 months	385	404
<b>Total</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>877</b>

### 6.3 Superannuation

#### *(i) Defined contribution plans*

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense when they fall due.

#### *(ii) Defined benefit plans*

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan.

#### *Key estimate and judgement*

The Council does not recognise a liability for the accruing superannuation benefits to Council employees. This liability is held centrally and is recognised with the Finance-General Division of the Department of Treasury and Finance.

## Note 7 Commitments and Contingencies

### 7.1 Schedule of Commitments

Commitments represent those contractual arrangements entered by the Council that are not reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets and lease liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position, excluding short term leases and leases for which the underlying asset is of low value, which are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>By type</b>		
<b>Commitments held with Finance-General</b>		
Motor vehicle fleet (base usage charge)	144	142
<b>Total Commitments held with Finance-General</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
Photocopiers	42	51
<b>Total other commitments</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>By maturity</b>		
<b>Commitments held with Finance-General</b>		
One year or less	106	119
From one to five years	38	23
<b>Total operating lease commitments</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>Other commitments</b>		
One year or less	20	21
From one to five years	22	30
<b>Total Other commitments</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>193</b>

## 7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position due to uncertainty regarding any possible amount or timing of any possible underlying claim or obligation.

### (a) Quantifiable contingencies

A quantifiable contingent asset is any possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

A quantifiable contingent liability is any possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity; or any present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognised because it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. To the extent that any quantifiable contingencies are insured, details provided below are recorded net.

The Legislative Council has no contingent Assets and Liabilities.

## Note 8 Reserves

### 8.1 Reserves

2023	Heritage & Cultural assets \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	848	848
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>848</b>

2022	Heritage & Cultural assets \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>		
Balance at the beginning of financial year	848	848
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>848</b>

## Note 9 Cash Flow Reconciliation

Cash means notes, coins, any deposits held at call with a bank or financial institution, as well as funds held in the Special Deposits and Trust Fund, being short term of three months or less and highly liquid. Deposits are recognised at amortised cost, being their face value.

### 9.1 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes the balance of the Specific Purpose Accounts held by the Council, and other cash held, excluding those accounts which are administered or held in a trustee capacity or agency arrangement.

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Specific Purpose Account balances</b>		
Legislative Council operating account	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 9.2 Reconciliation of Net Result to Net Cash from Operating Activities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Net result	(20)	125
Depreciation and amortisation	73	61
Decrease (increase) in Receivables	(49)	15
Decrease (increase) in Other assets	(7)	(34)
Increase (decrease) in Employee entitlements	9	(10)
Increase (decrease) in Payables	73	(48)
<b>Net cash from (used by) operating activities</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>109</b>

## Note 10 Financial Instruments

### 10.1 Risk Exposures

#### (a) Risk management policies

The Council has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- credit risk; and
- liquidity risk.

The Clerk as the accountable authority has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Council's risk management framework. Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse risks faced by the Council, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits.

## (b) Credit risk exposures

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Council if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the Financial Statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Council's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account any collateral or other security.

The value of receivables as at 30 June is immaterial and with an expected loss rate of 0% the value of receivables is recorded at the gross carrying amount as at balance date.

## (c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Council will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Council's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when they fall due.

The Council does not have any significant exposure to liquidity risk.

The following tables detail the undiscounted cash flows payable by the Council by remaining contractual maturity for its financial liabilities. It should be noted that as these are undiscounted, totals may not reconcile to the carrying amounts presented in the Statement of Financial Position:

2023	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities						Undiscounted Total \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000		
<b>Financial liabilities</b>								
Payables	99	-	-	-	-	-	99	
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>99</b>	

2022	Maturity analysis for financial liabilities						Undiscounted Total \$'000	Carrying Amount \$'000
	1 Year \$'000	2 Years \$'000	3 Years \$'000	4 Years \$'000	5 Years \$'000	More than 5 Years \$'000		
<b>Financial liabilities</b>								
Payables	27	-	-	-	-	-	27	
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27</b>	

## 10.2 Categories of Financial Assets and Liabilities

	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Receivables	52	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>		
Trade Creditors	109	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>27</b>

## Note 11 Events Occurring After Balance Date

There have been no events subsequent to balance date which would have a material effect on the Council's financial statements as at 30 June 2023.

## Note 12 Other Significant Accounting Policies and Judgements

### 12.1 Objectives and Funding

The Legislative Council is the Upper House of the Parliament and functions as a House of Review.

The role of the Members of the Legislative Council is twofold:

- To examine the merits of legislation from alternative perspectives and to authorise expenditure of State monies; and
- To provide a parliamentary check on the Government of the day. In modern time, the Legislative Council has expanded from the base of being a purely legislative body to a House that involves itself with the examination and analysis of actions, decisions and workings of the Executive Government.

The overall objectives of the Legislative Council remain constant over time. Services may increase with parliamentary evolution, but are invariant in the medium term. The major objectives and responsibilities of the Clerk of the Legislative Council are to:

- Support the Legislative Council in its constitutional role;
- To provide an accurate retrieval and assessment system of precedent, law, history and parliamentary method necessary for the effective functioning of the Legislative Council and its Committees;
- Provide effective apolitical support including administrative, research, policy and procedural support and advice to the President of the Legislative Council and other elected Members;
- Ensure the effective custody of documents including journals, records and papers of the Legislative Council, the responsibility of which, in accordance with Standing Orders, is vested in the Clerk of the Legislative Council;
- Ensure the effective functioning of Standing, Sessional and Select Committees including the provision of adequate and appropriate resources;
- Accurately prepare and present legislation, once passed through both Houses, to Her Excellency the Governor for the Royal Assent;
- Promote public awareness of the purpose, functions and work of the Legislative Council;
- Maximise the potential of all staff through effective human resource practices; and
- Efficiently manage resources, both financial and human.

The Council is funded by Parliamentary appropriations and Reserved-by Law allocations. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Council controls resources to carry on its functions.

### 12.2 Basis of Accounting

The Financial Statements are a general purpose financial report and have been prepared in accordance with:

- Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- The Treasurer's Instructions issued under the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2016*.

The Financial Statements were signed by the Clerk on 31 October 2023.

Compliance with the Australian Accounting Standards may not result in compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as the AAS include requirements and options available to not-for-profit organisations that are inconsistent with IFRS. The Council is considered to be not-for-profit and has adopted some accounting policies under the AAS that do not comply with IFRS.

The Financial Statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and, except where stated, are in accordance with the historical cost convention. The accounting policies are consistent with the previous year except for those changes outlined in Note 12.5.



The Council has made no assumptions concerning the future that may cause a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

### **12.3 Reporting Entity**

The Financial Statements include all the controlled activities of the Council.

### **12.4 Functional and Presentation Currency**

These Financial Statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Council's functional currency.

### **12.6 Comparative Figures**

Comparative figures have been adjusted to reflect any changes in accounting policy or the adoption of new standards.

### **12.7 Rounding**

All amounts in the Financial Statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated. As a consequence, rounded figures may not add to totals. Amounts less than \$500 are rounded to zero and are indicated by the symbol "...".

### **12.8 Taxation**

The Council is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax and Goods and Services Tax.

### **12.9 Goods and Services Tax**

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of Goods and Services Tax, except where the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount recoverable, or payable, to the Australian Taxation Office is recognised as an asset or liability within the Statement of Financial Position.

In the Statement of Cash Flows, the GST component of cash flows arising from operating, investing or financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the Australian Taxation Office is, in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, classified as operating cash flows.

# Legislative Council Contact Officers

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