



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2024

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 30

TUESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2024

- 1 **COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.
- 2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said: “We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the traditional and original owners and the continuing custodians of this land.”
- 3 **PRAYERS.**— The President read Prayers.
- 4 **STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE.**— Ms *Forrest* asked the Honourable the Leader of the Government —
 - (1) What is SES’s total budget; and
 - (a) Please break down the components of the total funding for operating expenses, including:
 - (i) staff salaries;
 - (ii) training including statewide training and events;
 - (iii) Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) equipment;
 - (iv) other equipment including vehicles; and
 - (v) other miscellaneous expenses.
 - (b) Please break down the components of the total capital expenditure funding.
 - (2) How much does it cost to train, and equip, an individual volunteer with the necessary PPC (overall or two piece uniform), and PPE (helmet/safety glasses/gloves)?
 - (3)
 - (a) In the last three years, have there been any requests for additional funding from the SES for PPE or other related equipment; and
 - (b) Have any of these requests been approved; and
 - (i) if so, when and for how much; and
 - (ii) if not, why was the request rejected?
 - (4) Is all currently used SES equipment, including helmets to use when working at height, compliant with Australian standards?
 - (5) With the recent storm events highlighting the dedication and commitment of our SES volunteers, what provisions are being made to ensure growth in volunteer numbers to support communities for future events?
 - (6) How many operational staff (those that provide support and management to volunteers as they perform their everyday duties, storm and other similar events) are there in each region (North West, North and South)?
 - (7) Have all new volunteers throughout the State received the requisite training

- (8) (a) Will there be any additional funding support provided to Tasmanian SES to enable the SES to deliver the training, equipment and services required; and
- (b) if so, how much additional funding, and when will it be provided?
- (9) (a) With regard to the \$3 million provided over 4 years for SES vehicles –will this funding simply bring the legacy aging fleet up to AFAC standards; and
- (b) if so, what extra funding will be required each year thereafter to remain within standards and replace vehicles as required?

The Leader answered,

- (1) (a) (i) \$4,527,897;
- (ii) \$52,000;
- (iii) \$95,800;
- (iv) Vehicle parts and management - \$86,528; and
- (v) \$229,265.
- (b) SES does not have a capital budget outside of a proportion of election commitment funding under the Volunteer Infrastructure Investment Fund.
- (2) Approximately \$2,600 inclusive of PPC, training, equipment, technology and licenses.
- (3) (a) Yes;
- (b) Yes;
- (c) *22/23 Budget*
\$260,000
24/25 Budget
\$220,000 over four years
\$300,000 over two years, plus \$10,000; and
- (d) Unknown.
- (4) A risk assessment is currently being conducted.
- (5) The Volunteer Strategy and Support Unit (VSSU) is working to grow volunteer numbers. This includes the development of a media campaign that is due for release in 2025 to boost volunteer recruitment.
- (6) There are four staff in each region (North-West, North and South) as follows:
 - Regional Manager
 - Regional Officer
 - Regional Training Officer
 - Regional Administration Support Officer
- (7) New volunteers undertake a sequence of training as follows: onboarding, induction, core and training.

Depending upon the availability and the mode which the volunteer entered the organisation, volunteers may be at different stages across this continuum.
- (8) SES is working with the Fire and Emergency Service Commissioner and DPFEM regarding funding.
- (9) The funding will bring the SES fleet profile closer to AFAC standards for age by vehicle type. It is estimated that approximately \$1.4 million is required annually to maintain the SES fleet age profile.

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

- (1) TasWater: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (2) Veterinary Board of Tasmania: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (3) WorkCover Board Tasmania: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (4) Asbestos Compensation Commissioner: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (5) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (6) National Health Practitioner Ombudsman: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (7) Ombudsman Tasmania: Annual Report 2023-2024.
- (8) Tasmanian Health Service Ministerial Charter.
- (9) Ministerial Order – Waste Levy Exclusion.
- (10) Ministerial Order Revocation – Waste Levy Exclusion.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.— Mrs *Hiscutt* laid upon the Table of the Council the Government Response to the Report of the Government Administration Committee A on TasTAFE.

7 SPECIAL REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY MATTERS.— Ms *Forrest* presented a Special Report of the Joint Select Committee on Energy Matters on the use of excerpts from a Committee hearing broadcast.

Ordered, That the Report be received. (Ms *Forrest*)

Ordered, That the Report be printed. (Ms *Forrest*)

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

9 LEAVE OF ABSENCE.— *Ordered*, That the Honourable Member for Launceston, (Ms *Armitage*) be granted leave of absence from the service of the Council for this week's sitting. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

10 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Governor as follows:

MESSAGE

Barbara Baker, Governor

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of \$8 057 461 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government for the financial year ending on 30 June 2025

Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024
(Bill No. 39 of 2024; *Act No. 23 of 2024*)

A Bill for an Act for the appropriation of \$53 235 000 out of the Public Account for the services of the Government in respect of Parliament and Statutory Offices for the financial year ending on 30 June 2025

Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2024
(Bill No. 40 of 2024; *Act No. 24 of 2024*)

having been presented to the Governor for the Royal Assent, she has in the name of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bills.

Government House, Hobart, 1 November 2024

11 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILLS.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Governor as follows:

MESSAGE

Barbara Baker, Governor

A Bill for an Act to advance and safeguard the human rights of people with disability and to advance the full and effective inclusion of people with disability in the Tasmanian community

Disability Rights, Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024
(Bill No. 29 of 2024; Act No. 21 of 2024)

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Industrial Hemp Act 2015* and the *Industrial Hemp Regulations 2016*

Industrial Hemp Amendment Act 2024
(Bill No. 17 of 2024; Act No. 22 of 2024)

having been presented to the Governor for the Royal Assent, she has in the name of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bills.

Government House, Hobart, 8 November 2024

12 ROYAL ASSENT TO BILL.— The President read a Message from Her Excellency the Governor as follows:—

MESSAGE

Alan Blow, Lieutenant-Governor

A Bill for an Act to amend the *Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995*

Historic Cultural Heritage Amendment Act 2024
(Bill No. 32 of 2024; Act No. 25 of 2024)

having been presented to the Lieutenant Governor for the Royal Assent, he has, in the name of His Majesty the King, assented to the said Bill.

Government House, Hobart, 15 November 2024

13 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.— The President advised the Chamber of five Members who had indicated their desire to speak:—

- (1) Mr *Gaffney* – International Men’s Day;
- (2) Ms *Forrest* – The Closure of the *Circular Head Chronicle*;
- (3) Ms *Thomas* – Ms Jan Dunsby – A life lived for others;
- (4) Ms *Rattray* – Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club; and
- (5) Ms *Webb* – the Saltbush Child and Family Learning Centre, Kingston.

At the conclusion of Special Interest Matters the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.

14 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Ms *Forrest* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

15 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS.— *Ordered*, That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Orders of the Day 4 and 1 being considered, in that order, forthwith. (Ms *Forrest*)

16 REPORT OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE A.— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed, That the Report of Government Administration Committee A “Short Inquiry Process into the Operations of Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd” be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

17 SITTING SUSPENDED.— It being 1.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

18 QUESTION TIME.— The President called for Questions without Notice. There were nine Questions asked.

19 REPORT OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE A.— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Report of Government Administration Committee A “Short Inquiry Process into the Operations of Tasmanian Ports Corporation Pty Ltd” be considered and noted.

Ordered, that Debate be adjourned. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

20 REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND EQUALITY.— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed, That the Report of the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality Inquiry on “Experiences of Gendered Bias in Healthcare in Tasmania” be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

21 SITTING SUSPENDED. — It being 4.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

22 REPORT OF THE JOINT SESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER AND EQUALITY.— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Report of the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality Inquiry on “Experiences of Gendered Bias in Healthcare in Tasmania” be considered and noted.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

23 IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF THE TASMANIAN NATIONAL PREVENTATIVE MECHANISM.— A Motion was made (Ms *Webb*) and the Question was proposed:—

(1) That the Legislative Council:—

- (a) Notes the inaugural Implementation Report (the Report) of the Tasmanian National Preventative Mechanism (TNPM), *Preventing torture and ill-treatment in Tasmania: Report to the Tasmanian Government on the Implementation of the Tasmanian National Preventative Mechanism under the OPCAT Implementation Act 2021*, November 2023;
- (b) Recognises the Report’s acknowledgment of the importance of the “strong civil society response” to the TNPM establishment project;
- (c) Further notes the Report’s eight recommendations:
 - (i) That the Tasmanian NPM be established as a new specialised institution, separate from the Ombudsman;
 - (ii) That the person appointed as Tasmanian NPM concurrently serve as Custodial Inspector, which is also to be separated from the Ombudsman, and the offices combined under the recommended governance model;
 - (iii) That the Tasmanian NPM delegate authority to the Commissioner for Children and Young People and establish a joint process agreement for the exercise of functions pertaining to children and young people;

- (iv) That the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Custodial Inspector be specifically resourced to contribute to the delivery of the Tasmanian NPM;
 - (v) That the Tasmanian NPM and Commissioner for Children and Young People be co-located in a purpose designed office setting;
 - (vi) That the Tasmanian NPM establish a formal and permanent Civil Society Advisory Council, which is integrated into its governance structure;
 - (vii) That the Tasmanian NPM's corporate services are provided by an agency over which it will not exercise oversight; and
 - (viii) That the Tasmanian NPM and Commissioner for Children and Young People engage cooperatively and provide advice to Government on an agreed approach to the implementation of Commission of Inquiry recommendations related to OPCAT and youth justice inspections.
- (2) That the Legislative Council further notes the Report's Foreword contains a call by the current Tasmanian NPM's urging the Tasmanian Government to accept the Report's recommendations in full.
- (3) That the Legislative Council calls on the Tasmanian government to:—
- (a) Commit to accepting and delivering the Report's eight recommendations in full;
 - (b) Deliver an update on any progress made on implementation of any recommendations since the Report's public release on 1 December 2023; and
 - (c) Detail a timeframe for the delivery and implementation of any remaining recommendations still to be undertaken and completed.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

24 ADJOURNMENT.— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, 20 November 2024. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

A Motion was made (Mrs *Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed, That the Council do now adjourn.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Council adjourned at 6.27 o'clock p.m.

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