



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF DEBATES

Thursday 28 November 2024

REVISED EDITION

Contents

QUESTIONS.....	1
<i>SPIRIT OF TASMANIA</i> - LOCAL FIT-OUT - CANCELLATION OF WORK	1
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	2
<i>SPIRIT OF TASMANIA</i> - LOCAL FIT-OUT - TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR TASMANIAN CONTRACTORS	3
STONY RISE - POLITICAL DONATIONS FROM TIPALEA	3
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	4
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS	5
MOTHER AND BABY UNIT IN SOUTHERN TASMANIA	5
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	7
TT-LINE - PRIMARY LOAN AGREEMENT WITH TASCORP	7
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	7
PUBLIC TRUSTEE - PRIVATISATION REPORT	8
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	9
TT-LINE - PRIMARY LOAN AGREEMENT WITH TASCORP	10
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	10
STONY RISE - POLITICAL DONATION FROM TIPALEA	11
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	12
TT-LINE - UPDATE ON NEW OFFICE IN DEVONPORT	13
FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE - EDUCATION	13
TT-LINE - PRIMARY LOAN AGREEMENT WITH TASCORP	14
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	15
MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM - POSS PROCESS.....	16
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	17
<i>SPIRIT OF TASMANIA</i> - OPERATION OF NEW VESSELS IN MERSEY RIVER	18
MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM - COST	18
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION	19
TASMANIAN AFL TEAM - PLANNED CONCUSSION HARM REDUCTION MEASURES	20
GBE PRIVATISATION	21
MEMBER SUSPENDED	22
MEMBER FOR CLARK - MR WILLIE.....	22
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION - NOT ALLOWED	23
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE - COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM.....	24
CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS.....	25
JESSIE SPINKS ROOKE - HERITAGE LISTING FOR GRAVE IN WIVENHOE CEMETERY	25
NORTHERN TASMANIA - SUPPORT FOR EVENTS.....	25
FIREARMS LEGISLATION - ANTIQUE FIREARMS REGISTRATION COST	26
PILL TESTING AT FESTIVALS.....	26
MACQUARIE POINT STADIUM - LOCAL PARTICIPATION.....	26
LIQUOR LICENCES - APPLICATION PROCESS	27
HOMELESSNESS - PERMANENT SOLUTIONS	27
TABLED PAPERS	27
RESPONSE TO PETITION - NO. 6 - SWANSEA - SERVICE TASMANIA CENTRE	27
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS	27
No. 5 - WITNESS INTERMEDIARY SCHEME.....	27
No. 10 - TATARKA REVIEW	28
TABLED PAPERS	28
RESPONSE TO PETITION - NO. 7 - HATE CRIME LEGISLATION	28
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS	28
No. 11 - WORK SAFE TASMANIA INVESTIGATIONS.....	28
No. 14 - ROBBINS ISLAND WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION	28
TABLED PAPERS	28

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INTEGRITY - ANNUAL REPORT 2024.....	28
PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS - REPORT	29
STATEMENT BY SPEAKER.....	29
UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON NOTICE	29
COMMUNITY PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING) AMENDMENT BILL 2024 (NO. 56).....	29
FIRST READING	29
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	29
MOVE MOTION FORTHWITH	29
SITTING DATES	30
MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	30
GOOD FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IS DRIVEN BY SCIENCE	30
MOTION.....	37
ELIMINATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	37
MOTION.....	55
ELIMINATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	55
LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT) BILL 2024 (NO. 49)	55
LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT) BILL 2024 (NO. 49)	56
IN COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENTS	56
TABLED PAPER	56
DRAFT BAIL BILL 2024	56
LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS (STONY RISE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL) BILL 2024 (NO. 52)	56
LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS (STONY RISE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL) BILL 2024 (NO. 52)	57
IN COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENTS	57
PERSONAL EXPLANATION.....	72
MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES - CORRECTION - COMMUNITY CONNECTOR PROGRAM FUNDING	72
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS	73
No. 20 - COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS IN PRISONS.....	73
No. 22 - TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AND TEACHING SUBJECT.....	73
No. 38 - TEACHER SHORTAGES IN TASMANIAN SCHOOLS	73
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (NO. 31).....	73
SECOND READING	73
STATEMENT BY SPEAKER	76
SECOND READING SPEECHES.....	76
SITTING TIMES.....	85
UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (NO. 31).....	110
IN COMMITTEE	110
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	142
THIRD READING FORTHWITH	142

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (NO. 31).....	142
THIRD READING	142
ON INDULGENCE.....	143
VALEDICTORY - MEMBER FOR LYONS - MS WHITE.....	143
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS	147
No. 15 - ROBBINS ISLAND WHARF	147
No. 42 - PUBLIC FUNDING FOR INDUSTRIES.....	147
ADJOURNMENT.....	148
CHRISTMAS WISHES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	148
REBECCA WHITE MP - TRIBUTE.....	148
CHRISTMAS WISHES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	151
CHRISTMAS WISHES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	153
CHRISTMAS WISHES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	156
CHARLES CASIMATY - TRIBUTE	156
APPENDIX 1	159
APPENDIX 2	163
APPENDIX 3	164
APPENDIX 4	166
APPENDIX 5	169
APPENDIX 6	170
APPENDIX 7	173
APPENDIX 8	177
APPENDIX 9	179

Thursday 28 November 2024

The Speaker, **Ms O'Byrne**, took the Chair at 10.00 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People, and read Prayers.

QUESTIONS

***Spirit of Tasmania* - Local Fit-Out - Cancellation of Work**

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.02 a.m.]

Can you confirm that Tasmanian contractors were booked into the local fit-out on our new *Spirits* in Hobart in January and February this year, but that this work has now been cancelled because you are sending our ships to Scotland? Why is avoiding political embarrassment of having the ships here a higher priority for you and your government than supporting Tasmanian jobs?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I provided quite a detailed answer to the question from Mr Jenner yesterday in relation to this matter, and I clearly said that we will be doing whatever we can to ensure the best value for taxpayers' funds. I said we are sorting the *Spirits*, and we are. I said we will fix the GBEs; we are. I said we would back the tourism industry, and we are.

I know it is in your political interest to keep this issue going. Tasmanians want to move forward. They recognise the contrition we have had on this side of the House, and we have expressed our extreme disappointment as to where we are. I am not interested in playing politics and playing your game of politics.

We are delivering our *Spirits* recovery plan. The opposition never wants to be part of the solution. They always want to muckrake, create havoc and undermine confidence in the Tasmanian economy, but the economy is going strong in Tasmania. Wage growth is strong, inflation is the lowest in the country and we have created jobs for 45,000 people. There is a lot that is good and strong happening in Tasmania. We accept the challenges, but the opposition continuously stands in the way of solutions.

Mr Winter - Of what? Which solutions?

The SPEAKER - Opposition leader, you asked the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - What we are about is economic growth, backing jobs and backing business, and that is what Tasmania clearly needs.

I have updated members with respect to a number of matters since this year's first question time. Members will no doubt be pleased to know that much of the local content has now been installed on *Spirits IV* and *V* in Finland. This includes carpet, window furnishings

for cabins, appliances and equipment, with local businesses and employers already reaping the benefits.

Members interjecting.

Mr Winter - It is supposed to be happening in Hobart.

The SPEAKER - Order, Members on my left.

Dr Broad - What about those that are cancelled?

The SPEAKER - Dr Broad, I just called members on my left.

Mr ROCKLIFF - The finishing touches, including mattresses, artwork, blankets and throws have already been purchased from Tasmanian businesses.

The SPEAKER - The Premier's time for answering the question has expired.

Supplementary Question

Mr WINTER - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Mr WINTER - Premier, just before Christmas you have ripped work away from Tasmanian businesses and workers. Can you detail the number of contracts that have been ripped up and the total value of those contracts?

The SPEAKER - Premier, the original question was about the contractors employed for the local fit-out. I will draw you to the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - This is a government that backs jobs and industry. That is evident with the successful passage of the Stony Rise legislation through both Houses of parliament yesterday. In August, we stood up and said that we would fix this Stony Rise issue, and we have.

Mr Winter - You did nothing until Labor announced it.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - Members on my left will cease interjecting, and the Premier will draw his attention to the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I said I would fix Stony Rise and I have. The legislation passed through the parliament. I stood up in front of the Liberal Party state council and said that clearly.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - The members on my left will be quiet. Premier, I have asked you to come to the question. You have 14 seconds.

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is that TT-Line's acting CEO has advised that no contracts have been cancelled.

***Spirit of Tasmania* - Local Fit-Out - Travel Expenses for Tasmanian Contractors**

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.07 a.m.]

How much money - Tasmanian taxpayer dollars - has been spent flying Tasmanian contractors to Finland to assist with the fit-out of the new *Spirits*? Why are you sending Tasmanians to Finland - for example, Independent Beverage Systems to install bar taps - instead of bringing our ships to Tasmania to be fitted out here? This is absurd. Just bring them home.

ANSWER

I will repeat: we have said we would sort the *Spirits*, and we are. I said I would fix the GBEs and we are. I said we would back our tourism industry and we are. I detailed some reasoning in response to a good question from Mr Jenner from yesterday about the costs of bringing the *Spirits* home as opposed to the current arrangements. We will continue to do what we can to ensure that as many Tasmanians are engaged in this progress for the two new ships as possible and ensure we get value for money for Tasmanian taxpayers.

Stony Rise - Political Donations from Tipalea

Dr WOODRUFF question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.09 a.m.]

Earlier this week, we asked you if the Liberals had received donations from the Stony Rise developer, Tipalea. You refused to answer the question. During debate in the other place on your Stony Rise approval bill last night, it was confirmed the company has donated to the Liberal Party - it was freely admitted to MLCs by the CEO himself. When were you made aware of any donations from the Stony Rise developer to your party? Did any donations from Tipalea influence your government's decision to rush through unprecedented approval legislation to benefit your donor?

Mr Abetz - If that is how you think - we do not.

Dr Woodruff - It is dodgy.

The SPEAKER - If the Leader of the House would like to raise a point of order on the question's relevance, I am happy to hear that. I do not need interjections from Dr Woodruff.

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for her question. I reject its premise. We will fight for issues and bring issues to this parliament based on their merit. The depth of concern in the local community about this project not going ahead - one which would have employed

many hundreds of tradies and provided services to the community - was like no other I have ever felt before. This is why I stood up at the Liberal Party state council and said, 'It is not good enough. It does not pass the pub test. We will fix it' a number of months ago, before you started bumping your gums a week ago. We fixed these issues.

Members interjecting.

Mr Winter - We actually announced we would do something. Do you understand the difference between doing something and saying it?

Dr Woodruff - So shonky.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I reject that. I have said donations are for the organisation. They are. There is no influence whatsoever with respect to the legislation that has gone through, except from the community. The community is who I listen to.

Dr WOODRUFF - Point of order, Standing Order 45, relevance. I asked the question 'When was the Premier made aware of donations that had been made?'

The SPEAKER - The Premier has addressed the other parts of your questions about influence. I will draw him to the question if he is able to answer it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - To the best of my knowledge, yesterday.

Dr Woodruff - What do you mean, 'To the best of your knowledge'?

The SPEAKER - You do not get to continue asking questions.

Dr Woodruff - What does that mean?

Mr ROCKLIFF - This is a matter for the Liberal Party organisation.

Dr Woodruff - You had no idea.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I utterly reject your inference. Utterly reject. We will get things done based on the feedback that we get from the community. The feedback was so strong that this decision, this development not going ahead, simply did not pass the pub test. I reject your slurs, if you like, in terms of your criticisms and personal attacks, which continued, as I understand, for staff members in our team as well. I tell you what, I do not engage in personal attacks when it comes to individual elected members of parliament such as yourself. I certainly do not when it comes to staff members of parliamentarians as well.

Supplementary Question

Dr WOODRUFF - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question. I remind members of the House that if they wish to make substantive allegations impugning motive or actions, there are ways to do that in the House.

Dr WOODRUFF - In your answer, you referred to these being matters for the organisation. Is it ever the case or the practice that you are informed by the Liberal Party when donations have been made? Do you ever get that information?

The SPEAKER - I will call the Premier insofar as he can address that matter.

A member - That is not a supplementary question.

Dr Woodruff - Yes, it is.

The SPEAKER - Okay, I will just leave. You guys decide whether or not I will allow the question. No? Premier, the question does go to the operations in a political organisation, and not here, but the imputation is that it has had an influence in the behaviour in the House. If you are able to answer the question, I will draw you to it. If you are not, that is a matter for the House to deal with, too.

Mr ROCKLIFF - These are matters for the organisation to work through. They are at arms' length from members of parliament. I reject the inference that you are making.

Dr Woodruff - Do you ever get told about who your donors are?

The SPEAKER - The Leader of the Greens has to stop interjecting when she is actually getting an answer for something that there was some question about, whether or not we could rule in order.

Recognition of Visitors

The SPEAKER - Before I call Mr O'Byrne for the next question, in the gallery today we have students from the TasTAFE Work Pathways Program. They are studying civics and citizenship. We have had some in the Chamber already. It is lovely to have you all here. I hope you enjoy it.

I hope you all indulge me by letting me recognise Cameron in the Speaker's Gallery, as well.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mother and Baby Unit in Southern Tasmania

Mr O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mrs PETRUSMA

[10.15 a.m.]

I acknowledge that this will be your first question in this portfolio. It has been almost 18 months since Tasmania lost its only mother-baby unit with the closure of St Helens Private Hospital. Since then, there has been a sense of inertia from the state government in replacing this essential service. Funding has been pledged for a unit in the north, but in the south of the state all we have is an interim solution of three psychiatric beds in the Royal Hobart Hospital.

This is something which is not considered best practice. These beds are not suitable for most mothers needing help with common but serious challenges such as sleep, settling and feeding. After 18 months of indecision bordering on ambivalence by your government, will you, as the new minister, do something to establish a standalone mother and baby unit in southern Tasmania?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for Franklin for his question and interest in this very important matter. Last year we worked quickly to find an interim solution following the closure of St Helens Private Hospital. We established a new public mother and baby unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital to meet the immediate needs of Tasmanian families. This unit is now supporting mothers experiencing mental health challenges such as postnatal depression and anxiety, with a new model of care implemented and cohort of staff, including staff from the St Helens Private Hospital.

Tasmanian families seeking this type of support can be referred through existing networks such as the Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Service or other treating clinicians such as paediatricians. This is in addition to other supports available publicly to support new parents through our parenting centres and the Child Health and Parenting Service.

We recognise that a hospital environment may not be the most appropriate option for all mums and that is why we are aiming to establish a parenting services healthcare model that offers a range of options in the community, public and private system beyond hospital care. The department is currently undertaking a strengthening capacity for parenting, perinatal and infant mental health services review related to a stepped care service delivery model across the primary, secondary and tertiary continuum.

The THS is determined to adopt a best-practice evidence-based approach and will focus on collaboration and integration across government, non-government and private sector service providers. The THS is supported in this work by a steering committee comprising key parenting, perinatal and infant mental health representatives. A discussion paper in relation to this work is currently undergoing consultation. We are also partnering with Australia's most trusted, experienced and expert parental support provider, Tresillian Family Care, investing \$9 million in a new four-bed mother and baby centre in Launceston, but we will also be offering satellite services.

In the meantime, the statewide Tresillian Tasmanian Parenting Support Line is now operational, offering a critical telehealth support service for parental, emotional and psychological wellbeing, especially for stress, anxiety or depression. Tasmanian parents can free call 1300 TASBUB - that is 1300 827 282 - between 7.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. seven days a week, where they can receive telephone support and guidance from a specialist Tresillian child and family health nurse and we are considering also expanding the Tresillian services to the south.

There is also Gidget House, a new perinatal mental health centre that has recently also opened in Hobart as part of a commitment from the Australian Government to deliver 12 new perinatal mental health services nationally.

Supplementary Question

Mr O'BYRNE - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Mr O'BYRNE - Minister, thanks for that information, but that is already on the public record. If the model is good enough for the north of the state, why are you going through a consultative process about what might work in the south? What should work in the north should work in the south, surely. Will you commit to resuming those services in the south?

Mrs PETRUSMA - I believe my answer said that we are undertaking a review at the moment looking to what is best in the primary, secondary and tertiary continuum. We have a new public mother and baby unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital to meet the immediate needs. I have visited that unit and seen it working and spoken to people in that unit. It is offering an excellent service and I commend all the staff in that service.

Tasmanian parents can now still call the hotline number, but we are considering how best to expand Tresillian services to the south. When further work is done on that, I will have more to update the House with in the future.

TT-Line - Primary Loan Agreement With TASCORP

Mr WINTER question to **PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF**

[10.20 a.m.]

Last week, we uncovered the concerning news that TT-Line is set to breach its debt limit in July next year due to the delays and cost blowouts that have occurred on your watch. Can you confirm that on top of this, in June the company breached the terms of its primary loan agreement with TASCORP, and is TT-Line still in breach of the terms of that loan agreement?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for his question. One part of the question I understand was publicly disclosed in October. The other part of the question will require some detailed answer and I will bring that to the House's attention or indeed publicly as soon as we can.

The SPEAKER - Can I just confirm you are taking that part on notice?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Yes.

The SPEAKER - Given we are not back till March, I am hoping we will be able to have that today.

Supplementary Question

Mr WINTER - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary but the Premier has taken the second part of the question on notice.

Mr WINTER - How does the Premier of Tasmania and Tourism minister not know whether TT-Line is in breach of its of its loan agreement with TASCORP? Is there any limit to what you do not know?

The SPEAKER - I call the Premier to the first part of the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - What I do know is that we will sort the *Spirits*, we will fix the GBEs and we will back our tourism industry.

Mr Winter - You must have a basic understanding of what is going on with this project.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am not going to listen to your rubbish, day in and day out, talking Tasmania down, frankly. What this parliament has been about this year is that when you put forward a positive solution, you get results.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - Order, members on my left - Dr Broad and Ms Finlay in particular. I am in the middle of warning members on my left and Ms Brown and the deputy leader are both starting to interject. I am really itching to use my powers today, so it is up to you how far you want to test it. I call the Premier.

Mr O'Byrne interjecting.

The SPEAKER - That means you too, Dave. To the question, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - What this parliament has demonstrated this year is that when you put forward positive solutions that will make a difference to people's lives, such as Ms Johnston did yesterday, then the parliament supports it. When you put forward stunt motions, the parliament rejects them.

The SPEAKER - The Premier's time for answering the question has expired. Mr Willie, do not push it.

Public Trustee - Privatisation Report

Ms JOHNSTON question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr BARNETT

[10.22 a.m.]

This week you should have the report you commissioned on privatising the Public Trustee. Your restructuring of the Public Trustee blindsided the CEO and the board. It also scared the Trustee's clients who are suddenly deeply worried about the future of their wills and estates. I am talking about 23,000 Tasmanians who thought their wills and estates would be with the Public Trustee forever. Will you publicly release that report before GBE scrutiny next week so that Tasmanians can know your plans for this crucial public institution?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for her question and her ongoing interest in this matter over a number of months. I have had questions in this place and had direct contact with the member. I acknowledge that and say that on behalf of the government, the reason we are very motivated in this place is to ensure that the interests of vulnerable Tasmanians are front and centre and we act in their best interests. That is the motivation.

We have had the two reports, the Bugg review and the Economic Regulator's report, as well as the response from the Public Trustee. We made a decision some time ago now to appoint Alicia Leis of WLF to undertake that inquiry and that report to which the member refers. We take it very seriously, which is why that report has been commissioned. I am looking forward to receiving that report but I have not yet received it. I have not read that report and neither have other members of the government in this place, but we look forward to receiving it as soon as possible. I understand it is imminent and will be available for me and others to peruse in the very near future. I am looking forward to responding to that.

I hope to be able to have more to say next week in GBE scrutiny. I look forward to that and absolutely would welcome that next week. In terms of the release of the report, I am more than happy to release it and look forward to doing that subject to the normal rules and procedures about commercial confidentiality and other related matters, and then the government will hopefully be able to respond to the report to ensure we act in the best interest of all vulnerable Tasmanians.

Supplementary Question

Ms JOHNSTON - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Ms JOHNSTON - The Attorney-General referred to his motivation to act in the best interests of vulnerable Tasmanians. Can I clarify whether the Attorney-General intends to release that report prior to GBE scrutiny on Thursday next week, to actually ensure that this parliament can scrutinise the actions of your government for vulnerable Tasmanians?

The SPEAKER - I will call the Attorney-General. He did say that he would release it. The timing is the issue - prior to GBEs.

Mr BARNETT - To recap - and I believe I have at least partially answered it but thank you for the supplementary question - I have not received the report. I look forward to receiving the report, which I am advised is imminent, and I am really looking forward to going through that report, assessing the report, liaising with colleagues with respect to that, getting advice from my department on the report and then, of course, releasing the report as soon as possible.

I will be using my best endeavours to release the report as soon as possible, if at all possible, prior to scrutiny, but that will be on the basis of best endeavours and a thorough examination from the government based on advice. I am really looking forward to doing that, and then sharing as much as possible with yourselves in scrutiny, and with others.

TT-Line - Primary Loan Agreement With TASCORP

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.26 a.m.]

You were apparently unaware that TT-Line had made a secret \$80 million bailout payment to a Finnish shipbuilder. You did not know the berth was behind schedule, even though work had not started and there was no contract in place. You did not know until late April that the ships would not be operating this summer. You did not know that the interim solution at berth 1 was unsafe until months after you ordered TasPorts to build it. Even yesterday, you were unaware that TT-Line was advertising that its new CEO could operate from Geelong.

TT-Line did breach the terms of its loan agreement, because it breached the required interest cover ratio - something you should have known. In other words, in June TT-Line no longer had the earnings required by TASCORP to cover the interest payments on its debt. Was there any sanction, penalty or additional requirement imposed on TT-Line as a result of that breach?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I said I would provide information to the parliament, and I will.

What I am interested in is getting the job done and acknowledging the challenges. I was very pleased actually to be in Devonport the other day, where the first pile was being driven. Another 97 to go, if my memory serves me correctly, which would be completed by Christmas. We all know where we are, but we are all moving forward.

Your incessant negativity, frankly, is wearing very thin with the Tasmanian community. What we are about is keeping our economy strong, and it is growing. Unemployment is low. Inflation is the lowest in the country. Wages growth is amongst the highest in the country. We are getting things done, including new schools, redeveloped hospitals and new ambulance stations. I know you do not like to hear it.

Mr WINTER - Point of order, Speaker, Standing Order 45. My question was about TT-Line, the *Spirits*, and their loan agreement with TASCORP. I wonder if you could bring the Premier back to the question.

The SPEAKER - The Premier has said he is taking that question on notice. Therefore, he can resume his seat.

Supplementary Question

Mr WINTER - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Mr WINTER - Coming from the answer that the Premier provided, has TT-Line breached its loan agreement in June? Has that affected TASCORP's assessment of TT-Line's credit worthiness?

Mr ROCKLIFF - I said I would take it on notice, Speaker, and I will.

The SPEAKER - That element will be taken on notice, as well. Can I confirm what you are after?

Mr WINTER - We were asking about the status of the TASCORP loan and whether it had impacted the credit worthiness of TT-Line.

The SPEAKER - Credit worthiness, thank you. That is three on notice that I have on this issue.

Stony Rise - Political Donation from Tipalea

Dr WOODRUFF question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.29 a.m.]

The Liberal Party has earned a reputation for its dodgy deals, money with mates, and special favours for donors. While you refuse to be honest with Tasmanians about whether this developer made donations to the Liberals - the Stony Rise developer - we now know they did. It is a pretty clear picture: developer wants something, developer donates money to the Liberals, developers get what they want. Quid pro quo.

This looks like corruption, it sounds like corruption, and it stinks like corruption. If the Integrity Commission investigates you or another Liberal member for this, will you ensure cooperation, or will you make it impossible for them to progress their investigation, as it seems other MPs are doing?

The SPEAKER - The allegation of corruption was very carefully skirted around. I remind members that they can raise allegations as the subject of a substantive motion of the House, if you wish to do so, but I am trying to get members to have a better standard of behaviour in accusations against each other. I noticed the Attorney-General is nodding and he was pinged for it yesterday. Could we be cautious with that?

Premier, I will draw you to the question that has been asked about your role, should there be an investigation.

Mr Ellis - The parliament is corrupt? That is what you are saying.

The SPEAKER - Mr Ellis, would you like to be the Premier and answer the question right now, or would you like to think about leaving the Chamber?

Mr Rockliff - Do not answer that, Felix.

Dr Woodruff - We would like to hear from the minister as well, on this matter. Step up and be honest with Tasmanians. Who did get the money?

The SPEAKER - No, do not answer that question. The Leader of the Greens will stop interjecting and Mr Ellis will be going outside if he does it again.

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I utterly reject the inference. I reject it on behalf of the Liberal Party and our team. If you will indulge me, I will reject it on behalf of other independents in the upper House that supported this motion. Are you having the same accusation at my opposite numbers at independents in the Legislative Council? Are you serious?

Mr Bayley - The developer said they donated to you.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Quite frankly, I thought better of you.

Dr Woodruff - It is the Liberals, not the independents.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Just because you did not get your way does not mean the rest of the parliament is corrupt.

Dr Woodruff - We are talking about you.

The SPEAKER - The Leader of the Greens will listen to the answer she has asked for.

Mr ROCKLIFF - It does not mean that. I utterly reject the inference on behalf of our team. Others may well want to speak as well. The \$1.6 million donation that you received - what did you do for that, as an example? Be very careful with what you say when you throw stones in this place. I reject the inference, and I thought better of you, Dr Woodruff.

Supplementary Question

Dr WOODRUFF - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question. I remind members that they may wish to grab their copy of Standing Orders and have a look at Standing Order 44.

Dr WOODRUFF - The question was in relation to our Integrity Commission. If an investigation was done into this matter, would you ensure full cooperation from yourself or any other Liberal member who may be investigated?

The SPEAKER - I will call the Premier to the question about that part, noting that part of it is a matter for the presiding officer of this House.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Of course we will comply with the law.

Dr Woodruff - We know it is inadequate at the moment.

The SPEAKER - The Leader of the Greens has to stop interjecting, really and truly.

TT-Line - Update on New Office in Devonport

Mrs BESWICK question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.34 a.m.]

Yesterday, we heard the new TT-Line CEO may be allowed to work in Geelong. That would obviously be a slap in the face to Tasmanian taxpayers who are footing the bill for the current saga. What happened to plans to build a new office for TT-Line in Devonport?

Regardless of whether you merge TT-Line with other GBEs, will you guarantee more senior staff will be based in the north-west? Could a greater presence of management in Devonport have helped prevent the mess we find ourselves in by raising the alarm over the berth upgrade earlier?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for the question, and I agree with her when it comes to people and employees being based in the north-west. In fact - and I am sure you have diligently read our discussion paper around GBE reform; I am not sure those opposite have - we expect any merged entity -

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - Order, Mr Willie.

Mr ROCKLIFF - You can dream on, mate. Any merged entity, whether it be TasRail-TasPorts or TasRail-TasPorts-TT-Line, a combination of a number, is up for discussion, as it should be. We have said in our discussion paper that it will be based in the north-west.

Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence - Education

Mrs PENTLAND question to MINISTER for EDUCATION, Ms PALMER

[10.35 a.m.]

Last week, the House passed a motion backing greater education about the prevention of family, domestic and sexual violence. The motion called for age-appropriate learning about respectful relationships to be a focus in our schools. I am determined to see words become change. What steps are you prepared to take in this space, and will you commit to taking a fresh look at the curriculum to find ways to introduce potentially lifesaving education?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for Bass for her motion last week and for her question today. I also thank you for sharing your personal experience. I think it is quite brave to come into a place like this and do that. Power comes when women, in particular, are prepared to share their stories. I thank you for that. I thank those in the Chamber who supported the member's motion last week. We have always seen bipartisan support across both Chambers when it comes to what we are doing in this space. I thank you all for that.

We have a whole-of-government approach in how we are trying to deal with family, domestic and sexual violence. It crosses over so many portfolios - certainly all of my portfolios as the Minister for Education; Minister for Disability, where we know there are women with disability who perhaps suffer more than any other in this space; and Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence.

As far as education goes, we are doing a lot with Respectful Relationships. The program is being delivered across our schools. It is age appropriate. It is different for the different age groups in our primary schools and high schools. As the minister, what is really important for me at the moment is to be working out how to gauge the effectiveness of that program. How do we see the impacts and the outcomes from that program? That is a body of work that I am pursuing at the moment to ensure that where we have these programs running and where we are investing, we are seeing change and we are seeing impacts.

Another area in our schools, which I think is really important in this space, is about supporting students impacted by trauma. We know how hard it is for little ones or young people to be able to get those educational outcomes and to be in a position where they can absorb literacy and numeracy when they are suffering trauma. That is something else that we have across our schools at the moment as well. Again, I hope that we will see support for students who are suffering in their homes so that they can have the educational outcomes we want them to have.

With the few moments I have left, one of the most important things we can do in this space is to hear the voices of those who have been impacted and who are our survivors. To that end, this morning I was at the inaugural meeting of the Family and Sexual Violence Victim Advisory Council. What a powerful experience it was to sit in a room with primarily women who have been so brave to come forward. We appreciate their voices.

The SPEAKER - The minister's time for answering the question has expired.

TT-Line - Primary Loan Agreement With TASCORP

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.39 a.m.]

You did not know about the bailout to the Finnish shipbuilder, you did not know that the berths were not going to be ready and you did not know that the CEO of TT-Line could be based in Geelong. It appears as though there are no limits to what you do not know, but there is something that you should know. TT-Line's borrowings are set to nearly double from the current level in the next 12 months. If TASCORP believed they did not have sufficient earnings to cover interest repayments in June, how will they sustain double the debt while remaining within the requirements set out by TASCORP? Have any interest servicing requirements in their loan agreement with TASCORP been adjusted?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, it is abundantly clear that the member, in his incessant negativity, wants to talk this project down.

Mr Winter - Talk it down? It is six years delayed.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We will overcome these challenges and we will ensure that our tourism industry and our visitor economy is greatly enhanced by what is a significant investment for decades. Yes, we have been through challenges, but we will get through those challenges and ensure that this infrastructure and considerable investment will benefit Tasmania and Tasmanians for decades to come.

My understanding is - and I stand to be corrected - that TASCORP is reviewing matters concerning TT-Line. There is an opportunity for scrutiny of our government business enterprises and state-owned corporations next week in GBE scrutiny.

Supplementary Question

The SPEAKER - Are you seeking a supplementary?

Mr WINTER - Yes. How will TT-Line sustain double the debt while remaining within its interest requirements set out by TASCORP?

The SPEAKER - I will call the Premier to that question. He did address the other area.

Mr Barnett - Speaker, is that not a new question?

The SPEAKER - No, I wrote the question down very quickly and it was a two-part question originally. The Premier did address a number of matters, but not that one.

Dr Broad - Try to keep up.

The SPEAKER - Thank you, Dr Broad. I can chip the Attorney-General quite happily from here.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We are working through the challenges, Leader of the Opposition. There are challenges that we are working through now. We have intervened and got the project back on track. We will work through all the challenges associated with the two new ships - that would be the physical infrastructure challenges we have clearly put forward -

Ms Butler - Challenges? They are huge mistakes.

The SPEAKER - The member for Lyons is warned. She will be joining others who may be very close to going outside.

Mr ROCKLIFF - in a discussion paper. More specifically in that discussion paper; GBE reform, given the act is some 30 years old. Thank you for the question. You have a whole week of scrutiny next week in GBEs. We look forward to that.

Mr WINTER - Point of order, Speaker. Before the Premier sits down, is he taking this on notice as well? It is very important.

The SPEAKER - No, there is no intention to take that one on notice.

Macquarie Point Stadium - POSS Process

Mr BAYLEY question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has recently written to the Macquarie Point Development Corporation, your stadium developer, demanding more information so it can assess the project consistent with the Project of State Significance (POSS) guidelines. From the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) documents, it is clear you have consistently misled Tasmanians about how much the Macquarie Point Stadium will cost to build and make operational.

You ran through enabling legislation for the Stony Rise developer and Liberal donor, Tipalea, when planning processes did not suit them. History shows that Liberal and Labor are willing to bypass process to facilitate development -

Mr Willie - You like POSS now? You tried to do that last week.

Mr BAYLEY - when the planning authority is not going to be pushed around: pulp mill, cable car, Stony Rise.

Mr Winter - Did you not just try to legislate away the stadium?

Mr BAYLEY - Premier, will you categorically rule out legislation to sidestep the POSS process and approve the stadium despite all of its demonstrable failures?

Ms Finlay - No regard for the TPC.

Mr Winter - You just tried to legislate against it.

The SPEAKER - Members of the opposition, as much as you enjoyed those interjections, you cannot make them.

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, we are working through the planning process now with the Project of State Significance. We brought through legislation last year to enhance the scrutiny of significant developments, which requires the approval of both Houses of parliament, recognising the need for development in this state, and the huge opportunity that this brings. This is why I cannot quite fathom the Greens' opposition to this, apart from your political position. If you want to strengthen -

Mr Bayley - Money, heritage impacts - a bunch of reasons.

The SPEAKER - I am sure the Deputy Leader of the Greens was just chatting to his colleague and not interjecting then.

Mr ROCKLIFF - If you want to strengthen the opportunity of sustainable transport solutions, whether that be rapid bus transport, light rail, or the ferry network, then this is an opportunity. There is an opportunity in stadia infrastructure, which is an \$8 billion economy across the nation that we are missing out on. We want to be part of that. The member, I would

hope - but I do not expect he will - needs to get on board with the opportunity that this project will bring.

It is not just about AFL. It is about aspirations for young Tasmanians. You have seen the opportunity the JackJumpers have brought. That has been public investment on infrastructure. The JackJumpers have been a great success for Tasmanians, and continue to be so. In my view, this will be tenfold when it comes to the jobs that can be created in this sporting community; and the health jobs that can be created. It is fantastic to see the JackJumpers, netball, football, and the Hurricanes together, designing -

Mr BAYLEY - Point of order, Speaker, Standing Order 45, relevance. I asked the question whether the Premier would categorically rule out sidestepping the POSS process and passing special legislation to approve the stadium.

The SPEAKER - I will call the Premier to that question and ask him to be relevant to it, please.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We have no intention of bypassing the current process, which requires both Houses of parliament. We want to work through the current process as it is. I look forward to the Planning Commission doing its work thoroughly and diligently. No doubt there will be matters that are very sensible that they bring forward, that we need to take account of with respect to this project.

Supplementary Question

Mr BAYLEY - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Mr BAYLEY - The Premier spoke of the opportunity for infrastructure, but one of the things the Planning Commission is pushing back on is the fact that the POSS application does not have information in there about the enabling infrastructure for the stadium. The question to the Premier is: will he ensure that that enabling infrastructure does become part of the POSS application? If it is not, will you rule out sidestepping the process?

The SPEAKER - I think it does go to the original question and the answer the Premier gave in terms of the other infrastructure that was required. I am not sure if you can add much more than you have done. I will ask the Premier. I will rule it in.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I believe I have answered the question in a comprehensive way. This is about the entire precinct. It is not just about stadia infrastructure. It is all the associated matters that will benefit the community. You are nodding your head -

Mr Bayley - That is not in the application.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Dr Woodruff, then you went like that.

Dr Woodruff - I am discombobulated at what you are saying, Premier.

Mr ROCKLIFF - You are coming around to my ideas. Fantastic. Well done.

Dr Woodruff - I cannot make any sense of it. I am in a washing machine.

The SPEAKER - For Hansard's benefit, the nodding does not actually appear. It was a good-hearted interjection, so the Leader of the Greens can stay, but she is on very, very thin ice.

***Spirit of Tasmania* - Operation of New Vessels in Mersey River**

Mr WINTER question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.50 a.m.]

Are you aware of any concerns that the new *Spirits* will be unable to enter and operate safely in the Mersey River in conditions in which the current *Spirits* are able to operate?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, these matters are for the harbourmaster.

Ms Dow - Do you not know?

The SPEAKER - Deputy Leader of the Opposition, that is fine.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Honestly, how pathetic.

The SPEAKER - We are less than 20 seconds in.

Mr ROCKLIFF - My understanding is that there has been a lot of simulation with respect to the two new ships. I stand to be corrected, but I believe Jeff Hawkins and Pivot Maritime have been assisting in that. They have been going through simulation exercises and I am happy to provide more detail about those if you wish. I am not aware of any concerns.

The SPEAKER - Are you taking that on notice as well, Premier? I do not enjoy having things go on notice, but if we are not getting answers and you say you will take it on notice then -

Mr ROCKLIFF - The question was am I aware and I have answered that, but I am happy to provide information and transparency.

The SPEAKER - About the modelling? Thank you. It is going to be a very long update to the House at some stage.

Macquarie Point Stadium - Cost

Mr BAYLEY question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.51 a.m.]

The Tasmanian Planning Commission is requesting your stadium developer to provide additional information so it can assess the project consistent with the POSS guidelines. That

was a week ago. The correspondence demonstrates that you have deceived Tasmanians about stadium costs and how much taxpayers will have to fork out. The TPC says:

The state is required to borrow \$375 million as its initial contribution and there is a further \$145 million to be funded.

The TPC wants to know:

... the cumulative impacts on future deficits and debt service costs of the state borrowing to fund all capital works.

This is information we have questioned you on for months. Will you finally come clean with Tasmanians and admit the stadium will cost hundreds of millions of dollars more than you have proposed?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, the member mentioned the submission, and there is a 260-page summary report supported by about 4000 pages of expert advice and reports, which is publicly available for everyone and the Tasmanian Planning Commission to assess the project and for the community to see the work that has been done. We have worked through the comprehensive integrated assessment guidelines and are confident that we have presented a strong case that demonstrates that the project presents an exciting opportunity for Tasmania.

I am advised that on 19 November this year the commission wrote to the Macquarie Point Development Corporation requesting additional information to support their assessment of the project.

Mr Bayley - That is right; 12 pages of it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Fantastic, well done. This is a normal part of the planning process, particularly for a project as large and complex as a multipurpose stadium is, which a number of states have gone through. I have not yet been to see the impact of the Adelaide Oval on that community, which people fought vigorously against, but it has transformed the city, as I understand it. I encourage you to go there, have a look and put your positive hat on. The negative hat does not suit you. The positive hat does, because you are that type of person, in my view.

This is a normal part of the planning process, particularly for a project that is large and complex. The TPC reflects feedback that has been provided by stakeholders through the POSS process to date. The corporation is working closely with the commission to consider this request and provide additional information and clarification to support the commission's work. Importantly, the assessment process by the commission remains on track, with a draft report due in the first quarter of 2025 and a final report by next September.

Supplementary Question

Mr BAYLEY - A supplementary question, Speaker?

The SPEAKER - I will hear the supplementary question.

Mr BAYLEY - The Premier indicated that this is quite normal process. There are 12 pages of additional information here. The TPC explicitly wants to know the cumulative impacts of future deficits and debt servicing costs to the state borrowing to fund capital works. Will the Premier ensure that is tabled in the House so we can understand the full financial implications of those borrowings?

The SPEAKER - It does relate to the original question which was to do with the TPC's concerns around additional costs, so I will allow it.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I will take advice on it, but I cannot see why not. You are going to ask the questions anyway in Budget Estimates and all sorts of things, flapping about.

Mr Bayley - You do not answer them, though.

The SPEAKER - Deputy Leader of the Greens, that is not helpful.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We are more than happy to provide information that supports the case, and Tasmanians will quite rightly ask questions about the stadium costs and associated infrastructure. Might I say that whatever development you have on Macquarie Point, such as the sewerage works and a concrete jungle, but whatever positive development -

Mr Bayley - You did not mind the original plan, Premier.

Members interjecting.

The SPEAKER - The Deputy Leader of the Greens is also warned. Members on my right were just broadly noisy, so they can be quiet.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I imagine that if you were in government and the Eden Project got up, which is higher than the stadium and would impact on the Cenotaph more than the stadium, I am sure that you would be transparent as well.

The SPEAKER - The Premier's time for answering the question has expired.

Tasmanian AFL Team - Planned Concussion Harm Reduction Measures

Mr JENNER question to MINISTER for SPORT and EVENTS, Mr DUGAN, referred to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.57 a.m.]

As calls grow to educate young athletes about concussion risks, other states have implemented harm-reduction programs to address the dangers of repeated head traumas. With this government sinking millions into the new AFL team, what measures are in place to ensure that young players understand these risks, especially when they are excluded from workers compensation and many insurance companies now refuse to cover head injuries?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for his question. When the Legislative Council members exit the Chamber at exactly 10.50 a.m., I am responsible for their questions.

It is a very serious issue, and I know the AFL and other sports take this very seriously. A lot of work has been done by the AFL about concussion and we have seen the consequences of head injuries in that code and in others as well, so I am certain that this issue will be looked at very seriously.

I am aware that a Victorian law firm has launched a civil suit against local Victorian football clubs on behalf of two players, which may well be information that you have as well.

Through Active Tasmania, the government has programs and initiatives in place to educate the public regarding concussion in sport and to mitigate the risks of concussion on individuals, including annual funding to the Australian Sports Medicine Federation; publication, maintenance and promotion of concussion resources; maintenance of the Sports Medicine Network; and promotion of Sport Australia's Concussion In Sport resources.

The government, through the Tasmanian Institute of Sport, has also signed an agreement with the Australian Sports Commission to make cost-effective and standardised online testing of cognitive function available across national sporting organisations.

Ultimately, we will be guided by the national sports medicine authorities in relation to this matter. We expect, as I have alluded to, every sport that receives Tasmanian government funding to implement best-practice initiatives to ensure the safety of all players.

I hope that is sufficient. I appreciate the member asking the question because I am now more knowledgeable myself on those important matters.

GBE Privatisation

Mr WILLIE question to PREMIER, Mr ROCKLIFF

[10.59 a.m.]

Tasmania's 'sink the *Spirit*' fiasco is the biggest stuff-up in Tasmania's history, but the truth is your budget disaster is just as bad, if not worse. Your Treasurer cannot name a single thing he is doing to start fixing the mess, and your only plan seems to be flogging off valuable public assets. You have outlined a plan to assess whether public ownership of every GBE remains appropriate and identify businesses which should be sold. Further, you have said that transport and energy businesses will be a priority for privatisation.

Given the impact of privatisation on power prices in other states, will you rule out selling Aurora or TasNetworks, or parts of them? Will you rule out selling Metro, which has already been forced to cut hundreds of services and no doubt will cut more in private hands or are you going to sell MAIB and send car regos through the roof?

ANSWER

Why would we not?

Mr Willie - Because they are important public assets.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We have been very open and honest when it comes to this government business governance reform draft plan - drawn no conclusions for that. I have been asked by some about Hydro, which, of course, we have ruled out.

Member Suspended

Member for Clark - Mr Willie

Mr Willie - You actually put that on the table too.

The SPEAKER - Mr Willie, you have been warned. You can remove yourself from the Chamber under Standing Order 149. You can come back at the end of the MPI.

The Premier can wait and the time will stop until Mr Willie has left. It is my attempt to make it a walk of shame because some of you do not seem to mind being warned.

Mr Willie withdrew.

Mr ROCKLIFF - Thank you, honourable Speaker. It is a great shame, because I was looking forward to that interaction. I will just focus my -

The SPEAKER - Maybe I could ask you to leave too, Premier, but you might enjoy that too much, so you can stay.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I will focus my efforts on someone else: Dr Broad was the instigator of Labor's Plan for Budget Repair. We have a couple of these printed copies. We are desperately looking for the first version.

Members interjecting.

Mr WINTER - Point of order, Speaker.

The SPEAKER - I will take the point of order. Thank you, Premier. Members will cease laughing.

Mr WINTER - The question is really important. It is about our public assets. The question is whether the Premier will rule out selling some of our important public assets to support Tasmanian households and businesses. Perhaps you could show the respect to the House in Tasmania to answer the question.

The SPEAKER - I will draw the Premier to the question, despite obviously having prepared for a presentation. Premier, to the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I do not prepare for any questions, honourable Speaker.

Mr Winter - We can tell that.

The SPEAKER - Members on my left, Mr Willie might be lonely out there. You could hang out with him.

Mr ROCKLIFF - This is a very valuable document, particularly the first version, in which there was a mistake. That is why we are desperately trying to find one. My understanding is that there was a mistake in a *Harry Potter* - J K Rowling's book - and it is worth a lot of money. That is why we are desperately trying to find the first version of Labor's Plan for Budget Repair. It could actually be worth something.

The SPEAKER - With that, the Premier will probably come to the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am sure Dr Broad, who is the architect of this, may well have a secret copy somewhere along the line. I look forward to that. We could have a discussion, perhaps over a Christmas drink or two as to the location of that document that was quickly withdrawn with a number of errors in it.

The SPEAKER - To the question. Unless you are planning to use it to prop up the budget, then you can come to the question.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I am proud of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future. We have delivered a number of initiatives and investments. I am not sure the member who has exited the Chamber really wants to demonstrate to the Tasmanian people what he would not fund.

Ms Brown - Are you willing to rule it out? Are you going to sell off Metro?

Mr ROCKLIFF - Would he not fund new ambulance stations, paramedics, not fund more nurses, not fund the GP guarantee, not fund Neighbourhood Houses?

The SPEAKER - I am going to hear the supplementary because time has expired. Ms Brown, I do not know if I have warned you or not, but you are now warned again.

Supplementary Question - Not Allowed

The SPEAKER - I am hearing the supplementary.

Mr WINTER - Just to repeat the question.

Mr Ellis - Can you ask the supplementary question?

The SPEAKER - Mr Ellis, do you have a problem?

Mr Ellis - Just to double check, can he ask one?

The SPEAKER - That is a very good question - whether the supplementary can be asked by someone who has not asked the original question. I am going to take some advice as this is a new thing. I am afraid not. It turns out that there are consequences to being thrown out.

Neighbourhood House - Community Connector Program

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Mr JAENSCH

[11.04 a.m.]

I had the pleasure of visiting the Neighbourhood House in Shorewell a few weeks ago and heard about the amazing Community Connector Program. That Neighbourhood House and that program are a beacon of hope in Shorewell, as they are around the state. At the last election, your government committed to the ongoing employment of those Community Connectors, but the funding in this year's budget was about \$220,000 short.

The shortfall is placing the continued employment of the Community Connectors at risk. You have told the Neighbourhood Houses you are doing your best to find the money to meet this shortfall.

Yesterday, your government failed in an attempt to give itself an extra \$396,000 as part of the Electoral Donation Disclosure Bill, so we know the money exists. Will you today commit to using some of that money to cover the budget shortfall for the Community Connector program to give those staff members and their communities some much-needed Christmas cheer?

ANSWER

Honourable Speaker, I thank the member for his question and thank him for visiting one of our 34 magnificent Neighbourhood Houses around the state. I think every member in this House knows and loves their local Neighbourhood House very well, and knows and loves the value of the contribution they make in local communities right across the state. I encourage every member to visit their local Neighbourhood House. We love our Houses and we support them every year.

Base funding of about \$9 million goes to maintaining our network of Neighbourhood Houses right across the state. This year we have boosted their funding, with another \$50 000 a year per House for the next three years for our 34 Houses, so they can continue delivering for Tasmanians in their local communities.

We have also announced \$6 million in new capital funding over the next three years to ensure all Houses remain fit for purpose and contemporary and safe, and we are currently in the process of running a \$175,000 per year for two years grants program for tools and equipment and for health and wellbeing programs in our Neighbourhood Houses as well.

We have also committed, in our recent election, more funding for the place-based Community Connector Program for Neighbourhood Houses by providing for ongoing employment for the existing 11 Community Connectors, and to begin a staged expansion of that program from 2025-26.

The Community Connector Program began as a pilot in 2021, funded by our Liberal Government. The pilot ended in December 2023, but we secured additional funding to extend that pilot program, given the support for it and the success it was having.

At the 2024 election we committed to continuing the Community Connector Program and to begin the staged expansion of it. We have secured \$1.4 million for this program for 2024-25, the same level of funding which was provided in 2023-24.

In response to requests from the Neighbourhood House network for a different model for delivering the Community Connector Program, which does require additional funding to distribute the Connector program evenly across the house network, we have committed to providing an additional \$221,527, and this will be provided as soon as possible. This is in addition to the election commitment funding that we made back in the election and delivered through our budget.

This has been relayed to Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania. Yesterday I authorised the signing of letters to all of our Neighbourhood Houses right across the state to say not only have we supported their program and provided top-up funding through to 30 November, we have now committed, and are delivering, the full amount of funding required to meet the commitment we made at the election. We have also committed another \$220,000-odd to extend the program, to deliver it in their preferred model.

Thanks again to our Neighbourhood Houses. Thank you to Mr Garland for visiting and supporting our local Neighbourhood House in Shorewell Park.

Time expired.

The SPEAKER - With that, the last Question Time of the year has been completed and we will move to Constituency Questions.

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Jessie Spinks Rooke - Heritage Listing for Grave in Wivenhoe Cemetery

Ms DOW question to MINISTER for the ARTS and HERITAGE, Ms OGILVIE

[11.10 a.m.]

My question is from a constituent in Braddon. The minister will be aware that many of us would not be in this place if it was not for the Tasmanian suffragette Jessie Rooke. Community members are aware her grave in Wivenhoe Cemetery in Burnie is up for heritage listing. Could the minister please update the House on the progress of this listing, and if the grave has not been entered on the Heritage register, could the minister please explain why not?

Northern Tasmania - Support for Events

Mr WOOD question to MINISTER for SPORT and EVENTS, Mr DUIGAN

Understanding and acknowledging the importance and benefits of attracting events to Northern Tasmania, I am often asked by Bass constituents how the government is supporting events in the North, bringing more visitors to the region and encouraging them to stay longer.

Firearms Legislation - Antique Firearms Registration Cost

Mr JENNER question to MINISTER for POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY MANGEMENT, Mr ELLIS

Last year, you blindsided antique firearm owners with a sudden change in the law, leaving them in limbo for nearly a year. Despite your repeated assurances that registration would be free, your consultation paper suggests otherwise, with many dealers charging up to \$50 per item. For collectors with multiple antiques, this adds up to a hefty bill. Can you clarify for antique firearm owners once and for all that there will not be any cost for registration with the police or dealers?

Pill Testing at Festivals

Ms BURNET question to MINISTER for HEALTH, Mrs PETRUSMA

My question comes from constituent Sophie from South Hobart. With the summer festival season approaching, will the government follow the example of Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory and trial mobile or fixed-site pill testing, which has been shown to be effective in reducing harm? In the Australian Capital Territory at pill testing sites, a third of those surveyed chose not to take their drugs when tests came back that their pills were either not what they thought or contained other substances. In the United Kingdom, it was a clear majority who chose not to consume. In Tasmania, a February 2024 poll showed nearly two thirds of the respondents supported pill testing.

If you are not willing to implement pill testing, what is the government's plan to keep people safe at festivals while there are increased reports of overdoses and hospitalisations, and while fentanyl, nitazene and other synthetic substances are increasingly being detected in recreational drugs?

Macquarie Point Stadium - Local Participation

Ms WHITE question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES, Mr ABETZ

I have been contacted by constituents who are concerned about your apparent failure to deliver your local content promise on the new *Spirits* and what this means for the stadium. They want to know whether you will commit to developing a local participation plan for the stadium build, and whether you will publicly disclose the contracts or heads of agreement for the construction so Tasmanians can be assured that local businesses and jobs are being prioritised.

Further, can you advise what local content outcomes are expected to be achieved as a result of the stadium build?

Liquor Licences - Application Process

Mr BEHRAKIS question to TREASURER, Mr BARNETT

Many local small business owners are finding it difficult to obtain a Tasmanian liquor licence - businesses that are looking to offer additional services in our hospitality industry to visitors and locals alike to help grow our local beverage industry sector. The Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission ensures licences are issued responsibly. However, the process can be a challenging and arduous one. The process often involves extensive paperwork and lengthy wait periods. What is the government doing to reduce red tape in this area to make it easier for businesses to responsibly serve alcohol and grow that industry?

Homelessness - Permanent Solutions

Mrs BESWICK question to MINISTER for COMMUNITY SERVICES, Mr JAENSCH

This morning I received a message from Geoffrey, one of the many people in my electorate who is sleeping rough. He and many others rely on the services of Gran's Van, a not-for-profit running free food and hygiene services to support those in the community who are economically disadvantaged. They provide a safe and inclusive space that provides relief from some of the basic pressures of sourcing nutritious food, access to laundry services and personal cleanliness. When it rains, they cannot operate due to safety concerns. What can you do to provide a more permanent solution to help the homeless in Tasmania?

TABLED PAPERS

Response to Petition - No. 6 - Swansea - Service Tasmania Centre

[11.14 a.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Premier) - Honourable Speaker, I table the response to Petition No. 6 of 2024.

Response to Petition tabled.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS

[11.15 a.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Deputy Premier) - Honourable Speaker, I table the following answers to questions on notice.

No. 5 - Witness Intermediary Scheme

Ms HADDAD question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr BARNETT

See Appendix 1 on page 160.

No. 10 - Tatarka Review

Ms WHITE question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL, Mr BARNETT

See Appendix 2 on page 164.

TABLED PAPERS

Response to Petition - No. 7 - Hate Crime Legislation

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Attorney-General) - Honourable Speaker, I table the response to petition No. 7 of 2024.

Response to Petition tabled.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS

Mr ELLIS (Braddon - Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs) - Honourable Speaker, I table the following answers to questions on notice.

No. 11 - Work Safe Tasmania Investigations

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for HOUSING, PLANNING and CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mr ELLIS

See Appendix 3 on page 165.

No. 14 - Robbins Island Wind Farm Development Application

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for HOUSING, PLANNING and CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mr ELLIS

See Appendix 4 on page 167.

TABLED PAPERS

Joint Standing Committee on Integrity - Annual Report 2024

Ms WHITE (Lyons) - Honourable Speaker, I have the honour to bring up the Joint Standing Committee on Integrity annual report for 2024. I move -

That the report be received and printed.

Report received and printed.

Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts - Report

Mr BEHRAKIS (Clark) - Honourable Speaker, given the absence of the Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, I have the honour to bring up the following report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts: Follow up of Auditor-General Report No. 2 of 2015-16 - Capital Works Programming and Management. I move -

That the report be received and printed.

Report received and Printed.

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Unanswered Questions on Notice

The SPEAKER - As far as I can see, we still have outstanding questions on notice:

- No. 15 from Mr Garland to the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources;
- No. 20, potentially, from Ms Rosol for the Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation; and
- No. 22 from Mr O'Byrne to the Minister for Education.

If we could try to get those in today, because parliament does not come back until March, that would be great.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING) AMENDMENT BILL 2024 (No. 56)

First Reading

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

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Move Motion Forthwith

[11.19 a.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Leader of the House)(by leave) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent a time limit of 90 minutes being applied to the debate on Notice of Motion No. 92, which appears as Order of the Day No. 1.

Motion agreed to.

SITTING DATES

[11.20 a.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Leader of the House)(by leave) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That the House at its rising adjourns until Tuesday 4 March 2024 at 10 a.m.

Motion agreed to.

MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Good Fisheries Management is Driven by Science

[11.22 a.m.]

Mr GARLAND (Braddon) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That the House takes note of the following matter: Good fisheries management is driven by science.

I was delighted to hear over the past two days the minister repeatedly expressing his commitment to be guided by the science on various fisheries management issues. I was left worried by the debate last night on fish farming, that maybe science was either being ignored or selectively used. I want to talk about salmon farming in Storm Bay. This is an area where the science is lacking and, consequentially, so is the social licence.

According to marine scientist Christine Coughanowr, monitoring of baseline conditions has not been completed in Storm Bay. There has been no comprehensive mapping of the extent condition of key near-shore habitats, reefs, seagrass, birds, et cetera, since the Seemap surveys conducted by IMAS in 2002. Furthermore, very few water quality or sediment monitoring sites have been established within Frederick Henry Bay, and none within Norfolk Bay. This baseline information is essential to assess impacts from the recent and proposed expansion of fish farms. Why has this not been done?

The Storm Bay predictive models are not entirely reliable. The recent modelling studies by CSIRO were unable to predict impacts of expansion on Frederick Henry Bay and Norfolk Bay with a high degree of confidence. They noted more broadly that due to the high degree of natural variability in the storm-based systems, it will be difficult or impossible to clearly establish fish farm-related impacts based on current monitoring methods. How can the government approve new fish farms in that area without that science or the social licence it needs?

I would like to talk about the sardines. This has just recently come up. There is a lot of hype about a sardine industry expansion in Bass Strait. It has already been mentioned this week in Question Time. The clever scientists at IMAS have calculated that our sardine fishery in Bass Strait is estimated to be approximately 300,000 tonnes. They have estimated that we could sustainably harvest up to 60,000 tonnes a year from that. Currently, the largest sardine fishery in Australia is in waters off South Australia. At its peak they harvest 40,000 tonnes annually. The South Australian fishery is worth \$23 million per annum and employs over 200 in processing. The government wants to cash in.

However, before we get carried away, the report recommended that 'To establish and maintain a social licence to operate', it is important to ensure:

1) the management arrangements that are established for the fishery are precautionary and explicitly account for the role of Sardine in the ecosystem and 2) interactions with protected species, especially dolphins, are monitored independently, reported transparently and mitigated effectively. It would also be beneficial to establish a suite of projects, including by studies done by postgraduate students, to explicitly examine the role of Sardine in the marine ecosystems off Tasmania.

We are not the only ones who will be eating those fish.

The report noted that it would also be appropriate for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE) operators in the new fishery to develop strategies to mitigate potential interactions with recreational fishers. Up on our north-west coast right now, the reason we have the tuna there hanging around for five or six months is because those bait fish are prevalent. They are right along the coast. We have to make sure that if we are going to harvest these fish we do not impact the recreational fisheries. There is a lot of money being spent on recreational fisheries accessing our fisheries right now and what is happening on the north-west coast is a big positive tick.

It also recommended starting with a small-scale fishery; not big volumes. Let us focus on domestic consumption and value-adding. You can buy sardines down here at Salamanca Fresh, in a 250-gram packet, butterflied, for \$16.90 a kilo. They are attracting up around \$50 a kilo right now. It is a valuable resource, and I might add also that it is probably the best source of omega-3 oil. Eat them. Do not turn them into fishmeal. That is what we should be doing.

I want to talk about the calamari fishery, where the science is in but it is not being heeded. According to the department's own scalefish fishery review consultation paper published in August 2023, IMAS stock assessments indicate stock depletion in south-east and east coast waters. Calamari stocks in the north-west are likely to follow a similar path if management changes are not made. Due to increases in recreational commercial fishing pressure and changing environmental conditions -

Time expired.

[11.25 a.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Minister for Business, Industry and Resources) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, the government fully supports the proposition that good fisheries management is driven by science. Counter to that, good fisheries management is not driven by political science, and that is something some people unfortunately seek to engage in. I support the member for Braddon's commentary in relation to the value of our fisheries, and it is important to remember that we need to harvest them sustainably for future generations. That is why, in a former manifestation, I closed the Commonwealth's Bass Strait scallop fishery.

I invite the member for Braddon and others to acknowledge and accept that when the science comes to me, I will take decisive action. I recall some of the phone calls I received. My ears nearly blistered as a result of those phone calls and lobbying efforts. Today, people are now thankful that decisive action was taken and we have a good healthy scallop fishery again

in Bass Strait. There is a record there for people to take some degree of comfort that decisive action is willing to be taken.

In relation to the sardine fishery, that has been considered and studied over many years now, and we are coming to a situation where IMAS will be clothing me and the department with the information needed so that a proper assessment can be made. In relation to the calamari fishery, the member will note that discussions have been held. Further information needs to be received and processes gone through, but in those areas where I am not legislatively hindered, I was willing to close the fishery for two months to ensure that the breeding season could be protected to help re-establish the calamari sector.

I take this opportunity to remind, especially the people in the other place, that when scientific evidence is provided to us, as was done in relation to the abalone fishery in 2019-20 - the science showed that localised depletion of abalone along the east coast was happening with little chance of stock recovery, but Ms Webb in the other place unfortunately allowed politics to triumph over the science and the upper House disallowed that which was needed to protect the abalone fishery on the east coast. People who play politics with our fisheries against the science ought to be held to account and Ms Webb, on that occasion, should have been held to account and that needs to be considered when people seek to promote certain green credentials, but on the other hand try to play politics, on this occasion with a recreational fishing sector.

In relation to Macquarie Harbour, I remind the House yet again that the science is there. The population levels today of the Maugean skate, which has come to public consciousness in recent times, are as they were a decade ago. When you have the experience of a decade of examination of fish populations, I think you can be relatively satisfied from the science that there is a degree of stability and that things are in balance. That is what we need to do, keeping in mind that our wild sea fisheries and our fish farming are very important for employment, for keeping food on the table for many people, and is also a very good food source for human consumption.

I agree with the member for Braddon that sardines are very good eating, very healthy and I am sure the market will determine the human consumption. If that is the highest price, that will be deciding the market.

Time expired.

[11.31 a.m.]

Ms FINLAY (Bass) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to be able to rise this morning and make my contribution on this matter of public importance. As the minister has said and as the person who brought this item forward has said, good fisheries management is driven by science.

I noted with a smirk the comment from the minister about science, not political science, and then the extension into talking about politics. Unfortunately, I think it is true for this sector more than most others that politics comes into play and that sees the reputations of great people who work in this sector undermined.

We have incredible people across Tasmania working on the water, in the water, around the water, but also innovating in offices and leading research which is regarded across the

world. The science that comes out of Tasmania - we heard yesterday that we have more scientists per capita in Tasmania than anywhere else almost on the planet, probably, and those scientists are world-leading, well regarded and work, particularly in fisheries management, to ensure that we have strong and sustainable fisheries, not only for our commercial fishers but also for our recreational fishers.

There have been comments made this morning about how important fish is for human consumption and wellbeing, but fishing is also important as an activity for Tasmanians, particularly where life is challenging. There are pressures in life, so to be able to go out fishing and catch a fish, or even not catch a fish, is really important, so we must have sustainable fisheries to do that.

There have been comments today about sardines and calamari and also about salmon, but I want to reflect on a fishery that has struggled recently. The minister said that this government has regard for science. I think if this government did not play politics from time to time or did not surrender to politics and pressure from time to time and actually were driven by science, we would not have things like the downfall of our sand flathead fishery.

There is no doubt - and the Premier is in the room now - that since the time the Premier himself was the minister there have been concerns rung loud from the fisheries. I have a report here called Taking Stock of Tasmanian Scalefish Fishery and the chart goes back to 2016-17 when the sand flathead was known to be depleting. There were recommendations made by the advisory committees at the time, by the scientists, as to what should be done to manage that fishery to ensure it was sustainable and those things were not fully heeded. There were politics and pressure at play instead of the science and now we have problems in the sand flathead fishery. It is cause for much greater investment now needing to be made to recover that fishery.

I have repeatedly called to the attention of this government investment in research. There is no doubt that if you do not make the investment at the front end, you are going to have to overinvest at the back end in a lot of areas, but more so and none perhaps greater than in fisheries. The SMRCA (Sustainable Marine Research Collaboration Agreement) agreements in Tasmania are where this government outsourced their research and their science to IMAS, an incredible institution that provides great science in Tasmania. Unfortunately, for years there has been an undercutting of the investment for the list of tasks that this government seeks to have IMAS deliver. As recently as the most recent election, commitments were made by this government which continued to undercut the actual expectation of the delivery of services by IMAS. You cannot have good fisheries management without the right investment in science. Unless you have the right data, you cannot be modelling, understanding and doing the tasks that will actually support our fisheries.

As an example, when there are closures, which is a management tool, they are not able to fully monitor closures right now because they are not fully funded to do that. If this government is upfront and legitimate about their support for science leading fisheries management, which I do believe with the current minister - I have seen actions, there have been clear decisions made, and he has referenced his history as a fisheries minister but in Tasmania there is demonstrated evidence to say that over the last 10 years, while this government have been in government, there has been a lack of investment in fisheries science.

The other thing that I think is really important to put on the record today is that the challenges we are seeing in Macquarie Harbour and the challenges that are brewing in Storm

Bay come off the back of this government putting a moratorium on industry, which was a political play, not led by science and not in the best interests of our fishers.

Time expired.

[11.37 a.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin - Leader of the Greens) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, the Greens thank Mr Garland for bringing this matter of public importance on today. We want to focus on the proposal for a new small pelagic fish, including sardine, fishery off the north of Tasmania. Minister Abetz said last night that there would be an investigation into the sustainability of a new fishery. We assume that there are processes ongoing by the government and fisheries scientists on this matter.

We ask what questions are going to be looked at? What are the questions that are going to be investigated? That is the important issue. If we are going to have a sustainable fishery, then we have to be asking what the impacts will be on the rest of the ecosystem that relies on eating those small pelagic fish, including sardines. They do not live in a little isolated bubble waiting for a fishery to be established to catch them. They are part of a moving web of life in the ocean.

The volume of sardines has increased in recent years because of the move south by sardines and other small pelagic fish from northern Australian coastal waters. These fish are abandoning the areas they have inhabited for millennia and moving south because the waters here are colder and they are more nutrient beneficial for those fish. They are doing what they can to survive climate change; they are adapting to climate change. Sure, there have been sardines and small pelagic fish here, but there are also increasingly numbers that are expanding into those populations because of those impacts.

We need to look at what will happen to the ecosystem of other animals that need to eat small pelagic fish to survive. They are the macro fauna and the bigger fish up the food system. Will there be an investigation on the impacts of those species? When large-scale commercial fishing around the world has taken these sorts of fish out of areas, that has had grave impacts for the ecosystem. The overharvesting of fish has enormous impacts for the ecosystem and it decimates the food source of many communities around the world that rely on these fish to survive.

That is unlikely to be the situation in Tasmania, but we have to ask questions about what the impact will be on large predatory fishes, the large sea birds and the mammals whose numbers we have seen crashing worldwide from overfishing, particularly of sardine fisheries around the world. The Gulf of California particularly has shown the evidence of what happens from overfishing.

We also need to understand what the economic basis for this fishery will be. Mr Garland talked about the possibility of having a sardine fishery for human consumption. That might be desirable and possible, but the reality is the IMAS report from 2023 found that a fishery like this has to be industrial in size to be viable. The absence, they said, of a Tasmanian sardine fishery 'limits the opportunity for the salmon industry to obtain the tens of thousands of forage fish that it needs annually from a sustainable local source'.

Here we can start to see what is happening in the background. For a sardine and small pelagic fishery to be economically viable, it needs to be large enough in size, and given that

there is not an industry established in Tasmania, a fishery for human consumption is extremely unlikely, the report's authors find. We also know that the salmon companies are setting up a fish meal processing factory. What we are concerned about as Greens is that what starts as a small size, kind of sustainable industry would quickly end up being driven by the requirements for fish meal increasing by salmon farms to grow ever larger and larger, and that would necessarily involve overfishing. We are just calling for caution, because we understand how things operate in Tasmania all too often.

[11.42 a.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, as a scientist, I have stood in this place on a number of occasions and defended science, and I will do so again today. Obviously, we want a science-based fishery, and that is what we actually have. I would like to make a few points. We come into this place and quite often we hear things like 'the science', or 'science is settled' and so on. I would like to point out that science is never settled - ever. Science is a method we use to understand the world and is always based on current data and current understanding.

Good science is under constant challenge. As a scientist dealing with a scientific question, I do not care what you believe, I want to see your data. You show me your data and we will discuss the data. You will try and publish the data; it will get reviewed by your peers. You see it in a scientific publication, and then we can agree that you may be onto something, but you will continually be challenged, because that is how science works.

One of the most difficult aspects of science is dealing with situations where there is great uncertainty. In something like fisheries, yes, there is uncertainty. When we deal with a science-based fishery, that uncertainty has to be taken into account. It is not ignored; it is taken into account. Whether there is room for a sardine fishery in Tasmanian waters, or even in Commonwealth waters near Tasmania, it should be based on a scientific understanding of the population and sustainable harvest limits.

This method is actually very well established. The last thing that I would like to see is another ridiculous scare campaign based on non-science and sometimes complete nonsense. We have heard the member who has just resumed her seat talk about the overharvesting of fish and how it really only has an economic basis if it is industrial, and the salmon industry could be working to get a massive fish meal industry going, and so on. That is just not based on any fact at all. If we have a sustainable, scientifically managed fishery, it will not be overharvested and it will not be driven by industry. It will be driven by the science, and the science -

Dr Woodruff - Like forestry is.

Dr BROAD - The member who has just interjected - and I am surprised I have not been interjected on more, as is usual. The other issue in science is that your view sometimes depends on your perspective. Different branches of science have a different perspective. That is something that also has to be dealt with when you are talking about sustainability. The modern view of sustainability is a three-legged stool of social, economic and environmental factors.

When you talk about sustainability, you need to take into account the impacts on the community and the economy. It is not simply an issue of environmental protection, because as we have said in this place a number of times, if environmental protection was the only thing we consider, there is a whole bunch of things that we would never do. We would never use

fertilisers, we would never use pesticides, we would never touch a single tree and we would never drive a car a single kilometre, and so on. It has to be based on sustainability.

In this place I have seen science trashed, especially by the Greens, and I really hoped that the member who brings this MPI would resist from the temptation to have a real crack at scientists and what they say. I have seen the Greens in this place machine-gun the reputations of scientists, and I have talked about that before. I have seen the Greens dismiss the work of scientists they do not agree with. They use terms like 'the government's pet scientist' and so on and so forth. Let us argue about the data, not about the personalities.

Then we saw in this place when an obviously flawed scientific paper was withdrawn, they cried foul and continued to defend that particular author's work. Science is constantly evolving. Science is constantly under challenge. We have to respect science. We should not try to politicise it. The last thing we need is a fishery that is not managed by science because that can go in both directions.

One of the worst examples in the world is probably the cod fishery off Grand Banks in Canada. That was a fishery that was basically fished for almost 500 years and it was political considerations that drove its overfishing and that fishery collapsed and has not returned. We do not want to see that in Tasmania.

Time expired.

[11.47 a.m.]

Mr FAIRS (Bass) - Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to rise on this matter of public importance. In recognition of the importance of science in guiding the management of our fisheries and aquaculture, this government has established and maintained longstanding relationships with a number of research organisations and cooperative research centres.

The collaboration agreement is a partnership between the University of Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies, IMAS, and government. This agreement with IMAS was formalised in 2010 and provides IMAS with government grant funding to assist aquaculture and fisheries research.

In recognition of the importance of the agreement, this government has extended this partnership to enable the delivery of world-leading research through to 2032. Earlier this year, the government also announced an increase in grant funding to this partnership of \$2 million over the next four years.

Since its inception, this partnership has facilitated world-class fisheries and aquaculture research that has informed the sustainable management of Tasmania's marine resources. The research it delivers underpins the success of the shellfish, finfish, seaweed farming, wild-caught scalefish, abalone and rock lobster fisheries and many more.

Tasmania also has longstanding arrangements and linkages with the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, FRDC, and the CSIRO. The FRDC has supported research and informed management of fisheries and aquaculture, research that underpins sustainable development of the industry involving environmental monitoring and management, the technologies required to operate in more exposed and potential deeper areas, as well as associated onshore technology to support this as well. This covers a number of areas including

fish health and welfare, including vaccination developments, broad-scale ecological interactions, waste management, food safety, animal welfare, environmental standards and biosecurity.

The government's participation and financial support of the Blue Economy Cooperative Research Centre and Marine Bioproduct Cooperative Research Centre provides world-class research that supports the delivery of contemporary science that can inform our future aquaculture management and development. The Blue Economy CRC has brought together 43 partner organisations, including the Tasmanian government, who through targeted research are paving the way for sustainable offshore multi-species aquaculture and energy developments.

The Tasmanian government through NRE Tasmania is contributing \$2 million over the Blue Economy CRC's 10-year term. The Blue Economy CRC has five specialised research programs. It promotes Tasmania as a centre for excellence in marine research and development, providing a platform to showcase the expertise within the University of Tasmania, including IMAS and the Australian Maritime College.

IMAS undertakes independent scientific research directed at the management of coastal and temperate fisheries and is consistently ranked in the top 10 marine research facilities worldwide. This research supports key commercial and recreational fisheries in Tasmania, including abalone, lobster, octopus, scalefish and scallops, as well as ecosystem and fisheries management.

There have been assertions that there is minimal science, which highlights the misinformation that is out there in this area. Storm Bay, along with Macquarie Harbour, are perhaps the most monitored and modelled water bodies in Australia. The science has been and will continue to inform our management decisions. The FRDC has funded four current priority projects which look at provision of the required information to sustainably manage aquaculture expansion and operations within the region of Storm Bay in Tasmania. It is a \$6 million spend.

Matter noted.

MOTION

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

[11.51 a.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Premier) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That the House -

(1) Notes that -

- (a) November 2024 marks a decade since parliament stood together to condemn all forms of violence against women and to foster a society that respects and protects women and girls in Tasmania;

- (b) 25 November 2024 marked the 25th year of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women as proclaimed by the United Nations; and
 - (c) 25 November 2024 also marked the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The 2024 campaign is 'Every 10 Minutes' in recognition that a woman was killed every 10 minutes across the world as a result of gender-based violence in 2023.
- (2) Recognises that -
- (a) one in four Australian women has experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15;
 - (b) the World Health Organisation recently described violence against women as a global epidemic and in April 2024 the Prime Minister, Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, described family violence as a national crisis;
 - (c) Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan 2022-27, Survivors at the Centre, outlines a vision for Tasmania where all Tasmanians are safe, equal and respected, and homes, families and communities are free from all forms of family and sexual violence; and
 - (d) although progress has been made, our work is not done and creating real change requires a commitment by all levels of government and our community to work together.
- (3) Further recommits that as a parliament, we stand together to condemn all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence and to foster a society that respects and protects women and children in Tasmania.
- (4) Calls on all Tasmanians to become strong advocates for change and to send a strong message that family, domestic and sexual violence in Tasmania is a crime and is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Honourable Speaker, 10 years ago this week, former premier Will Hodgman stood in this House to bring forward a motion highlighting the epidemic of violence against women. He was joined by other party leaders of the time, opposition leader Bryan Green and Greens leader Kim Booth. However, the impetus for that motion came from three prominent female members of this House, the then minister for women, Jacquie Petrusma MP; the member for Clark, Cassy O'Connor MP, and the member for Franklin, the Honourable Lara Giddings MP. It was a proud moment for our parliament as all members stood as one to condemn all forms of violence against women, and today we do so again. I would like to acknowledge in the House today Shirley Anne Varney, the CEO of Sexual Assault Support Services, and Kerry Collins, the Manager of Therapeutic Services from Laurel House.

Because family and sexual violence should continue to be above politics and because our work is not done, last week I attended a male-only event in this place called Sex, Violence and Murder. Brave parents of Hannah Clarke, Sue and Lloyd, who I met, joined the inaugural event at Parliament House to have what they called an uncomfortable conversation about gender

violence, to talk and think about what else we could do as male leaders in Tasmania to influence others to stand together and say 'enough'.

I thank Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Sarah Bolt, for her work in bringing that forum together alongside the Department of Justice. The fact is we are always stronger together. The more we all speak about gendered violence, the more comfortable it becomes to speak, and the more hope we have of changing views, attitudes and behaviours.

Yesterday marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. This day is part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence where communities around the world join the call to prevent violence against women and girls. The theme of the 16 Days of Activism is the message: Every 10 minutes a woman is killed #No Excuse - Unite to end violence against women. This campaign is an opportunity to continue to unite. It is an opportunity to educate our communities, and it is an opportunity to take action on family, domestic and sexual violence at a local, national and international level.

This Friday 29 November, the Tasmanian State Service will walk as one for the elimination of violence against women and children. I encourage all MPs to participate in the walk if they are able. There are a number of events happening across all corners of the state until the 16 days is completed on 10 December.

A decade on from this unifying motion in the House in 2014, there has been progress - a greater awareness of the seriousness and impact of all forms of gendered violence - but it is not nearly enough. We are still seeing high numbers of people experiencing violence in our communities, and this requires significant societal change.

We know that family violence is gendered, with women and girls far more likely to be the victims. We know that family violence is complex and can be insidious. It can start in a gradual, subtle way, but it has very harmful effects. We know family violence does not discriminate. It occurs in every pocket of society, no matter your level of education, your income, where you live, or your age.

The data makes for difficult reading. On average, one woman a week is killed by her intimate partner. Since the age of 15, one in four women across Australia have experienced at least one incident of violence by a current or former intimate partner, and one in five women has experienced sexual violence. Further, almost a quarter of women have experienced emotional abuse by a current or former partner and more than half of all women have experienced sexual harassment.

Exposure to family violence affects a child's development, and there is increased vulnerability for later mental health problems. Exposure to family violence impacts children's future relationships, and family violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children.

Reports to Tasmania Police by those experiencing family violence continue to increase, and while this may reflect an increased awareness of what constitutes family violence and a greater trust in our systems to hold perpetrators to account, it is also a clear indication that family and domestic violence is still ever present in our communities across Tasmania. Societal change is one of the hardest changes of all. It requires years of action and a number of approaches: at an individual level, by modelling respectful behaviour; at a community level by

supporting community organisations and groups, providing frontline and other support services to victim/survivors and addressing male behaviour; at the business level, by understanding family violence is a workplace issue - everyone should feel supported to thrive at work, especially when things are unsafe at home; and at the government level, by continuing to listen to the experience of victim/survivors to inform support systems and continuing our understanding of the nature of gender violence. We must hold perpetrators to account, respond to high-risk behaviour, and continue men's behaviour change programs, and we must support victim/survivors and make it easier for them to report these crimes.

Addressing family and sexual violence is a priority for our government and a priority for all in this Chamber. We have done a lot, but there is more to do. Since the 2014 motion, our government has invested over \$500 million into family and sexual violence, and probably more to be honest. There have been three fully funded family and sexual violence action plans, representing important progress to support victim/survivors and also to hold perpetrators to account.

We have established our art centres, and we are working with the sector to establish a peak body for family and sexual violence: a network of service providers that works together as one alongside government to advise on policy and design. We have established the Victim Survivors' Advisory Council to learn firsthand what more we can all do.

We are educating our young people, embedding respectful relationships and consent education into our schools to model positive behaviours from an early age. We are supporting more programs for harmful sexual behaviours, and we are continuing our world-leading electronic monitoring for high-risk family violence perpetrators, which allows police to intervene early and to ensure victims are protected before a situation escalates. Police from Germany recently visited to see the program firsthand.

We are embedding workplace equity and respect standards through our government agencies. We are doing all we can, because it is vital to stop violence before it starts, and that is why campaigns such as the Sixteen Days of Activism are so very important.

Each and every one of us in this House, and each of us in our communities, has a role to play in stopping gender-based violence. We all should be able to recognise what behaviour should be supported and encouraged and what should be condemned, and we need to call out and challenge those behaviours that are not acceptable in our communities.

Let us not forget, for every act of violence there is a perpetrator, and the more perpetrators are called out, reported and sentenced, the safer our communities will be. While men are overwhelmingly responsible for perpetrating violence against females and children - the figure I heard recently was 90 per cent - we know the majority of men and boys want girls and women to be and feel safe.

Tasmania's Survivors at the Centre sits alongside the national plan to end violence against women and children. It is there to guide our actions towards ending violence against women and children. On 6 September, I met with the Prime Minister and other first ministers, and we agreed on further steps to accelerate action to end gender-based violence in a generation and to deliver on the national plan to end violence against women and children. We are currently in the process of finalising the next iteration of the Family Violence, Domestic and Sexual

Violence Responses National Partnership, to be extended until 2030, and through that and our own actions, we can and we must continue to do more to address gendered violence.

I finish by thanking the Greens member for Lyons, Ms Tabatha Badger, for suggesting that this parliament stands together today to mark the tenth anniversary of the historic 2014 motion. I would like to conclude with the opening words of the victim/survivors quoted the 2023 National Plan:

Abuse and violence is a problem for victims but it is not the victim's problem. Genuine change begins with a willingness to listen. We must stop protecting perpetrators with our silence, and through inaction. We must sit in discomfort. It is time to be brave.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.06 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Honourable Speaker, I thank the Premier for bringing this motion on. I also acknowledge Ms Badger for the inspiration behind renewing our commitment today.

Ten years ago, there was a powerful stance taken by this parliament to condemn all forms of violence against women and commit to a safer society for Tasmanian women and girls. It is clear that our commitment is critical. The work is also far from complete. I recommit Labor's full support for making any change we can to end violence against women.

I know the privilege I have as a man of not feeling fearful for my safety. I know women and girls who do. They carry pepper spray, never walk alone to their cars at night, skip a walk or a jog because it is now dark and they feel scared to go for a run. They make pacts with friends that they will send a text when they get home because they feel unsafe.

These are not unreasonable thoughts. Given the statistics, they are reasonable. The ABS stats show that since the age of 15, three in 10 women have experienced physical violence, one in five women have experienced sexual violence, and one in six women have experienced stalking. As terrifying as the statistics are, we know women experience violence from an intimate partner at a much higher rate. One in four women experienced an incident of violence by an intimate partner, compared to just one in 13 men. These rates are higher in our state than others.

As a leader in this parliament, and as a man, I recognise my responsibility to step up and take all actions to end violence against women. I take up the federal Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus' powerful call to action, when he said:

In this country, we have an epidemic of male violence.

Men need to step up. Men need to talk to their sons, to their brothers, to their colleagues at work and try to work together. It cannot be left to women.

It cannot be left to women. It should not be left to women. Men need to stand up. Men like me need to stand up as a society. Violence against women starts from the way men and boys think about women. Physical violence is not always the first act of violence. There is

a poor behaviour that precedes it. There is disrespect. There is abuse. There are those so-called harmless comments.

I grew up in a home where women were worshipped. They were respected. They were leaders. When I spoke at my mother's funeral, I called her our supreme commander. She was a person who influenced and led our community, our school, our church, and our family with authoritative wisdom that demanded respect. I have a wife at home who works and lives leadership, a spirited daughter, and an incredibly strong female caucus here at work around me. I am empowered and made better by all of those women in my life.

Not everyone in our society enjoys the sort of upbringing that I did. Far too many young men do not. It falls to us as a society, us as leaders in this place, as legislators and a government to do everything we can to make Tasmania a safer place for women and girls. I accept responsibility to continue my learning, to challenge the behaviours that precede violence, and to take actions necessary to stop violence against women.

They are marking the 25th year of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. For the start of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, there is no better time for all of us in this place to recognise both our collective and individual actions which we take to protect and empower women. On behalf of myself, our Labor Party, Labor caucus, and Labor movement, we commit to doing exactly that.

This conversation, though, is not the one that we can have without recognising the elephant in the room when it comes to domestic violence in this state. I do not say this to make a political point, merely as a man observing how far our state has come, or perhaps not come.

The matter of former Justice, Mr Geason, has challenged this place and has challenged the judicial system. Tasmanians heard of a woman battered, bruised and assaulted by a judge whose job it was to oversee justice in this state. Amongst other things, the court found that Mr Geason had called his partner a slut, continued to abuse her as she sat on a park bench, surveilled her in her home, grabbed her arms, and called her a disgrace because she did not take her phone with her when she went out with her friends for a drink.

The court found that in a domestic violence incident, Mr Geason became enraged and grabbed the victim tightly by the arm, shook her repeatedly and after she struggled, pushed her so hard her head struck the mantelpiece. She was unable to recall any further detail. When her mum saw her, she was dishevelled, shaking, had vomit around her mouth, bruising caused by the assault and needed to be hospitalised.

There are not enough words to say what I think about men who commit domestic violence against women. High-profile cases such as this give legislators like us an opportunity to listen and understand public sentiment about these matters. I agree with the Premier that there needs to be trust in our system that perpetrators will be held to account. Tasmanians I know have no time for people who assault women, no time for people who put their loved ones' lives at risk, who stalk, intimidate and abuse emotionally and physically.

I thank the Premier for bringing this motion on today, I really do. As legislators we should use this opportunity to consider whether for assaults like the one I have just described, receiving only a 12-month community corrections order and 100 hours of community work really meets community expectations.

This is not a political statement. This is a statement about domestic violence. Sadly, there will be another Gregory Geason and there will be women who are at risk right now, women who are afraid to go home from work today because they feel unsafe when they go home. When the next woman comes forward, having been assaulted, to bravely tell her story, we want them to believe that the perpetrator will be dealt with justly. It is important that as legislators we reflect community expectations.

The House condemning today all forms of family and domestic violence is really important and it is important that we do that in all of our actions with the legislation we put through this place, the support we provide to victims and that we punish the perpetrators. I also commend the motion to the House.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.12 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin - Leader of the Greens) - Honourable Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Greens to stand with the parliament and welcome the opportunity it gives to condemn all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence against women and children and to foster a Tasmanian society that respects and protects women and children.

It is rare for parliament to be in agreement and it shows the seriousness of this issue and our commitment over the last decade and before for collective action and working together. The parliament has been united on this for more than a decade now and I acknowledge the work of the women and men who got this together 10 years ago and the work of Cassy O'Connor MLC, who was involved in organising the initial motion along with other members at the time.

It is fitting to speak about this terrible issue this week because 25 November marked 25 years of the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It also marked the start of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and White Ribbon Day, aimed at stopping men's violence against women and children.

I want to start with the facts we know about violence against women in all forms because they paint the shocking and unacceptable picture we need to continue to remind ourselves of to understand that we are in a crisis. One in two women experience sexual harassment in their lifetime; one in four Tasmanians have experienced sexual assault during childhood; one in four Australian women have experienced intimate partner violence by the age of 15; and one woman dies every week due to domestic and family violence in this country.

No matter who you are, as a woman you can be a victim of violence, but it is true that women with disability, Aboriginal women, LGBTIQ+ women, women from regional areas, women from culturally diverse backgrounds, older women and younger women are all more at risk. Women are more likely to experience violence from someone they know than from a stranger, and 31 per cent of women and 40 per cent of children and teenagers who experience homelessness have experienced family violence.

In 2021-22, the Tasmania Police attended 6743 family violence incidents. According to Counting Dead Women Australia, 66 women have been killed as a result of violence in Australia this year. We know some of those include Tasmanian women. We grieve with the families of women who have been murdered as a result of violence in Tasmania in particular.

Violence against women is clearly a crisis. The World Health Organization has described it as a global epidemic. The Prime Minister has described family violence as a national crisis. We must act now. If anything, it is hard to see what has changed in those statistics for the better in the last decade.

We live in a patriarchal social organising system. Men have historically held all power and authority and have shaped social norms and institutions. In our society, women have recently been the literal and legal chattels of husbands. Women can be married, have children and be mothers. We can cook and clean, but heaven forbid that we leave the kitchen, try to work, become educated or have an opinion.

Society has progressed in many ways. I acknowledge, respect and celebrate the feminists who for centuries have actively championed and put their bodies on the line for a better life for women and equality. There is no doubt that we have more liberties than we used to have. However, even using the word liberties tells us the status of women in society. It was only 50 years ago where this was still the dominant way of life for most women.

The roots of women's inequalities still run deep in our society today. Women do not have equal pay. We are not represented equally in senior positions in business or government. Our rights to determine what happens to our body are constantly under threat. We are represented as objects to dominate sexually and often violently in pornography that is pervasively shared amongst men. At its core, our society still does not respect women as people with a capacity and right to chart our own course in life.

Some men believe that a patriarchal society is a natural order of things, but it is just a human construct. There are hundreds of matrilineal societies where power is often shared amongst women and men. The dominant patriarchal culture that we live in is one that we must deconstruct if we want to stop violence against women and children, because it is at the heart of what drives that violence.

Women have the right to life, to equality with men, and to liberty on our own terms. All women deserve to be safe and respected. We all need to promote long term systemic changes that will improve healthy relationships between men and women based on equality. Women do often fear walking home at night. Most women I know would have keys at hand or spray if they did that.

The threat of random violence against women is ever present and real, but we have to recognise that even more so, women are at risk at home. Yes, men do and can experience family, domestic and sexual violence, but the statistics show it is overwhelmingly a greater issue for women and children. Men are more often than not the perpetrators of violence. It is typically women who are closest who are the target.

As women, we will not stop fighting to end family, domestic and sexual violence. The truth is, it is men who need to change, because it is men who are the perpetrators of violence against women. To all the men in the room who are watching or reading this, you have an obligation to change the men around you. It might seem a small thing to you to let a sexist joke from your mate go without comment, or to sit silent as a male colleague speaks over your female co-worker. These behaviours create a sexist society that reinforces a lack of respect for women. This ultimately justifies and normalises violence against women in relationships when women do not want to do what men want them to.

In this place, it is our responsibility to lead by example. In the last few months we have still heard sexist comments bandied about this Chamber. I acknowledge your efforts, honourable Speaker, for ending that culture in this Chamber. It is time for the leaders of our parties, and us as members to stand up and say no more sexist belittling comments about women.

A lot of work has been done in the past decade on addressing this issue, and I commend the government for that. The Safe at Home program, for example, is award-winning for its role in responding to family violence. The evidence still shows we need to go a lot further to make sure women and children are free from violence, and respected. We owe it to the brave victim/survivors who have shared their stories to do a lot more.

On behalf of the Greens, I thank and commend the work of the extraordinary frontline services in the war against women and thank the people who are in the chamber today, some of their representatives, and acknowledge the Women's Legal Service, Laurel House, SASS (Sexual Assault Support Service), Relationships Australia, Huon Valley Domestic Violence Services, Yemaya Women's Support Service, No to Violence, Hobart Women's Shelter, Engender Equality and all the others. These organisations help women flee from violent situations and receive the support they need to do that, with housing, counselling and legal assistance.

These services desperately need more financial support so they can continue to respond to the needs in the community, and a particular example of the extra support that is needed is in housing. Currently in Tasmania, there are still so many women who have to choose between staying with a violent partner or homelessness - often accompanied by children. I spoke to yet another woman in this situation only the other day. She has two children.

Shelter Tasmania reports 604 women in Tasmania become homeless after leaving a violent partner. Yet only one in every 20 women who are in family violence situations get the long-term housing that they need. That is a shameful situation. It is not just crisis centres. We need more social housing to ensure rapid rehousing.

We know enough, and we can and must bring extra mindfulness and effort to ensuring women in every sphere - personal relationship, workplace, social and political - are respected and free from violence. As Greens, we commit to doing everything we can to call out the precursors of family violence, socialised sexism and misogyny, and to work in good faith across the parliament to push for any and all actions that we can take to end family violence and to support those who support victim/survivors.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.22 p.m.]

Mrs PETRUSMA (Franklin - Minister for Health) - Honourable Speaker, it is an honour to speak on this motion, as I did 10 years ago. I pay tribute to the member for Lyons, Ms Badger, for her hard work in bringing this motion again before this House today.

Today, I thought I would provide some historical context to what did happen 10 years ago, and also to pay a tribute to the now-member for Hobart, Ms O'Connor MLC, as well as the honourable Lara Giddings. I appreciate that in this Chamber today, there are only nine of

us who were here 10 years ago to hear the first motion and to hear about the journey that led to the motion.

Back in 2014, I was the Minister for Women with zero dollars in the budget, not even an output in the budget chapter. I was also the Minister for Human Services, and every day I was looking at cases that were coming across my desk. It did not matter if it was child safety, youth justice, disability, housing, homelessness, community and family services, family violence counselling support services, financial counselling, gambling support, elder abuse - I had all those in the Human Services portfolio - with the number-one underlier for all of these was family violence.

I was trying to gain media attention in regard to family violence. We were sending out media releases. I was speaking to regional newspapers. In fact, one editor said to me, 'But it does not happen down here'. I thought, 'It is not a case of "how green is my valley"'. I was trying to tell them the statistics show otherwise and family violence is one of the causes of homelessness and housing in this area; it is why we are building child and family centres.

Then I thought, I need to do something about this. Ms O'Connor had had the Human Services portfolio before me. It did not have child safety and youth justice when she had it, but I went to her and said, 'I think we need to make this tripartisan. If we can make this a tripartisan issue, finally the media might actually stand up and start paying attention.' Ms O'Connor was very receptive and said, 'I would love to work with you on it. Let's speak to Lara as well'. We went to Ms Giddings and Ms Giddings said she would love to work with it too. Together, we were trying to think of the best way to get media attention, to raise this issue. Together, we wrote the motion, and the three leaders stood up, and it was a fantastic awareness-raising. The gallery was packed out upstairs. People were even in the reception room downstairs. The three of us were very excited because we thought, finally, this will get attention.

There was no media that night. There was no media mention in the newspapers the next day even. This was the first time I could remember in my four-plus years of being a member that all three parties had come together on a motion, which went for a few hours, to say 'enough is enough'. I was a bit devastated. Cassy said, 'It's alright. We are going to march together and go to the *Mercury* newspaper'. The three of us made an appointment with the editor at the time, Matt Deighton. He basically said that because there was a no-confidence motion that day, and other issues were happening, there was not enough room in the newspaper. We were a bit lost for words. Then we visited him again, and he said, 'Alright, you can do an op-ed.' Together, the three of us wrote an op-ed. Then it received a bit more media attention. Then they did an article on the three of us together.

Then, tragically, at the same time, around the nation there was outrage because of the tragic case of Luke Batty, and Rosie's great work - and I acknowledge the great work of Rosie here today. She came down to Tasmania and we spent a few days together going around and then, as a nation, there started to be this outcry where more and more people were saying 'enough is enough'. That led to the 'Man Up' campaign in the *Mercury*, which then led to the first, second and third action plan. I am very grateful for the government because \$100 million was provided for family violence and sexual violence services in the third action plan.

I have learnt over the last decade that if we do not keep on speaking up, it still goes back into the shadows. It is still hidden, where people just think, 'Well, there is an action plan. That is not happening anymore'. With the statistics being that one-in-four women experience family

and sexual violence, that means someone you know, somewhere, is an abuser, which means someone you know somewhere is a victim. That is why we have to keep on working together.

To all my colleagues here today, I say thank you for all your efforts in trying to raise awareness about violence against women. The sad fact is, when we finish this motion - that is three hours - and in the motion, as it says, every 10 minutes a woman is killed across the world as a result of gender-based violence - that means by 2.52 p.m., three hours after we started this motion, somewhere around the world, 18 women have been killed.

Honourable Speaker, I am forever grateful to Ms O'Connor and Ms Giddings for working with me on this issue. It did lead to enduring change. I call on all members of parliament – I probably will not be here in 10 years - if you are here in 10 years, please do another motion so that together we can keep on raising awareness for future generations.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.29 p.m.]

Mrs PENTLAND (Bass) - Honourable Speaker, I also congratulate Ms Badger for bringing this to the House.

Today, we stand together in this Chamber not just as representatives of our electorates, but as leaders with a solemn responsibility to continue our fight against one of the most disgusting and appalling issues of our time - violence against women and girls. This November marks a decade since the parliament first united to condemn all forms of violence against women. It is a decade in which we have made some progress, but as we reflect on where we are today, it is clear our work is far from over.

Monday of this week marked the 25th year of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. It is a day of global reflection, a day to honour the victims, but more importantly, it is a call to action. It also begins the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a campaign this year aptly titled Every 10 Minutes, because in 2023 a woman was killed every 10 minutes somewhere in the world due to gender-based violence. Every 10 minutes. That is horrendous.

In Australia, the statistics are no less shocking. One in four Australian women have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner since the age of 15. Behind that statistic are real lives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends.

The World Health Organization has described violence against women as a global epidemic, and our own Prime Minister has rightly called family violence a national crisis. In our beautiful island state, we are not immune.

Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan, Survivors at the Centre outlined a vision for a safer, more equal and respectful Tasmania. It is a plan with promise, but a plan alone is not enough. Progress has been made, though we must acknowledge the stark reality. Our work is not done. Realising change demands a commitment from all of us, not just within these walls, but across all levels of government and crucially, within our communities.

True prevention begins with proactive measures across our communities. As I mentioned in this House last week, I believe we need a comprehensive domestic, family and sexual violence prevention program. We must teach our young people early and often that violence

towards women and girls is never acceptable. They also need the tools to navigate social pressure of the digital world where harmful attitudes can take root.

As a mother of two young sons, this issue is deeply personal. I want to raise my boys in a world where respect for women and girls is a given, not an exception, where they understand that violence is never the answer, and where women are valued, respected and safe, not just in their homes, but in every corner of our society.

Today, we recommit as a parliament to stand together and condemn all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence. We must foster a society that respects and protects women and children. Words are not enough. We call on every Tasmanian to be part of this change, to be a strong advocate, to stand up and speak out, and to send the message that family, domestic and sexual violence is a crime. It is not acceptable. Not now, not ever.

Let us honour the victims, not just with moments of silence, but with a lifetime of action. The true measure of this society is how we protect the most vulnerable among us.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.33 p.m.]

Ms BADGER (Lyons) - Honourable Speaker, across Australia this year alone, 86 women that we know of have been killed by an intimate partner. If we were to observe a minute's silence now, that would not be enough for a second for each of those women to reflect on their lives.

One in four women and one in eight men in Australia have experienced violence by an intimate partner or family member. One in five women and one in 16 men have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15. Some women are at heightened risk of experiencing violence. The Department of Premier and Cabinet's safety and justice information highlights that 90% of Australian women with an intellectual disability have been subject to sexual abuse, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are five times more likely to experience physical violence. It is not good enough and it must stop. We all deserve to be safe wherever we go, not least in our own homes.

This year in May, the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, declared domestic violence in Australia a national crisis. This action followed rallies around the country attended by tens of thousands of people bravely sharing their stories and standing united to eliminate violence against women. No matter who we are, where we come from, where we live, we can be subject to family, domestic or sexual violence.

Ending violence against women in a generation, as the Prime Minister pledged, will take all levels of government, every single person in this state, indeed, around the world, to create societal change, legislative and systemic reform. That is why today's recommitment is important in creating a safer, equal Tasmanian community. Today, like in 2014, this motion is being proactive. It is us standing up and saying that enough is enough and that we will do all we can, not being reactive to something in the media or the like.

Thank you to the Premier, Mr Rockliff, for leading by example for all Tasmanian men today, by standing here tabling this motion to show all Tasmanians that family, domestic and sexual violence have no place in a modern, equal society. Also, thank you to minister Palmer and her staff for preparing the motion collaboratively.

A lot has changed in Tasmania and socially to people around the world in the decades since the original White Ribbon motion was discussed. I acknowledge, as others have done, the members who tabled the 2014 pledge: then premier Will Hodgman, Bryan Green, and Kim Booth. Propping up these male leaders were three extraordinary women who organised the motion: Cassy O'Connor, Lara Giddings, and Jacquie Petrusma, who was the person who spoke with me at the start of the year and inspired to bring this motion back for a recommitment.

As minister Palmer state this morning, today's recommitment is a reminder of our roles across each and every one of our portfolios, our shadow portfolios or ministries. This is a revision to ensure Tasmania addresses new challenges that we face and admits when we have not done enough in the past.

In the past decade, Tasmania has led the nation on various programs, such as the award-winning Safe at Home program. We have seen our family violence legislation broadened to include non-fatal strangulations, the persistence of family violence, and pets, into the *Family Violence Act*. Thank you, Mr O'Byrne.

We welcome ongoing measures such as Tasmania Police undergoing training to help them do the best job that they can in heated, brutal and complex situations. Tasmania is also well on the way to establishing a family violence peak body, as per one of the commission of inquiry's recommendations. In the past decade, we have come to better understand more complex forms of emotional abuse and coercive control.

As technology has advanced, sadly, so has its weaponisation in family violence. Monday's results released from the Social Research Centre highlighted the silent menace of tech-based control: digitally tracking a partner's whereabouts, sharing and controlling their passwords, and the like. The study showed that one in 10 Australians consider tracking their partner's location as reasonable behaviour, and that men are far more likely to view tech-based monitoring as acceptable.

The eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said:

For too long, the gravity of technology-facilitated gender-based violence has been downplayed.

Social media now facilitates an instant means of sharing hate - and indeed, as Ms White noted yesterday, words such as those by Trump that glorify assault on women. These new challenges emphasise why today's renewed commitment is timely.

What has stayed the same in the past decade is the collective collaboration from all MPs to stand against domestic, family and sexual violence in Tasmania. This is sector-celebrated and something that all MPs should be proud of.

However, collaboration alone is not something to rest upon. We have an obligation to upscale our present work to make Tasmania safe, to ensure Tasmanian women and children can flee unsafe situations, and that they will receive the care that they need to recover and get back on their feet, and live their lives without fear in our beautiful state. It is crucial that we upscale educating Tasmanian children, at home and in schools, about respectful relationships,

consent, and how they will be the ones who create the most caring, kind and harmonious Tasmania, as Mrs Pentland's motion called on last week.

It is important to acknowledge that the more we speak about eliminating family, domestic and sexual violence in Tasmania, and that the more services we can offer those fleeing unsafe situations, there will be more people who come forward. That is why it is not straightforward to see direct investment equate to a reduction in incidents.

This is why we need a holistic approach. We need to fund frontline services, legal services, and counselling services. We must also ensure outreach programs are funded, that there is ongoing education for Tasmania's next generation, and that we not only have enough crisis shelter accommodation and transitional houses, but also safe, appropriate and affordable long-term housing available to women and children who have escaped family violence.

The lack of affordable housing in Tasmania is hitting women and children hardest and is resulting in women and children staying in unsafe situations. Shelter Tasmania's recent report found that each year an estimated 933 Tasmanian women are returning to a violent partner or entering homelessness after experiencing family violence due to a lack of housing. Just one in 20 women experiencing family violence and identified as needing long-term housing actually received that long-term housing. The solution is to build more social housing that is fit for purpose; whole homes suitable for families. This crisis is even more acute in the north-west and we call on the government to do all it can to act on the findings of Anglicare's recent report *Unsafe Unhoused* to prioritise the north-west region of Tasmania when allocating funding for supports to assist victim/survivors of domestic and family violence.

The fact that support and legal systems can be weaponised against women is widely acknowledged. The federal government's own Economic Inclusion Advisory Committee has noted the ways that social security and child support systems can be used by perpetrators to continue to exercise coercive control over their partners, as well as limiting women's choices about leaving because of the sheer financial impossibility of doing so. We heard yesterday with Ms Johnston's bill how the Tasmanian legal system can be misused in relation to family violence orders (FVOs). I thank the member for Clark for providing solutions.

To eliminate gendered violence we need to address the many drivers and influences, such as gambling and alcohol addiction, mental health and financial stress. Why would we not as a state, and indeed the country, upscale investment into broader social mitigation? The costs of not doing so are substantial, with great direct and indirect tangible and intangible costs to individuals, families and the broader community.

I am sure all members will concur that words of thanks are not enough to express the deep gratitude we all share for the extraordinary frontline and support services who save lives every day. They are organisations such as Women's Legal Services, Laurel House, SASS, Relationships Australia and Warrawee Women's Shelter, just to name a few of those extraordinary organisations.

I acknowledge all victim/survivors. Thank you to those who shared their stories and relived their trauma and advocacy to better our systems and to keep others safe. I am sorry to all who have been hurt by coming forward to seek help and safety by finding that our systems in place can be flawed and that one size does not fit all. Know that we will continue to commit to doing all we can to fix those and ensure they are as functional and safe as they can be.

Thank you also to the friends, families and the neighbours who stepped in and stepped up to seek those to help those seeking refuge and who called out other men when they made sexist or disrespectful comments or minimised violence.

We have a lot of work to do. We welcome reviewing the *Family Violence Act* to ensure that it is contemporary and again nation leading. Further focusing on coercive control is another important step, and broadening the definitional scope of family violence to go beyond intimate partnerships to children and parents is also a good start. Perhaps when parliamentary resources permit, Tasmania could lead the nation in establishing a joint standing committee on the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence. Such a committee could report back to both places on the intersected matters that cause and prevent such violence, and whether we have the best possible measures in place to support women and children, to review overlapping legislation to ensure it is all fit for purpose and to ensure that we are doing all we can to make Tasmania a safe, equal and caring island.

After this motion today, we as elected representatives have significant responsibility and opportunity to lead by example, to set the standards of respectful language that we expect all Tasmanians to be using to each other, but particularly towards women, how we ask questions, how we respond to questions, the phrases we shout when interjecting and so on. Everything we say in this place is amplified and socialised throughout the state. In a generation's time, may everyone be able to go home in Tasmania and feel safe. May women walk and run alone at night and may equality be the new norm, not just a goal.

We support the motion and the Greens commit to doing all we can to make Tasmania a safe place. We are proud to stand in a united parliament that rises above politics and condemns all forms a family, domestic and sexual violence and strives to foster a society that respects all women and children in Tasmania.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.45 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Attorney-General) - Honourable Speaker, I acknowledge and thank the Premier for bringing this motion forward and Tabatha Badger, Greens member for Lyons, for initiating that. I also want to acknowledge Jacquie Petrusma, a colleague and friend, for being here 10 years ago with seven others and taking that leadership role with Lara Giddings and Cassy O'Connor. Likewise, I acknowledge my colleague, Jo Palmer, in her leadership role as Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence.

We reflect on the past decade since this parliament took the important step of condemning all forms of violence against women. The commitment marked a shared determination to create a safer, more equitable society for women and children across Tasmania. We have made significant progress, but it is equally important to acknowledge the challenges that remain and the ongoing work required to eliminate violence in all its forms.

Over the past 10 years, the parliament has made substantial progress in strengthening our laws to protect women and children from family violence. In terms of some of those initiatives, in this last week I want to acknowledge the independent member for Franklin, David O'Byrne, and the independent member for Clark, Kristie Johnston, for their initiatives to progress those reforms as well.

Our government has also implemented transformative initiatives such as the Safe Home, Safe Families Action Plan, which has been referred to earlier in remarks. It brought together \$26 million in funding to address family violence through prevention, early intervention and improved victim support. Taking Action: Tasmania's Primary Prevention Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children, tackles violence at its roots by challenging harmful attitudes, behaviours and gender inequality that enable violence to persist. These strategies have not only provided critical support services but also fostered a cultural shift towards intolerance of violence in our communities.

In terms of those support services, I acknowledge the sexual assault support services here today and Laurel House as well in the Chamber, and of course the many other stakeholder organisations across the community.

In terms of the growing understanding of the different forms of violence can take in a relationship and a growing awareness of the different patterns that exist, coercive control and the pattern of controlling and manipulative behaviours is now recognised as underpinning much violence. It can be much harder to recognise because the abuse can be subtle and targeted. Unfortunately, we have seen that coercive control is particularly prevalent in relationships where there is an imbalance of power. That imbalance is often gendered and can involve perpetrators manipulating or exploiting circumstances where a victim/survivor is reliant on the perpetrator, for example, due to disability, age or financial circumstances. I want to recognise that coercive control not only impacts the victim but their friends, their families and the communities surrounding them. That is why a whole-of-society approach is needed to address coercive control.

On 22 September last year, national principles to address coercive control in family and domestic violence were introduced. These principles are a culmination of the work of the Australian and state and territory governments to identify common features and impacts of coercive control. One of these two key national principles is an increasing understanding of the gendered and intersectional drivers and dynamics of coercive control. Just last Friday at the Standing Council of Attorneys-General, we spent much time discussing family and sexual violence and the ways that we can collectively, across this country and in each jurisdiction, take further steps to address this scourge on our community.

The legislation and government programs are vital, but we must also recognise the power of community-driven change. The initiatives that have been referred to, such as the annual walk for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children, serve as a visible reminder of our collective responsibilities. These events bring people together from all walks of life to stand united against violence. Organisations such as Engender Equality, the Women's Legal Service Tasmania and others play a very important role.

Last week, the Premier and I both spoke at an event with over 70 male state public servants who gathered for a day-long workshop titled Sex, Violence and Murder: The Conversation We Have To Start. The workshop was an opportunity for our senior male state service employees to learn to engage in conversations on the role men can play in preventing family violence.

I was also honoured to attend last week's coercive control training in partnership with our Safe at Home Tasmania and the Small Steps for Hannah Foundation. Over 400 people from more than 75 government and non-government organisations participated in this series of

workshops designed to help them more effectively identify and respond to coercive control. Hearing the lived experience of Hannah's family was incredibly powerful. I have no doubt that the information communicated, particularly about how to recognise the signs of coercive control, will save lives.

I acknowledge the achievements, but there is no room for complacency. Additionally, we must recognise the disproportionate impact of violence on marginalised groups, including women with disabilities, Indigenous women, and women with cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds. We want to reaffirm our commitment and that is what this motion does today. As we mark the significant milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to a Tasmania free from violence against women. Free from violence, full stop.

Importantly, this is not just a task for our government alone. Every Tasmanian has a role to play to create safe homes, safe communities and a safe state. I would like to take this moment to thank the individuals and organisations who have dedicated themselves to this cause. Your efforts, whether through policy making, frontline work, raising awareness, saving lives and changing futures is the outcome and that is appreciated.

In closing, I urge all of us to remain steadfast in our commitment to ending violence against women and standing together. We can make a difference.

Members - Hear, hear.

[12.52 p.m.]

Ms BROWN (Franklin) - Honourable Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of this important motion and I want to thank the Premier and Ms Badger for their work and advocacy in this motion. This motion which not only acknowledges a decade since the parliament first united to condemn all forms of violence against women, but also highlights the ongoing required work to build a Tasmania where every woman and girl can live free from fear, violence and inequality. Speaker, I want to acknowledge your part in this sector as the former shadow for the Prevention of Family Violence.

25 November 2024 marked the 25th year of the International Day of the Elimination of Violence against Women. This day also marked the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gendered Violence, which this year's global campaign, titled Every 10 Minutes, is a sobering theme that draws attention to the fact on average, globally, in 2023 a woman was killed every 10 minutes as a result of gendered violence. This is astonishing. These statistics are a devastating reminder of the urgent need for action. These are not just words to address the crisis of violence against women and girls.

This motion reminds us of the grim reality closer to home. One in four Australian women have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15. Now, this is not just a statistic, this is a call of action to each and every one of us. Every number represents a woman, a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend whose lives have been changed and altered due to this violence.

In April this year, our Prime Minister rightfully described family violence as a national crisis. The World Health Organisation has classified violence against women as a global epidemic. These acknowledgements reinforce what so many Tasmanians already know; that family, domestic and sexual violence against women and girls is never acceptable, and we must

do more to address them. As a parliament and as a community, we must commit ourselves to a vision and to serious reform in this scope. We must send a message that family, domestic and sexual violence is a crime and it is never acceptable under any circumstances.

This is not just a task for governments. It requires a whole-of-community approach. Change will only come when every Tasmanian takes responsibility for the challenging attributes, behaviours and systematic barriers that allow violence to persist. We must reflect on how far we have come, but also, more importantly, how far there is to go. We must remember that the work is far from over. Those who are relying on us and those who are at risk every single day depend on our collective action.

First and foremost, I express my deepest respect and recognition for the victims and survivors of family, sexual and domestic violence. Their resilience, strength and courage in the face of unimaginable adversity should serve as a reminder and inspiration for each and every one of us in this Chamber. Every time a survivor speaks out, shares a story or takes the brave step forward of leaving a dangerous situation, they are sending us a message that we cannot afford to ignore. It is the duty of every single person in this place to listen and to act on their behalf.

I acknowledge the extraordinary work of individuals and organisations that support the survivors. We have a few in the Chamber today - thank you so much for your work. They are the unsung heroes in our community. They work tirelessly - often underfunded and overwhelmed - to provide desperately needed care, counselling and legal support for victims. They play a critical role in providing support to women and children to rebuild their lives and protect their families. They are the ones that show up when the system fails them. It is time that we showed up for them.

These statistics are a sobering reminder. Over the past decade, Tasmania has seen a 158 per cent increase in reported incidents of sexual violence. While greater reporting may reflect the increase in awareness, it also underscores the prevalence of violence in our communities. Further, many victims remain silent due to stigma or systematic failures.

The ongoing housing crisis only compounds these challenges. Every year, more and more Tasmanian women become homeless after fleeing violent relationships, with over half eventually returning to these unsafe homes due to lack of alternatives. Shelters like the Hobart Women's Shelter turn away up to 80 per cent of women who seek refuge due to capacity constraints. This is an unacceptable failure.

We must act to ensure that every woman and child fleeing violence has access to safe, secure housing. Many organisations that provide support to victim/survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence have waitlists that stretch for months, leaving individuals without timely access to vital support. The wait is often too long, and many victims continue to suffer whilst waiting for assistance. For some, it comes too late.

This parliament must also address the challenges faced by women and children in our rural and remote communities. The expansion of the Arch centres in the north-west is a positive step forward, but more must be done to ensure equitable access to services across Tasmania.

In closing, I acknowledge the progress that has been made over the last decade, but I also acknowledge how far there still is to go. The task before us is immense, but it is not

insurmountable. As this motion makes clear, creating real change requires a united effort across all levels of government.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

MOTION

Elimination of Gender-Based Violence

Resumed from above.

[2.30 p.m.]

Ms BROWN (Franklin) - Honourable Speaker, I reiterate some of my comments from before the lunch break. This motion makes clear that creating real change will require a united front and united effort from all levels of government, every community, and every Tasmanian. Let us recommit, as a parliament and as a society, to condemning all forms of violence against women and girls. Let us strive to build a Tasmania where every woman and child is safe, valued and respected. Let us send a powerful message that family, domestic and sexual violence has no place in our homes, our community, and this world.

Today, we must also remember the victims who have tragically lost their lives to this violence. Their families and their loved ones carry on with the weight of their loss every day. We must ensure that their stories continue to inform our efforts to create a future free from violence, fear, and to break the cycle of abuse. I commend the motion to the House.

Members - Hear, hear.

The SPEAKER - There being no further speakers, I want to say from the Chair that, as someone who has campaigned in this area for 40 years and been a member of parliament for 26 years, there is no time that parliament is better than when we join together to do these sorts of motions to support people in Tasmania. I thank all members for their contribution. The motion asks that we stand together to condemn all forms of family, domestic and sexual violence. Please do so now to signify your assent.

Motion agreed to.

LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT) BILL 2024 (No. 49)

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendment.

[2.33 p.m.]

Mr ELLIS (Braddon - Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That the message be taken into consideration forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

**LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING
DEVELOPMENT) BILL 2024 (No. 49)**

In Committee - Consideration of Legislative Council Amendments

Mr ELLIS (Braddon - Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs) - Deputy Chair, I move -

That the amendments of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

While we proposed the bill as originally written and passed through here, and we think that is the ideal legislation, we are also supportive of the legislation as amended.

Legislative Council amendments agreed to.

Resolution reported.

Resolution agreed to.

TABLED PAPER

Draft Bail Bill 2024

[2.34 p.m.]

Mr BARNETT (Lyons - Attorney-General) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, I table the draft Bail Bill 2024, which is being released for consultation and feedback by 2 February 2025.

**LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS (STONY RISE DEVELOPMENT
APPROVAL) BILL 2024 (No. 52)**

Bill returned from the Legislative Council with amendment.

[2.35 p.m.]

Mr ELLIS (Braddon - Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs) - Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the message be taken into consideration forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

LAND USE PLANNING AND APPROVALS (STONY RISE DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL) BILL 2024 (No. 52)

In Committee - Consideration of Legislative Council Amendments

Ms BURNET - Deputy Chair, pursuant to Standing Order 226, I move -

That the bill be laid aside.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Do you want to speak to the motion?

Ms BURNET - In speaking to this motion and the reasons for moving the Standing Order, we have before us a very controversial development spot rezoning, if you like. The Stony Rise development concerns that we had were raised in this place, and certainly there were concerns raised in the other place in relation to this bill. In speaking to it, this bill has come about as a result of some serious concerns about process but also lack of response to running strategic planning from the state government.

In relation to this application, the application was put to the council, it was approved, and it went to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, based on poor strategic planning and, unfortunately, the state government not keeping up with strategic planning in that the strategic land use strategy was well out-of-date. This has been a litany of disasters and certainly a concern. The Greens are of the opinion that this is not suitable to be endorsed by this parliament.

You might remember from the debate previously that the land use strategy was well out-of-date and, no matter how suitable or unsuitable the application might have been before the council and before the Planning Commission, it was considered unsuitable. Since that time, we have heard and read in the papers this morning, or read online, the concerns about political donations to the Liberal Party, who are in government at this time, and whether that has had some sort of influence in this decision-making, or not.

This motion has been put forward because we are very concerned about this process and how this has occurred. It is something that we feel that, whether it's Stony Rise in the north-west, whether it was another application somewhere else, this is not the way that there should be this ministerial interference, this stepping up to ram through proposals that may or may not be suitable.

It does not matter how suitable it is, but what we have seen is a perversion in how this should be prosecuted and how a planning system should be working. We have one development application, now, a spot rezoned by both Houses of Parliament. The Greens are very concerned about this, and that is why this has been moved today.

Mr ELLIS - Deputy Chair, we will be voting against this proposed motion. This is nothing more than sour grapes from the Greens in trying to disrupt the democratic decision of both Houses of parliament. Still, even after the debate, they are peddling falsehoods regards the local retail hierarchy, and a lack of understanding, which I would have thought that a number of days of debate would have made clearer to the Greens. I believe the reflections from the Leader of the Greens this morning to effectively call both Houses of parliament corrupt was nothing short of disgraceful.

People will not be surprised by the Greens' behaviour here in moving this motion, but they will certainly be disappointed. Our government backs this development, our parliament has backed this development, and we should get on and get tradies onto the site in the north-west and start building this project.

Dr BROAD - Deputy Chair, I also confirm that Labor will not be supporting this motion. We are here to debate the merits of the amendment. Those arguments were run and lost. I do not believe, in the member's contribution, that she added any new detail. I would like to get on and have a look at the amendment that has come from the other place.

Dr WOODRUFF - Deputy Chair, the Greens obviously brought this on because it is a controversial, shonky matter, and we have new information. The new information that has come through last night from the developer, under questioning in a briefing from the members of the other place, is quite happy to reveal that yes, donations were made to the Liberal Party.

We actually have two different recollections of the conversation that have been on *Hansard*, recorded from members of the other place. Ms Forrest said that she found out in the briefing that Tipalea had made donations to the Liberal Party. Ms Webb said in the briefing it was donated to a person, or people, or the Liberal Party. What we do not know is who in the Liberal Party received money from Tipalea. In fact, is there anyone in this Chamber who received money from Tipalea - because let us be clear, the Premier has refused to be honest with Tasmanians about what is going on.

We asked the Premier last Thursday, before this bill came on, before we debated in the House, whether the Liberal Party had received donations from the developer of the proposal that his government had on the books to fast-track through parliament as a bill that very day. He did not give us an answer - he did not confirm or deny, but on such a serious matter, silence speaks volumes. It might not speak volumes to the people in this room, but it certainly does to people across Tasmania. They can see that as a duck-and-hide move.

Yesterday, we asked the Premier again whether or not he had known about any donations that were made to the Liberal Party. We asked him that today and he said that the first thing he had heard was yesterday. Well, yesterday was the same day that the Tipalea director did confirm to the Legislative Council that donations were made. When pushed, he said that he had only just heard it the day before. We do not believe that and I do not think it stands up in the court of popular opinion. It is just unbelievable that this developer, who took out two - not one, but two - full-page advertisements in local newspapers telling people in parliament, telling the government to bring in special fast-tracking legislation to override the Planning Commission and the Tasmanian planning laws and push through their development. We have no comment to make about the development. Our comment is about the process and the fact that the Liberals have been shamelessly hiding from Tasmanians.

It is a fact that they got money from Tipalea, the developers. That is what they were hiding from Tasmanians, and the only reason it came out is because there was a briefing in the Legislative Council last night and it became clear because the developer obviously does not mind being honest. It is only the Liberals that have a problem with being honest.

It is the Liberals who are deceiving Tasmanians and refusing to say what is really going on with the reason to create a special piece of legislation never before seen in Tasmania. Never before has it ever happened that a developer has gone to a government, the same government

it has given money to - to either individual people or to the party generally; that has yet to be determined - and got that government to push through not a special piece of legislation that would create a fast-tracking process of assessment, but actually to approve it on the spot.

There is utter silence from the Labor Party because the Labor Party needs to be clear. Did you get money from Tipalea as well? Do you know if you did? Are you going to tell Tasmanians or are you going to get someone else come up here and tell Tasmanians whether you got money from Tipalea, or is it individual members or the party? How will we know? If you have nothing to hide, why do you not tell Tasmanians whether you did or did not get money from Tipalea, or get on the phone, ring up and find out, because we should all know when this legislation is being fast-tracked through, never before seen in the history of Tasmania, overriding our planning laws.

There is no precedent for this to have a complete development picked up without any other process when it has been kicked out of the Planning Commission because of failures which can be fixed. It is not the end of the line for this developer. They just have to do what the Planning Commission says the planning scheme requires of them, just like every other developer. They do not get a special deal - unless they have made a donation to the Liberal Party. Maybe then you get a special deal.

We want the minister to say whether he was one of the people. We do not know. Minister, maybe you can confirm - have you received any money from Tipalea? According to the member for Nelson, Ms Webb, what she heard was that Tipalea had donated to a person or people of the Liberal Party. Are we talking candidates who are not here? Are we talking people who are here, or maybe even ministers who are responsible for the Planning portfolio? How would we know? There is radio silence from that side of the room.

It is a dangerous precedent for Tasmania and we will not be supporting it. We will not be supporting the fact that it got here in the first place because it had a process through the Planning Commission and it continues to have a process. All the developer has to do is what everyone else has to do. All they have to do to get it reassessed would be to submit a transport plan because they did not do a transport plan.

Mr Winter - That is not how it works. You do not understand a single thing about this.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Dr WOODRUFF - The application was rejected due to concerns about the lack of public transport, the impact on other towns and commercial centres in the region. There is a fix to this and it is not about overriding the planning scheme. It is not about doing it at the same time as you are on the record for getting donations from that developer. That is stinky; that looks like corruption. It sounds like corruption. It is a dangerous precedent in Tasmania and the fact that it is here at all is wrong. The fact it was rushed through last week without any opportunity other than a full-page advertisement in the *Mercury* and other newspapers, I am sure, telling MPs how to vote - 'Please, would you mind giving me a special deal?' The Greens do not support those sorts of special deals, because there should be an even playing field for all developers in Tasmania, not just the ones who have donated to the Liberal and Labor parties.

Mr Winter - You would say no to all of them equally.

Dr WOODRUFF - Mr Winter is in the Chamber. I am sure he would be pleased to confirm whether the Labor Party has also had donations from Tipalea. That would be great to know. Do you know, Mr Winter? You could find out.

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - One second, Dr Woodruff. I can see the way the interjections are going in this debate. I am sure other members will want to respond to Dr Woodruff and will want to be heard in relative silence, so I ask that Dr Woodruff be heard in silence from now on and comments be directed through the Chair, so we can try to keep a handle on this debate as it goes ahead.

Dr WOODRUFF - We dissent to parliament being misused like this. We dissent because it is an abuse of our parliamentary processes. It was pushed through, it is an abuse of our planning laws and it is abuse of the Planning Commission and their work. It is basically an utter disregard for the processes of law and for the transparency and confidence of the Tasmanian people.

That is on your head, members of the Liberal Party. You will have to face people and make a justification for doing something so shonky and underhanded. You are responsible for bringing Tasmania to a new low. This has never happened in Tasmania, despite the cable car enabling legislation and the pulp mill enabling legislation. It is a new low. Stony Rise will go down on the books and now we know for sure that money was given to the Liberal Party before it came to this place. Shame on you.

[2.52 p.m.]

Mr ABETZ - I will speak very briefly. The so-called 'exposé' that occurred yesterday evening or afternoon in the Legislative Council was information with which the Legislative Council was clothed prior to the vote. As everybody knows, this is a minority government, therefore nothing gets through this House, let alone the other House, without a majority of members.

The allegation is that moneys were paid to the Liberal Party by the developer. Let us be clear: the Labor Party voted for this as well, as did - as I understand it - a majority of the independents. The developer took out a full-page advertisement in the newspapers. Shock, horror. The Bob Brown Foundation never takes out full-page advertisements to try to affect its outcomes. Of course it does and so it should; it is part of our democratic process. People are allowed to take out full-page advertisements to make their case known to the public.

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr ABETZ - This is a development worthy of support, overwhelmingly supported by the community and local council. We all know that if this development can go ahead as expeditiously as possible, the Tasmanian community will benefit from the investment which will create jobs. The shopping complex will provide extra competition within the community at large and that helps bring prices down. It helps deal with cost-of-living issues. That is why we as a government are supportive of these types of developments.

If the Leader of the Greens says she has no comment about the development, then let it go through this afternoon. Let us not continue the delay, and let us not seek to besmirch people or a party in relation to donations. I suspect people who support the Greens make donations to them to vote in particular ways for whatever.

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr ABETZ - No, they do not. There is a different standard. I caught them out. I thought they would come in hook, line and sinker and they did, which makes my point and means I do not have to delay the House further.

Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, that contribution from the Leader of the House was laughable. Standing Order 226 provides for this situation - for a bill with amendments from the other place like this to be laid aside. While the leader of government business will make the case that the Legislative Council was clothed with the information about the donations admitted by the developer, that is our very point. This House was not clothed with that information when we made our decision.

We were not clothed with the knowledge, now on the public record, that Tipalea had donated to someone or something, whether it was the Liberal Party itself or candidates running for election. It could have even been the minister who tabled this bill in this parliament and ran the debate on it. The difference today compared to last week - last week was bad enough - you suspended Standing Orders, you did not let this bill mature for long enough, you rammed it through our House so you could ram it through the upper House.

Mr Jaensch - You cannot ram it through in minority. The parliament decided and you lost.

Mr BAYLEY - You suspended Standing Orders to do it. The parliament was not clothed with the information, and now we know that somewhere down the line, the Liberal Party and/or its candidates received money from this developer.

Leader of government business, this is chalk and cheese to the Bob Brown Foundation. Of course they put an ad in the paper.

Members interjecting.

Mr BAYLEY - They are not seeking to make a massive profit from a development with special favours -

DEPUTY CHAIR - Mr Bayley, if you direct your comments through the Chair you might avoid such interjections.

Mr BAYLEY - Irrespective of the merits of the project or the community support that we have heard about in this Chamber, the reality is it is non-compliant with elements of land use strategy, traffic management and the like. The Planning Commission found that it was non-compliant. It should simply go through the process. There is no justification for putting ads in the paper to make your case for this.

The proponent said it in his own words. He said he hates doing these ads. He feels like an 'entitled twat' doing this. That is what he wrote in his newspaper ad. He should feel entitled because it is entitled. It is completely entitled to think that you can publish an ad, pay a political party or a candidate, possibly even the minister, and get legislation put into this House and pushed through in a rush. They should not be allowed to get away with it, but they do. That is the sad thing.

I have had a lot of people call me up and say how is it that the Liberal Party, re-elected in minority, are worse than they were in majority? They are doing worse things in minority than they were when they were in majority. The simple fact is because the Labor Party let them get away with it. The Labor Party backs them every step of the way, and there is no daylight between the Liberal and Labor parties when it comes to these kinds of dodgy issues.

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr BAYLEY - That is the reason. There is no daylight between the two of them.

This is why property developers are banned from giving donations in many other jurisdictions, including New South Wales, where they have been caught out for giving donations and corrupting the process.

It begs the question: where does this end? We now have a review of kunanyi/Mount Wellington, a completely cooked up review headed by the Minister for Business, Industry and Resources and State Growth via a steering committee of heads of departments. That review is clearly trying to change the frame about how that place is managed so it can make the case for a new application for a cable car that may or may not be assessed against the planning scheme and the management plan. There may or may not even be a management plan.

This sets the precedent for special legislation to be passed for development such as a kunanyi cable car, or indeed many of the other problematic proposals that Tasmania has seen over many years.

It has been mentioned that this parliament has passed special legislation for other developments in the past, including the cable car and pulp mills, but this is unique in the context of a private commercial developer having special legislation given to them.

Without wanting to pre-empt an order of the day, there are other issues we are going to discuss today that go exactly in this space, which is the government pre-empting a process, cutting out the community, diminishing community voices, making decisions against evidence, or without any evidence, and at the end of the day, perverting process along the way.

That is exactly why we think this bill should be laid aside. There is critical new information that has emerged in this space. Who knows who may need to investigate this into the future. From our perspective, it certainly warrants investigation from a body such as the Integrity Commission, as toothless and as underfunded as it is.

This is exactly why the Integrity Commission has such limited powers and is funded the way it is. It does not have the capacity to do the work that this state needs, to actually look into

the dark corners of our democracy and the dark places where these kinds of deals are made, and make some adjudications and square it away.

I want to reiterate that the Standing Orders provide for bills to be laid aside. It is unfortunate that the Labor Party are going to back in the Liberal Party again on this and waive it through. Irrespective, there is new information on the table that really begs the question about the credibility and the integrity of the government and the business that it brings to this House.

That is why this should be laid aside. We should allow the normal planning process to play out for the developer; he should spend his money, not on newspaper ads, but on actually doing the planning work needed. The government needs to get on with the job of making sure that the land use strategy and any other road blockages that the Planning Commission has found are actually dealt with. If it is such a good project, it can be assessed against the proper process, and if it can stand on its own two legs, then it should pass through that process.

The fact that this bill has been rammed through this House and the other place, now with the knowledge that there is money changing hands from a private commercial property developer to the Liberal Party - to candidates, possibly even the minister - is an absolute blight on the business of this House and of this government. I fully support the motion that this bill be laid aside.

Mr WINTER - Deputy Chair, it looks like we are going to have a bunch of Greens speak on this, so I will speak on it as well. The argument from the Deputy Leader of the Greens is that because of the information provided to the other place, this place should set aside its decision. The argument only makes sense if his party did not already vote against this the first time around.

If you voted for it the first time around, I would understand your argument, but Deputy Leader of the Greens, you did not vote for it the first time. Now, you have found out in the other place about the contribution made by the developer, and you still do not like it. You did not like it the first time and you do not like it this time, and you want to hold us up from dealing with the rest of the business of the House today.

The Deputy Leader of the Greens talks about dark places where these deals are made, and it reminded me of the dark places in which deals are made in the Greens Party. It reminded me of an article of 10 July this year where the *Examiner* outlined a very dark deal that was made, where the founder of a Sydney-based fund whose top investments are oil, gas and mining companies made a \$20,000 donation to the Tasmanian Greens.

It made me wonder what we missed, and what dark places there were where these deals were made.

Mr Bayley - What deal did we do for him? What sort of legislation did we bring forward for him?

Mr WINTER - The deputy leader asked what sort of deal. I note that the Greens this week have been trying to stop Hydro from increasing the amount of energy that it can produce, in fact trying to disallow a motion where Hydro Tasmania wants to be able to lift -

Dr Woodruff - No. We just want to make sure it gets scrutiny.

DEPUTY CHAIR - One second, Leader of the Opposition. Dr Woodruff, you will remember I called the House into order when you were giving your contribution so you could be heard. It would be great if we could continue that level of civility, please.

Mr WINTER - This week, we understand that the Greens have been pushing to try and stop Hydro Tasmania from making further larger investments in renewable energy in this state. Could it be because they received money from the Sydney-based fund whose top investments are oil, gas, and mining companies? Are the Greens now in bed with the oil and gas industry to stop more Hydro and more renewable energy? I put two and two together just like the Leader of the Greens and the Deputy Leader of the Greens did, and I have come to four. I am really concerned -

Mr Abetz - Four? I would have thought 10.

Mr WINTER - Well, perhaps five, leader of government business. Who knows?

Now, this is very concerning. The article goes on to say that this company has been extracting oil in the Gulf of Mexico and is also drilling exploration wells to expand production. It says in the March Quarter 2024 investor bulletin that the fund manager disclosed that its \$761 million Samuel Terry Absolute Return Fund had increased its investment in Karoon Energy to 10.7 per cent of fund assets, its single biggest holding.

Investments in Horizon Oil and other Australian listed oil and gas producer, MooreOil and Gas, with exploration production assets in China, New Zealand, and the Northern Territory accounting for seven per cent of the funds total. Wow, and they took the money. Other investments included Diamond Offshore, another oil services company that owns 12 drilling rigs that are leased to top oil and gas companies including British Petroleum, Shell, and Chevron. Honestly. Absolutely unbelievable.

The find also lists an Australian listed mining company. I do not know the names of these companies, but I know you do, Leader of the Greens. The company has numerous projects including providing design, engineering, mining, blasting services in the Wahana Coal Mine in Indonesia.

Dr Broad - Geez, an Indonesian coal mine?

Mr WINTER - Indonesian coal mine. I thought they were all about conservation in Indonesia. I thought I had heard them talking about some of the concerns they have about global devastation of forests, but not if they are going to invest in the Greens Party.

This is where it gets really interesting, the New South Wales Greens returned -

DEPUTY CHAIR - One second, Leader of the Opposition. I appreciate why you are making the argument you are making. I will just remind you, as I have been advised, you do need to bring this back to why the bill should or should not be laid aside.

[3.08 p.m.]

Mr WINTER - I appreciate that, Deputy Chair. The arguments put for setting this aside is that this is about donations. I am retorting that it is not just the Liberals that receive political donations, it is actually the Greens as well.

This is really important. This is where it gets really murky; the dark places where these deals are made. The New South Wales Greens returned a \$7000 donation from Mr Woollard and Ms Cochrane last year. The New South Wales Greens returned the money. Once this was pointed out to them, they returned the money.

It was put to the Leader of the Greens what the Leader of the Greens and the Greens party would do with this money. Guess what they decided to do? They kept it. They kept every single cent of it. Unlike the New South Wales Greens, they kept all the money they received from the coal and gas industry.

It goes to show that if the Greens want to talk about being above board with donations, they need to explain their position on renewable energy. While they are receiving money from coal and gas, they are also pushing back against renewable energy all over this state. With wind farms, they oppose every single one. They do not want to see more hydro. They want to shut down Lake Pedder. This is what the Greens do. Their argument they come in here with today -

Dr WOODRUFF - Point of order, Deputy Chair. Mr Winter is inciting me to interject and correct his misleading information. You have called him to draw back to the bill. I will take him up later. Do not worry, I will lay it all out.

Mr ABETZ - On the point of order, if I may. The bill is not before us. What is before us is the motion moved by the Greens that it be laid on the table on the basis of scurrilous allegations made by the Leader of the Greens.

Dr Woodruff - They are fact. Do not mislead me. They are fact and they were confirmed last night in the Legislative Council. You have had money donated to you by this developer.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr ABETZ - I listened to your nonsense in silence. You might listen to my lucid contribution in silence.

Dr Woodruff - They have donated to you. You have had money donated to you. What is your point of order? Why are you standing up?

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, Dr Woodruff, we are not debating a point of order.

Mr ABETZ - If you are silent, you would hear my point of order.

Dr Woodruff - I am not going to be silent while you are standing up with no point of order. What is the point of order?

Mr ABETZ - I am responding to your point of order.

Dr Woodruff - No, you are misleading.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, Dr Woodruff.

Mr ABETZ - I am responding to your point of order pointing out that we are not discussing a bill.

Dr Woodruff - Deputy Chair, I do not believe that is a point of order, responding to a point of order.

DEPUTY CHAIR - We are not debating a bill. We are debating a motion.

Mr Abetz - You got it wrong.

DEPUTY CHAIR - I will ask the Leader of the Opposition to address his comments through the Chair. Dr Woodruff and the Greens will have a chance to respond to this. You cannot do it through interjections. You will be able to speak and hopefully be heard in silence, just as the Leader of the Opposition should be from now on.

Mr WINTER - The Deputy Leader talked about Labor and Liberal being at one on this. I would like to think that Labor and Liberal parties all over Australia would be together on building shopping centres, because that is effectively what the bill was about. The Deputy Leader of the Greens demonstrated a fatal lack of knowledge on what the reason for this bill is. It is not about putting in, I think the Leader said, about traffic assessments. It was not about not putting in proper plans. It is the fact that the land use planning strategies were so out of date that it could not go ahead even though everyone wanted it, especially the council. The local people there want this development. That is why it was necessary.

It should not be necessary if you had a planning scheme that is up to date. We have talked about that in the first debate. We did not need to talk about it again today. That is the situation. The only way for the development to go ahead was for the bill to come through. That is why we support it.

Could this entire thing be the Greens not wanting the UTAS bill to come on later today because at some stage they are going to have to come clean on where they stand on this? Do the Greens stand for 2000 new homes in Sandy Bay?

Dr Woodruff - We have come clean. We have been on the media for days at a time.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - Do they stand for STEM? Do they stand for a Tasmania that has a future with science and technology, with a thriving university, or are they going to stand against all of that? They do not want this to come on too soon. They want this to happen in the dead of night. They are going to continue to hold this up. They will put up every speaker they can so they avoid any scrutiny on their position on the University of Tasmania. What is it? Nobody knows what their position on UTAS is.

The government have had a few positions on UTAS. It has been difficult. I think at the moment I know where they stand. They are supporting the university STEM proposal and new homes. I look forward to that. I do not know where the Greens stand on housing. I do not know what they stand for when it comes to the university. The longer they continue to hold on this, the more suspicious I am that they are going to block 2000 new homes in Sandy Bay.

[3.13 p.m.]

Ms ROSOL - Deputy Chair, unfortunately, I was ill last week and had COVID when we were debating the original legislation, so I was not able to speak to it then. I am happy to be

here today and able to speak to this. When I speak to it, I think of the people that I represent from Bass. Many times over the course of many projects, planning issues and development proposals within Bass, they have often expressed their concern about planning processes, and their fears that the people are not listened to in it, or that there are people who have a lot of funds and money behind them, particularly developers, who are able to get what they want because of the money they have.

When I speak to this motion now and to the motion to put aside the bill, I speak with them in my mind, thinking of them and their great love for their communities, their great love for the spaces and the places within Bass, and their desire for decisions to be made in an appropriate way, following processes that are set out that ensure that everyone who should be included in the decision is included in the decision. That is not what we are seeing happen here. The process that was in place, the planning process that was followed, ended up with this development at Stony Rise being found to not be appropriate. The Planning Commission made their decision based on evidence and based on a process. They clearly set things out. What we have here in this piece of legislation has been an overriding of that planning process, a mockery. This makes a mockery of the planning process. It is a misuse of parliamentary process and power.

I have heard people saying the Greens do not understand, as if we are some kind of stupid. What we are talking about here is wanting things to be done properly. That is not stupid or something that is hard to understand. The Greens are committed to process being followed, not being pushed aside and pulled around and influenced by money from developers who think that when they do not get what they want they can just pass money around. We know this has happened from the evidence that was brought forward last night in the other place. That is really an inappropriate, completely terrible thing to be happening in our state. Because someone has the money to pay for a giant ad in several newspapers around the state, they can get the ear of people in government to do what they want. That is terrible.

Then, once they have their ear they can make donations and those donations can purchase influence with people in power so that they get what they want. That goes against everything that is good. That goes against everything that is right. That goes against respecting the community, respecting people and respecting processes. The Greens are not going to sit back and let that happen without saying this is not okay. This is not okay to happen in our state. We cannot let our parliament be used through the use of money to influence people and shift decisions around so that developers can get what they want by jumping outside of proper and regular processes. They have been put in place for a reason: to make sure that projects are assessed carefully against a range of criteria.

If we have every possible development project that people can think of and they can just sidle up to a politician and say, 'I've got this idea that I'd like to have happen in Bass' - it could be a cable car from the back of a hotel across into the gorge or a new hotel somewhere in the city that goes above the height limits of Launceston - and say, 'Here is some money, here is my idea. Could you please do something about it?', that is a corruption of the political process and it is just not acceptable. We are not going to sit back and let this one go through without highlighting how inappropriate and wrong it is.

It is not about the project itself. We have heard that it will have benefits for the community and that the community want it. That is not what this is about. This is about the process. It is not about whether it will have a positive impact on the community or whether

something will have a negative impact. It is about the process and it is not acceptable to just ride into something and override all the processes that are in place for a good reason, all the processes that give people a voice, all the processes that give an opportunity for appeal and feedback and a response so that we ensure that all voices are heard on something.

This sets a precedent for all sorts of projects across our state. This sets a precedent for any developer to think that if they do not get their way through a planning process they can just make it happen by using their money. We cannot let this happen in our state, so we are moving this motion to set aside this bill because it is wrong. The bill is wrong and should not be happening. That cannot be ignored or silenced and you cannot tell us that we should not be here moving this motion because this is the right thing to do in a situation where the wrong thing is being done.

Mr GARLAND - Deputy Chair, I will keep this short. I was elected on integrity and calling for full disclosure, because what is happening here is what the community are fully aware of. Even if there was no undue influence and money bought, the perception out there is that the process has been tampered with and this parliament has to have the integrity and the belief in the community that things will go through the proper process and money will not tamper with that. I said right from the start of my election that the single biggest cancer on our democracy is the non-disclosure of money that is coming from areas that we do not know about. It has been highlighted today to me that this has to be dealt with. That is all I have to say.

Ms BADGER - Deputy Chair, this is absolutely about the precedent that is set by this legislation, because when the Tasmanian people voted back in March, they did so for transparency, proper process and integrity, just as Mr Garland has outlined. This project did not meet the proper process criteria, so what does pushing through this legislation say to everyone else across Tasmania? Is it just that you can make a couple of donations and you are going to get special legislation for your special project pushed through? No, absolutely not. The immature arguments of people standing up here trying to call out their dislike for the Greens who are standing up for proper process is exactly why we cannot have an intelligent, nuanced debate in this place about what is important to Tasmanians holistically for the long term so that we actually have integrity. If the proper process for whatever reason cannot be followed, instead of tearing shreds off each other immaturity, stand up and properly explain why that proper process cannot be followed, why there are donations flowing and special -

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Ms BADGER - processes coming through. This is not about the project. It is about the process. That is what it is about and it has not properly been justified because there are people still asking questions about it. The Greens have absolutely every right, as do the independents and anyone else, to stand up here and have this debate to say it is not following the proper process, because that is the point of parliamentary oversight. That is the point of having us here to represent the Tasmanians who voted for us.

It is exactly the same thing we are hearing about the Hydro motion, because it removes the parliamentary oversight and it is a GBE, so of course it should have parliamentary oversight. There should be an integral process that we can go through and look at the projects. It is good for all Tasmanians to make sure we are doing the right thing and to make sure there

is accountability for the people in this House that Tasmanians voted to be here. This is absolutely about the process and the precedent that this bill would set to everybody whose proposals do not meet the proper process, that instead of just going and fixing it, you will get special bills put through.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mr Behrakis) - The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 7

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

NOES 25

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

Motion negatived.

New Clause A read -

To follow clause 4 -

A. Review of matters relating to transport

- (1) The Minister is to cause a review of the traffic management and public transport accessibility, within the permit area and its surrounding area, to be commenced within 6 months after the day on which this Act commences.

- (2) A review under subsection (1) is to -
 - (a) be undertaken by the Department responsible for the *Traffic Act 1935*; and
 - (b) be completed within 4 weeks of the commencement of the review in accordance with subsection (1); and
 - (c) include such recommendations, as that Department considers appropriate, in respect of traffic management and public transport accessibility, within the permit area and its surrounding area.
- (3) As soon as practicable after completing the review under subsection (1), the Department undertaking the review is to provide a copy of the review to the Minister.
- (4) The Minister is to cause a copy of the review to be tabled in each House of parliament within 5 sitting-days of that House after the Minister receives a copy of the review under subsection (3).

Mr ELLIS - I move-

That the amendments of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

I thank Mr Gaffney for his amendment in the other place. We are supportive of the change. We believe that there were some protections in the permit to ensure that the traffic management was adequate on the site, but also appreciate his desire to ensure that those matters be fully complied with. It is absolutely a growing area and an important facility for the community, so ensuring this inclusion is something that the government supports and will help to ensure that the development passes this place.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mr Behrakis) - The question is the amendment of the Legislative Council be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 25

Mr Abetz
Mr Barnett
Mrs Beswick
Dr Broad
Ms Brown
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Ms Haddad
Ms Howlett

NOES 7

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

Mr Jaensch
Mr Jenner
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mrs Pentland
Mrs Petrusma
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Mr Street
Ms White (Teller)
Mr Willie
Mr Winter
Mr Wood

Legislative Council amendment agreed to.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mr Behrakis) - The question is that I do report a certain resolution to agree to the amendment of the Legislative Council.

The Committee divided -

AYES 25

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

NOES 7

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

Resolution to be reported agreed to.

Resolution reported.

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Street) - The question is that the resolution be agreed to.

The House divided -

AYES 25

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

NOES 7

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

Resolution agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Minister for Community Services - Correction -
Community Connector Program Funding**

[3.44 p.m.]

Mr JAENSCH (Braddon - Minister for Community Services) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, I wish to correct the record. In my answer to Mr Garland's question this morning on the Neighbourhood Houses Community Connector Program, I mentioned some other programs the Tasmanian government funds for Neighbourhood Houses. I mentioned a \$175,000 program for two years for tools and equipment, and health and wellbeing programs. However, that particular program is available for our Men's Sheds, not for Neighbourhood Houses.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Leader of the House) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, I table the following answers to questions on notice.

No. 20 - COVID-19 Lockdowns in Prisons

Ms ROSOL question to MINISTER for CORRECTIONS and REHABILITATION, Ms OGILVIE

See Appendix 5 on page 170.

No. 22 - Teacher Qualifications and Teaching Subject

Mr O'BYRNE question to MINISTER for EDUCATION, Ms PALMER

See Appendix 6 on page 171.

No. 38 - Teacher Shortages in Tasmanian Schools

Mr BAYLEY question to MINISTER for EDUCATION, Ms PALMER

See Appendix 7 on page 174.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (No. 31)

Second Reading

Ms OGILVIE (Clark - Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy) - Honourable Deputy Speaker, I move -

That the bill be now read a second time.

The University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2024 delivers on our commitment to prevent the University of Tasmania (UTAS) from disposing of land at its Sandy Bay campus without the approval of both Houses of the Tasmanian parliament.

The University of Tasmania is an essential Tasmanian education institution. In fact, as Tasmania's only university, UTAS remains a critical tertiary education facility at the heart of our ability to grow our economy, run our institutions, deliver professional expertise to the marketplace and educate our children.

Many Tasmanians have strong relationships with the university, including as students, alumni, employees, business connections and supporters of family members who attend or have attended the university. I attended UTAS, as have many in my family both now and over three

generations. Many in this Chamber also attended UTAS and or have participated in the broader cultural and intellectual life supported by the university's community engagement activities.

I am confident that many in this House have their own personal connection to the University of Tasmania in some way. The university has a long history in Tasmania, with campuses located in all regions of the state. The southern campus includes the Sandy Bay Campus, which is built on land gifted to the University of Tasmania under the *University of Tasmania Act 1951*. Campus locations and plans for the future of those sites have the capacity to significantly benefit the social, cultural and economic welfare of the Tasmanian community.

We recognise that there will always be a divergence of views, some positive, others to the contrary, and this is fundamentally the basis upon which we, in this place, are charged with negotiating to ensure the best solution is found. By getting it right, aligning investment with workforce development demands, particularly in STEM, we can deliver future career opportunities and lift Tasmania's economy.

Home is where the heart is. I believe that saying is quite apt considering the history of the university at Sandy Bay, which is a place that is synonymous with greenery, water views, a beautiful campus and proximity to the CBD. The Sandy Bay campus is the heart of UTAS, and its presence provides a strategic benefit for students, local community and the university itself. Campus life has long been a part of the university experience.

We should be proud to have a wonderful university right on our doorstep, providing career and economic benefits for Tasmanians and those further afield. Our decision to support retaining the Sandy Bay campus and its reinvigoration is not only about the here and now, it is predicated on a strategic vision, one which sets the goal of securing a bright future for our state. That is why, as part of our 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future, we committed to introduce the legislation we are considering here today.

This legislation allows for scrutiny through the parliament of any proposed disposal of land at the Sandy Bay campus. This arrangement strikes the right balance between protecting the public interest and allowing the university to get on with their core business, which is educating Tasmanians.

In relation to the university accord, we value the importance of continuing to provide the best higher education experience possible for all Tasmanians. While today's bill provides a transparency measure regarding the disposal of the Sandy Bay campus, we will continue to work with the Australian Government on recommendations coming from the Australian Universities Accord to ensure we meet Tasmania's future education needs.

The Tasmanian government understands that our important science and technology sectors offer great potential for economic growth, together with global work opportunities, and that ICT leadership is essential to bridge the digital divide for all Tasmanians. We all want Tasmanian students to have access to the most contemporary tertiary education opportunities.

Equally, we understand the need to meet workforce demands in the STEM sector, both now and into the future, and this is precisely why we are acting to address this issue. The tech sector, innovation, science, digital economy jobs - they are good jobs, good careers, and they have the potential to form the basis of national and global careers for Tasmanians.

By reimagining and enlarging the offerings at UTAS Sandy Bay, the university will be well positioned to provide modern, fit-for-purpose tertiary education facilities, complete with contemporary courses for the modern age. Investing in courses and academic staff is essential, and this is precisely why a STEM-led future at Sandy Bay makes sense.

UTAS are also consulting with their expert STEM staff to understand how to deliver the best possible STEM education experience for our students, teachers, and more broadly, our community to ensure that we cater for our future needs.

A STEM future requires investment from the university and the Commonwealth government. This idea of an upgraded STEM facility is not new. They have been on Infrastructure Australia's radar since 2017, and STEM facilities are not cheap. To say such a thing would undermine the criticality of these facilities in the evolving world of STEM, whether it is technology, space, science, engineering, medicine, or research, just to name a few. Imagine the possibilities we could achieve right here for future generations with access to global careers from Tasmania. This is Tasmania's education future, and this is why STEM is so important.

This bill will require that the land at Sandy Bay, currently held by the University of Tasmania and gifted to the university in 1951, cannot be disposed of except with approval from both Houses of parliament. That is, if the university wishes to sell the land or indeed lease the land for a term of 99 years or longer, both Houses of parliament would have the opportunity to scrutinise this and ensure the right decision is made for all Tasmanians, not just those residing in immediate proximity.

We respect the right of the university to establish new facilities in the Hobart CBD and elsewhere if it wishes. This arrangement strikes the right balance between protecting the public interest and allowing the university to get on with business, which is providing higher education.

Last week, the government acted in good faith by circulating for wider comment our proposed changes to legislation governing lands held by the University of Tasmania. I regret to say that since that time, we have seen quite a bit of misinformation about both our position and that of the university. We should all be united in this House, indeed in both Houses, for the prospects of Tasmania and Tasmanians. It is time to come together across the Chamber in support of education, our university and the students of Tasmania. I would like to utilise this speech as an opportunity to correct some of the misconceptions that we have recently heard.

At the last state election, we promised to keep the University of Tasmania at Sandy Bay and ensure that any proposed sale of university lands require the approval of both Houses of parliament. Despite what some may say, we have kept UTAS at Sandy Bay and now we will support reinvigorating the campus.

Earlier this year, the university revised its strategic plan to focus on STEM development at Sandy Bay. In other words, UTAS has remained and will remain at Sandy Bay, full stop. The amendment circulated last week proposed the repurposing of some defined university lands. Specifically, the university has proposed, whether explicitly or by virtue of rezoning, selling off two parcels of land above Churchill Avenue to fund their STEM vision. In other words, there is a proposal and this parliament will consider that proposal.

I recognise that keeping your election promises and engaging in due process and consultation may be foreign ideas to some across the Chamber. I fully appreciate that the opposition would likely prefer that we either consider the interests of only the few or not the many, or to even handball this important decision to the next generation, but we are the Liberal Party, we are a government that governs for all Tasmanians and in the best interests of Tasmanians and we will deal with this issue in this time and in this place. The future of Tasmania is not a decision for next week or, for that matter, next year. It is important right now.

These STEM facilities and enhancements of the UTAS Sandy Bay campus are pressing issues for our entire community. Tasmania deserves STEM facilities at our university. Without support for this bill and said amendments, Tasmania will not have the facilities it needs until well into the 2030s, putting us decades behind other states. This matters, because we know that so many jobs and the competitiveness of our existing industries are dependent on science and technology.

While the majority of my speech today has been about the substantive bill and addressing the amendments as circulated, I believe we have been as open and transparent in the fullness of disclosure here and in the public domain more broadly. I note that I have spoken of the said amendments which I will bring forth during the committee stage with further detail upon moving them.

To echo the words of famous scientist Sir Isaac Newton, an individual who could only have dreamed of the day generations had the opportunity to have futures in technical fields:

... I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all discovered before me.

We have the opportunity to support Tasmanians to discover the endless possibilities that STEM has in store. Without a STEM-led future at UTAS Sandy Bay, Tasmanians could only end up merely wondering, what if?

I commend this bill to the House.

Statement by Speaker

Second Reading Speeches

The SPEAKER - Before giving the call, I take this opportunity to remind members - and I am reminding myself at the same time - about second reading speeches. Second reading speeches are not strictly limited to the bill's contents. They can go to the circumstances surrounding its presentation for the House and other methods of attaining the bill's objects can be considered. However, the inclusion of other things such as general criticism of administration or provisions of other bills should not be made.

My point is that second reading speeches should not have a political component to them. They are points of law which can be used if there is a criticism and a misunderstanding that cannot be resolved by reading. Within the courts they refer to the second reading speech to get the intent of the bill.

I am going to look very dimly if there are continual attempts to politicise the bills. It has happened in the past. I thought we stopped it. I do not want to see it again.

[3.58 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Thank you, honourable Speaker, particularly for that advice to commence my contribution. The minister has had carriage of this bill for a while and is now doing so as Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy, which is a portfolio that did not exist a month ago. This is a total and utter mess, created by the Liberal Party during the election and then egged on and made even worse by the minister.

This bill is an absolute joke and the second reading speech of what it was is an even bigger joke. The second reading speech that was distributed is not what the minister just read. The second reading speech she just read was a political diatribe in defence of herself and the backflips we have seen from the government over this.

Let us remind ourselves of exactly where we have come from. The University of Tasmania had a big decision to make: whether to reinvest in the Sandy Bay campus or start moving into the city. In consultation with the Australian Government, the Tasmanian Liberal government and the City of Hobart, it made a decision to move into the city with support from all three levels of government, including from the Liberal government we have today. They made that decision in consultation with their community and with levels of government.

During the election, there was a level of desperation that I have not seen before, where a political party decided to disregard what I thought they believed in and what they had supported for 10 years and introduce the biggest sovereign risk I have seen introduced on an organisation in a long time. They decided to freeze the assets of the University of Tasmania so that they could not move. With the majority of it already moved into the city, they decided to freeze its assets so that it could not continue to do so and could not invest in science and technology. They went to the community and said that the university would 'stay in the Bay', where it already was and was already going to stay, and promised to lock down the university so that it could not sell any of its assets without express permission from this place.

That appalling, shocking policy is reflected in the bill we have before us, but not in the second reading speech the minister just gave, because she has incorporated the amendments which were distributed to various members last week and then outed in parliament last Thursday, which do the exact opposite to what the policy says.

The amendments to the bill, which we will debate down the track, take the people who supported the minister at the election into a worse place than when the bill was proposed and when the policy went. This bill is all about the Liberal Party placating the Save UTAS group, who have now said it is better to have no bill than the bill once it is amended. The very people that this bill is supposed to placate and earn their votes no longer support the bill. That is where we have got to. The minister is saying no -

Ms Ogilvie - No, I am saying it is about bringing it into parliament and having the discussion which we are having right now.

The SPEAKER - Order, minister.

Mr WINTER - I am saying Save UTAS said it was better to have no bill at all than the bill once this is amended. You have the Liberal Party throwing out all their core beliefs by freezing the assets of the University of Tasmania and introducing massive sovereign risk, for the votes of people who now say they do not want the bill at all.

The level of distrust that has built within the business community over this is quite incredible. The business community is saying that it will be hard to ever trust this government again. It is not just about the *Spirits*, it is about decisions like this. The TCCI said on 17 July:

The business community wants to see certainty, stability and plans for how to tackle the big issues affecting Tasmania. Business conditions are tough, and the best thing our politicians can do right now is look at how they can work together to boost business confidence and support investments.

It talked about working cooperatively to on a range of issues such as the cost of doing business, the cost of living, housing and unlocking billions of dollars. The TCCI backed in Labor's position on the University of Tasmania, backing in the university. Building up to 2000 new homes on the site, allowing the university to build STEM and not freezing their assets - that is what the business community wanted to see.

We also saw the HIA say that Labor's announcement to back the University of Tasmania's move from Sandy Bay into the city, freeing up land for up to 2000 new homes, is welcomed. It says:

This announcement is consistent with the public statements made by the HIA during the March election, highlighting the real opportunity this move would make in creating and easing the housing pressures in Greater Hobart.

They did not want to freeze all the assets of the university.

The TCCI said:

Their 10-year plan to relocate this university to the CBD is evident - one that's been going well and increasing the numbers of students in our city. The facilities at Sandy Bay are in desperate need of repair and change. The move is an important thing for business and industry.

We've been a full supporter of the move for the right reasons - we want to see education numbers increase in Tasmania, and the connection to business increase as well.

We have this phenomenal parcel of land here at Sandy Bay that could be an incredible place for more housing and more opportunities for people to have close proximity to city housing. Business conditions are tough, and the best thing our politicians can do right now is look at how they can work together ...

Master Builders said:

We have a situation where we know we need to be building well above 3500 new dwellings every year, and that is the most we've built which was two

years ago. One of the biggest issues we have with regard to housing is good sites for developments and large-scale developments. He said the university spokesperson told him that on the completion of the university's forestry building in 2026, two thirds of the university would be off the Sandy Bay site and in the CBD. The opportunity exists for this site to be used for housing and other developments to support that.

In the face of the business community wanting the certainty that the university previously had, the Liberals decided to give them uncertainty. They introduced this bill to freeze the assets of the university and introduce sovereign risk. What the message was to the business community was, 'Actually, if you have a great development, if you get our tick off, you cannot have confidence because we might change our mind later on and legislate to stop you from doing the very thing we supported'.

There are letters of support from former premier, Will Hodgman. We know that the former education minister, Jeremy Rockliff, supported this move. Then, in an election campaign when they were desperate to cling on to power, they convinced people that they would lock down the university instead. It is a shocking, shocking bill. It is a shocking policy. After all of that, they have backflipped and now look to introduce a bill.

I do not have a copy of the second reading speech because it is not what was distributed. The minister seemed to indicate that the land that is proposed now in the amendment to be rezoned would still require the approval of the parliament to disperse of, to sell. If that is the case, I have serious concerns with the amendment as well. I understood that the amendment meant that the rezoning would occur and that that land would be removed from the requirement for the parliament to tick off on a sale. The minister is now nodding her head to that. I know we are not on the amendment yet, but there is real uncertainty about this bill.

The bill that we have in front of us is shocking. The bill in front of us takes the university back years in time in terms of its ability to pay for and build a new STEM science facility and be on the forefront of investment in this state. The amendments that we have not seen tabled in this place and have not yet debated could potentially save the bill. If we get the ability for the university to divest the land and not require parliamentary approval for that - because that just adds uncertainty - then that is something we can support.

The bill in its current condition is not supportable by the Labor Party. Absolutely no way. I have said that we will fight against this because I do not want to see the university being worse off.

This bill in its current form would have no effect on the university's move into the city, which has already been underway for 15 years. It would prevent the construction of nearly 2000 new homes in the middle of an unprecedented period of housing unaffordability. It will mean the university cannot fund its \$500 million STEM facility at a time when young people are leaving to the mainland in numbers we have never seen before.

We hear the government talk about the numbers of young Tasmanians that were leaving the state under the previous government. It is much higher now. It has been getting higher every year. Every year for the past nine years, the number of young Tasmanians leaving the state has gone up.

One of the reasons they are leaving is to go to university on the mainland. We now have a situation where the University of Melbourne is directly advertising into Tasmania, targeting young Tasmanians and telling them to get on a plane and go to Melbourne. Not only that, the University of Melbourne is paying for young Tasmanians' flights and accommodation to go to Melbourne and do university there. What happens when they get there? They often do not come back. We do not want that. I want young Tasmanians to feel like the University of Tasmania is the great institution that I know it is. The damage that this debate has had on the university has been huge. The damage that has been done by this bill and the Liberals policy has been just as bad.

I know the group Save UTAS, and I have met with the group. I know that they are well-intentioned and passionate about what they believe in, but I believe that this debate has severely harmed the University of Tasmania. The constant attacks on the university for the past few years have had a really negative impact on our state.

The University of Tasmania is a great institution. I am a former student at the Sandy Bay campus. I had a great time. I also understand that university education is changing. It is changing because young people are changing. Society is changing. Unfortunately, young people today cannot sit around on the lawn, read books, chat to each other all day. They need to go to work. That is the reality of the new world that we live in. You cannot just be a full-time student without working significant hours. The stresses on young people studying at university are much greater now than they ever have been before. They have to work more. To argue, as Save UTAS has, that we must keep everything the same is not an argument I agree with. Students have had to change because society has changed. They need to study online. There is an older demographic of people. It is not just young people in their late teens and early 20s studying, it is people in their 30s and 40s, people coming back after they have gone to work. They need to have different options. The university is providing that.

The comments made by the minister during her second reading speech - and I wrote it down because again, I do not think this was actually in the second reading speech that I had seen - they said to allow the university to get on with business. This goes to the point - the university has always been getting on with business.

The move into the city was always about education. It was never about anything else. One of the arguments from Save UTAS was that they were into property development. The only properties they have been purchasing have been with the intent of building new education facilities. The education facilities they are building, particularly in Launceston - the shed is incredible. The new facility at Burnie is awesome. The new facility at the Forestry Building, in particular, is going to be incredible for young students in this state. They are going to have access to the sort of facilities that they simply do not have access to in Sandy Bay.

The investments the university has been making have been into education. To say, 'Allow them to get back to business' says that they have not been doing business. They have been. They have been the business of education. What else have they been doing? The properties they have bought have been about student housing, about providing a place to educate young people, and all of their students across the age demographics. They have not been doing anything else.

There was a period of time where some of the assets have not been able to be developed straight away. For example, on the old K&D site they allowed Swisherr to come on board. Who

would say that has been a bad thing? That is the university's investment, it has allowed Swisherr to allow young Tasmanians to come enjoy basketball. It has been a fantastic facility. I hope the university as part of its changes can work with Swisherr to come up with a new plan.

I want to talk about this briefly because I do think there is a core issue with education in Tasmania that we need to get a handle on. When the university made its decision to build its new STEM facility at Sandy Bay, it was frankly a decision that we expected, and we were happy to support. The next morning, I turned on the radio and I heard the conversation on ABC Mornings. The first conversation that was had was about Swisherr. Now, as I said, I love Swisherr. My son uses Swisherr. It is a great facility. However, it feels like every time we are in an education debate, we start talking about something else, in this case about basketball. When we talk about the university's move into the city, we talk about retail outcomes.

This state has the worst education outcomes of any state because we do not value it enough. We need to value it more. This place needs to value it more. The attacks on the University of Tasmania by Save UTAS and then by the Liberal government have set the University of Tasmania back. They have sent the wrong message about education in this state.

The government has come to the party on an independent review into education, which I think is very important. We welcome that. The direction for education in the state will be a very important part of next year's political debate. The university's and TAFE's impact into that will be just as important. We cannot be attacking it and we cannot be devaluing it by making this debate about other things that are not about education. Primarily, this is an argument about building STEM. There is a way to allow that to happen. That is why the secondary debate is about housing.

The University of Tasmania had a plan. It has been presented again today by the minister as a new plan, to build homes on the site to help pay for STEM, as though the minister had never heard about it before. We have known about this for a very long time.

The University of Tasmania needed to be able to fund the construction of new facilities. Of course they put in applications to federal and state government for funding. Of course they are going to do that, but at some stage they were going to need to be able to fund this themselves. It had a plan primarily about investing in their education system, but in a secondary way, they could also support building more homes in Hobart during a housing crisis. You have this great proposal to do infill housing above Churchill Avenue to support building up to 2000 new homes and using that money to invest in STEM facilities. What could be better than that?

This is the problem - the bill that the Liberals then proposed, with that already on the table a long time ago, told the university they could not do that. The bill, as it is currently sitting in front of us, will not allow the university to do it. In fact, it sentences the site above Churchill Avenue to continue to be a dilapidated site with nothing happening on it. There is nothing happening with the Earth Sciences building. It is standing there, and under the bill as it is currently structured, it would stand there forever - basically a ghost town - not needed by the university, not able to be developed by the university, being left as a wasteland. That is what is in the bill.

The amendments foreshadowed say that the government is going to do the opposite to that. It is going to rezone the land for inner residential. I am looking forward to understanding

from the minister later in the debate whether or not it will still require the approval of parliament to sell those blocks of land -

Ms Ogilvie - Rezone.

Mr WINTER - Sorry, to rezone. The bill rezones the land, but the question is, will the university still be required to receive approval to sell the land?

Ms Ogilvie - That is what we will be doing in this debate.

Mr WINTER - I hope that we are doing the right thing by the university. I really do.

Ms Ogilvie - I think you will find that we are pretty much on the same page.

Mr WINTER - I am not sure about that.

The SPEAKER - I think we will find that we will all listen to the contribution.

Mr WINTER - Right now, across the state, we do have a brain drain. Right now, we need to be supporting jobs and building, particularly in our construction sector. Not only because our construction and building sector, like so many other industries, are starting to feel the effects of Tasmania's economic slowdown, not just because we need to keep training more skilled tradespeople, more engineers and more architects to deliver the housing and projects our state needs, but because we need to be providing young people with as many opportunities as possible.

There are opportunities in construction here at a time when construction is really challenged, and in-field development around Hobart has slowed significantly and the construction of new homes has slowed considerably. The bill, as it is currently drafted, means that you will never be able to build on that site.

When I speak to the university, the big challenge with having a bill which requires parliamentary approval to sell or lease any land is the lack of certainty it would provide to a development partner. Developers and business want certainty, and they cannot get certainty from a bill which requires a new set of rules to be placed on top of the university. The university needs to be able to find an investment partner for this, and I do not know what their plans are for them, and I am not going to dictate how they sell or develop their land. If they are going to do it with a development partner, the development partner will not want to participate if they need to gain approval to sell the land. If they need to go through all of its proposals, spend tens of thousands of dollars on master plans, on engineering, to get to a development that potentially has to be put in front of parliament, then have to wait for the vagaries of democracy to decide - they do not want to do that.

This is a mess. You have a policy that says the government is going to stop any form of divestment on the sites without parliamentary approval. You have an amendment which, as I read it, suggested that not only will that land be rezoned, but also that land will not require the approval of parliament. The minister is now nodding her head.

Ms Ogilvie - We will deal with that piece.

Mr WINTER - This is the point then, is it not? That is the exact opposite to what the Liberals' election pledge was. The Liberals' election pledge was to stop the sale without parliamentary approval, to provide parliamentary oversight.

Ms Ogilvie - Which is what we are doing right now.

Mr WINTER - The bill requires no parliamentary oversight over the divestment of that land.

Ms Ogilvie - We are in parliamentary oversight right now.

The SPEAKER - Minister, you gave a highly political second reading speech. It is questionable that you distributed it appropriately, which I will raise in a moment to clarify for the record. You can stop interjecting. You may respond when you sum up.

Mr WINTER - The minister appears to be arguing. I am not trying to incite interjection, but as I understand the minister's interjections just then, she seems to be arguing that this bill, in and of itself, constitutes their election policy in that it allows the parliament to approve the divestment of that land. That is not what the election promise was. The election promise was a bill that locked down the land so that any development down the track would require an act of parliament here and in the other place. This is the opposite to their election pledge.

I have listened to the Save UTAS group. I have met with them a couple of times. I disagree with their position, respectfully. When they went to the Liberal Party and supported this policy, they stood with the minister only a few months ago on Parliament House lawns as they delivered the letter, and the minister stood there and thanked them. When they delivered leaflets for the minister during the election campaign, they expected this minister to deliver on the election promise. What they are planning to do is the complete opposite. If I am with the Save UTAS group, I am livid, absolutely livid.

Mr Willie - It is a betrayal.

Mr WINTER - It is an absolute betrayal.

The bill is bad policy, but the backflip indicates the Liberals understand how badly they got this wrong. They lost the trust of the business community, and now they have lost the trust of the people who they told they would not develop the site. I have heard Mr Abetz speak passionately about keeping the university on the site and backing the original bill. I wonder how this came to be that you had an election policy - controversial, terrible policy, but the policy you took to the election - then backflipped the other way.

The other component of this debate, though, is that it is all about building the university's STEM facility, but a great outcome is also about housing. The Greens have been dodging and weaving on this issue for a long time. I suspect one of the reasons why we have just had a prolonged debate on the other matters was to push this out longer so that less people would be watching, so there was less accountability for them on what they do here today and elsewhere.

One of the great supporters, and one of the longest supporters of this, has been former alderman and now member of parliament, Helen Burnet, who always supported the city move.

Unlike former alderman Behrakis, she stuck to her position the entire time she was on the City of Hobart. She believed in the university's move, understood what it meant for the university, and stuck to her guns on it the whole way through. I wonder what the Greens are going to do. Are they going to stick with the former deputy lord mayor's position of supporting science, innovation, and supporting building new homes on the site or are they going to appeal to those who do not want to see any development? Which one will they do?

We have been asking the Greens for months what their position is on this, and it has been entirely unclear. Were they happy with the original bill? I think they were. I think they were happy to lock down Sandy Bay, not build any homes there and make sure the university could never invest in its STEM facility. Will they support the amendment, whatever that looks like in the end? Will they support an amendment which allows for more homes? This is a party that says they are for renters. This is a party that says they are for building more homes and says that we are in a housing crisis.

Mr Willie - They want more homes, but not building more homes.

Mr WINTER - They say they are for more housing. I think they are. Is this going to be another capitulation? Will this be another Max Chandler-Mather moment for the Greens in Tasmania?

I believe what we have is a university that is worth supporting. The University of Tasmania is a great institution. We have to back it. We have to support it. We have to start talking it up. Its science is already incredible - the work through IMAS, in particular, the work through Antarctic science - the science that comes out of that university is incredible. The School of Economics that I went to has a phenomenal, long-term, well renowned history across Australia as being one of the great institutions. We have investments that have gone into more nursing, more into the School of Medicine, that are producing great outcomes and it is a great place for students. We have to stop sending the message through Save UTAS and the Liberals' policy - which may not be their policy, their former policy, whatever this bill is - that attacks the university. We have to back it. We have to stop attacking and undermining a great institution.

We will have more to say when we come to the amendments. I will say in conclusion that the bill as currently tabled is absolutely appalling legislation that should never have been drafted, should never have been a policy, and is not the policy of a legitimate political party in this state. It is shocking.

The amendment, however, does the complete opposite to what the intent of the bill says and providing it is in order when it is tabled and meets my expectations, we would be supporting that amendment very strongly because we want to see more homes. We are for more homes, we are for better education facilities and we are for a university that thrives and keeps more young Tasmanians in this state.

I look forward to hearing the rest of the debate and debating the amendments, whether it is today or when it is, but I think this has been a demonstration of very poor politics from the Liberal Party.

Sitting Times

[4.26 p.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Leader of the House) – Honourable Speaker, pursuant to Sessional Order 18A, I move -

That for this day's sitting, the House shall not stand adjourned at 5.00 p.m.
and that the House continue to sit past 5.00 p.m.

In brief, this request has been socialised with the independents and other parties in this place and the purpose is so that we can deal with the University of Tasmania bill and then, on indulgence, a speech from the member for Lyons, Ms White. I assume the leaders would like to give Christmas greetings and thanks as well.

The SPEAKER - That occurs as part of our Adjournment debate. Before I put the motion, I will look very sadly and disappointedly on anyone else who wants to speak on the Adjournment tonight. The Adjournment on the final night of parliament is usually reserved for the leaders of the parties to give Christmas messages and we have another matter I wish to deal with on the Adjournment, and then that should be all of us done.

Motion agreed to.

The SPEAKER - Before calling on the next speaker, minister, it has been suggested that the second reading speech you read was not circulated. If it was circulated it would be good to have that on the record.

Ms Ogilvie - I have the details.

The SPEAKER - Thank you. I would appreciate that. You cannot seek the call so I am going to allow you to interject for this because you have already spoken.

Ms Ogilvie - The second reading speech was emailed to members at 1.05 p.m. today and was also sent for uploading to the website at 12.22 p.m. today.

The SPEAKER - So there was a new speech prepared today. Thank you, minister.

[4.28 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY (Clark) - Honourable Speaker, I rise to speak on the University of Tasmania (Protection of Land) Bill 2024. I will start by saying that this bill, through the amendments proposed, has gone from being a unique but effective check and balance on the disposal of surplus land, in essence public land, that could have helped settle significant public disquiet and provide a pathway to resolution of legitimate community concerns over the liquidation of the UTAS Sandy Bay site, to an escalation of anger over university decisions via a perversion of the planning process, with no community consultation, no social and environmental assessment and clearly no community consensus. That is a shame.

The Liberals, via a complete about-face on the policy intent of their election campaign announcement, have snatched defeat from the jaws of victory and condemned the university to

another era of mistrust, community concern and lost social licence. It did not need to be this way. It is my real fear that UTAS cannot sustain it. Just 28 days ago when UTAS announced a very welcome plan for a future direction that included STEM at Sandy Bay, it was clear. They said:

To achieve this plan, the next major steps of the university are to secure funding from the Tasmanian and Australian governments to develop new STEM facilities at Sandy Bay.

What was the response to the request for funding, minister? I take it, given where we are today, that nothing was forthcoming from your government. On summing up, can you confirm if the Tasmanian government is making a financial commitment to this UTAS STEM investment?

The same day UTAS announced its reset, the public response from the government in a statement from minister Ogilvie was:

We intend to strongly advocate to the Commonwealth to invest in Tasmania's STEM-led future. What message does it send to Tasmanians if the Commonwealth is unwilling to invest in this vital sector?

Minister, what message does it said send to Tasmanians if your government is unwilling to invest in this vital sector?

The federal government is the lifeline for a UTAS STEM redevelopment, but as is normal, it would require a co-contribution from the state, but this state government will not stump up a red cent and, seemingly, not even offer a guarantee.

While the Liberal government can find hundreds of millions of dollars to plan a stadium that Tasmanians neither need or want, spend \$37 million a year on the racing industry, fork out \$15 million for a ship loader for woodchip exports at Bell Bay, and pork-barrel election promises like \$12 million for the world's tallest chocolate fountain, they will shirk responsibility to make a contribution to build cutting-edge STEM facilities that will invest in our children's education and underpin our state's future while saving the core of the Sandy Bay campus as promised.

Through this debate today and the amendments forthcoming, the Liberal government demonstrates it is more willing to breach trust with Tasmanian voters, tear up its election commitment and pervert proper planning process to support a land sell-off than it is to find public funding to underpin infrastructure for tertiary public education. In the absence of leadership and investment from the state government, the solution for the university is to seek fast-tracked rezoning of land to increase its value and enable an institutional pledge of co-contribution with the federal government, a pledge to go with the prayers and pleas that the feds will actually come to the party.

To be clear, process is perverted, communities sidelined and UTAS is pushed into a fire sale situation because the Liberals cannot or will not invest in tertiary education infrastructure. Government priorities are skewed. Stadium, wood chippers, greyhounds and a chocolate fountain amongst other things all before STEM facilities at Sandy Bay, which gets nothing. This, it seems, is how we have got here.

I acknowledge the community, staff, ex-staff and student campaign that over years has raised the issue of the campus sale and redevelopment and forced a situation where in an election context the government of the day felt compelled to act, as has UTAS. This is no small feat. It takes coordination, compulsion and commitment to take on an institution and the power and privilege that comes with incumbency and access to all the levers of money, decision-making and autonomy.

I acknowledge Save UTAS and the plethora of independent expert voices adding their opinion. Some with vested political and other interests, including people in this place, will malign the motivation, analysis or strategy of these people and seek to drag them down with pejorative names and insults. In reality, that language demeans you, not them. While each individual may have a myriad of motivating factors, collectively they have been pushing for greater transparency and accountability in UTAS decision-making and a rethink of the move into the city, planned to be funded by the intensive redevelopment of virtually the entire Sandy Bay campus, the lower sports fields being the exception.

Today those people will feel profoundly let down by the political process and the reversal of an election position that would have offered a vehicle to mitigate the disenfranchisement that comes with unilateral institutional decision making, to a now likely outcome where the normal planning process is sidestepped and the institution gets what it wants after all, with no direct public engagement in the decision and no community recourse to do anything about it.

They should at least feel satisfied that in the face of the power imbalance and a UTAS decision made more than a decade ago, the full liquidation of the Sandy Bay campus has been stopped and a commitment extracted from UTAS to remain on a campus that, I am quite sure, the equivalent of which any other university in the country would love to call home. This commitment is welcome, and those voices calling for UTAS to anchor back to the Sandy Bay campus should be congratulated.

Despite the disappointment of this debate, the amendments that will pass, and the sidelining of genuine community concerns about issues that will affect their lives for decades to come, those who campaigned to preserve the campus in Sandy Bay should feel some satisfaction in the fact that they have helped turn the ship around and extracted an announcement that at least some UTAS faculties will remain at Sandy Bay. It is likely cold comfort and today will only serve to deepen distrust and stoke scepticism, but take what positives you can and commit to continue to call for transparency, common sense and a guarantee to consult with the community within which one operates.

With over 74 per cent of respondents in the 2022 electoral poll opposing the move into the city, that move was untenable. While the university is statewide and students come from further afield, the view of people in whose community you operate and seek to continue to operate can only be ignored at your peril.

As Tasmania's only university, we simply cannot afford UTAS to fail. In the many conversations I have had with stakeholders across the spectrum on the issue of the campus and the effect of this bill, I have been keen to stress two things. One: put aside how we got here, the baggage of the past, and the processes and decisions that have set this train in motion and headed it well off the tracks. Do not dwell on the mistrust but look for the positives, and back in a new direction as a way to lock it in and give it the best chance of coming to fruition.

Two: ignore the wider reforms still ahead. The work of the Legislative Council inquiry into the UTAS Act will report and recommend actions that relate to the constitution, functions and powers of the university, its council and academic senate. The inquiry is investigating the accountability of executive, fiscal and academic decision-making, and how the act protects and promotes academic freedom, independence and autonomy. These are big deliberations fundamental to an institution - the sole institution setting the standards for tertiary education in the state.

No one can deny the landscape in which universities have operated has profoundly changed over recent decades. Students with ever-growing HECS debts, the digital revolution, the international student bonanza, COVID, migration policy, and the consistent underfunding of the sector have created challenges few other businesses have had to navigate. Universities have been forced to act as businesses, not just educational institutions, and that is a shame.

Many of us will disagree on this bill, but all of us will agree that Tasmania cannot afford to have its only university distracted and distrusted. We need the university to get back to the business of academic excellence - of research, teaching, and graduating students equipped for the future and ready to make a contribution to Tasmania and to the world.

We look forward to the work of the Legislative Council and understanding its view on the reforms needed to guide improvements in accountability, decision-making, and the university's core business of tertiary education. When it comes, we Greens will work to do our bit to deliver the reforms needed to rebuild trust and the institution's place in our community and the world. Until then, we are dealing with the land, the campus, this bill and the Liberals' amendments.

We acknowledge that the entire UTAS Sandy Bay landholding has land surplus to the university's needs. However, jumping from this recognition to the conclusion that the parliament can today carve up the site and apply unilateral rezoning, with no social or environmental assessment, no sense of the sewage, road and other infrastructure capacity, and no community process, is a travesty of a proper process and treats local community with contempt. The Liberals are making a habit out of abandoning longstanding process to deliver special planning favours, aided and abetted by Labor.

Last week, we had the parliamentary approval - contrary to the finding of the Planning Commission - of a private commercial development at Devonport. Responding to a newspaper advertisement, the Liberals suspended Standing Orders to ram through development approval, with the support of Labor. Soon followed the development assessment panels, rejected in consultation, unanimously opposed by local government, and promoted only with shallow rhetoric and name-calling of anyone who raised legitimate concerns. The crossbench stood united against the bill.

In its latest discussion paper and engagement report, published in April this year, the Hobart City Council and its Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay neighbourhood planning process has explicitly responded to the UTAS campus issue, stating:

In developing the draft plan, council will review the feedback received from community and consider a scenarios-based planning response which will contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the city. This role involves balancing a range of social, economic and environmental objectives.

The Hobart City Council has been doing this replanning work. The council will review the feedback.

There is still work to be done to land an approach that considers a holistic suite of interests and concerns, and comes to a well thought-through landing that can meet the needs of all. That is why we have neighbourhood planning and well-established statutory rezoning process.

Minister, a question for you in summing up is: what scenarios-based planning response have you undertaken, and how do you address the need for planning decisions like rezoning to balance the wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives, as was underway with the neighbourhood planning process? What analysis underpins the boundaries selected for the rezoning to inner residential? As the campus is bounded on the Mount Nelson side by low density residential, how was the decision made to apply the inner residential zone - the highest density of all the residential zoning categories? What analysis of social, economic and environmental objectives has been undertaken?

Yesterday, I received correspondence from UTAS that purports to pass off the zoning elements of this bill and the university council's decision to pursue it, as 'supported by the City of Hobart's planning directions'. I do not think this quite stacks up. The City of Hobart is partway through a statutory process to plan for the neighbourhood and recommend the planning changes needed to deliver on that plan. More work is to be done, more consultation is needed and it is fair to say that the issue of the campus redevelopment has attracted the greatest level of interest and the greatest level of concern. This mirrors the elector poll and it cannot be ignored.

While the parliamentary rezone might seem like a victory for UTAS, turning adversity into opportunity and converting a government's commitment to constrain into a lifting of the lid to allow development down to 200 square metres, I fear it is a pyrrhic victory. No one - university, government or developer - can successfully operate in an environment where community is sidelined and real concerns remain. This rezone is overreach.

Of course we support housing, particularly innovative housing design options that are planned well. We always have and we always will. No matter where housing is proposed, be it in Sandy Bay, in Bridgewater, in Campbell Town or in Smithton, it must be done right. It must be well planned, it has to be assessed, services must be able to cope, and community must be involved.

This development is not 2000 homes as Labor waxes on about. Earlier UTAS planning using the maximum density limits proposed just over 1000 units and townhouses on the sites proposed. We will not be lectured on housing by Labor. When you step up and deliver on your commitments to rein in short stay, you can have a crack. When you move to control rents and no-cause evictions and push for minimum standards, I will take your criticisms. Until then, they cast no shade.

No matter how you put it, there is no justification for a fast-track rezone process that cuts out the community and delivers for everything a developer has been looking for. Commitments to deliver a UTAS deed of undertaking, capturing pledges to provide all proceeds for STEM, ensuring key worker accommodation and possibly - it seems, depending on Homes

Tasmania - social and affordable housing and supported living sounds good in theory, but we do not have that deed before us.

While I accept at face value the UTAS intention to deliver a deed, it is surrounded by uncertainty. When will it be finalised? Perhaps the minister can indicate the proposed approach of Homes Tasmania to the forthcoming development opportunities and how she thinks they would be reflected in a deed. What are you pushing for in that space, minister?

Concerns have been raised with me about the important STEM facilities located above Churchill Avenue to the south-east of College Road. Here stand the Life Sciences Building, the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture glasshouses, the seismic vault and several buildings currently occupied by third parties with no intention or ability to move.

It is my understanding that CSIRO and teammate Herbarium were deliberately co-located with UTAS to allow research interactions to be fostered in the state. While I note this week's correspondence from Professor Black that said that the CSIRO and TMAG tenancies would be retained, I struggle to see how they coexist within an inner residential, as opposed to a scientific and educational, landscape.

While I can accept at face value a UTAS commitment to ensure no facility is abandoned until suitable replacements are made, I question several things. What of the equipment that cannot or should not be moved, and the recent investments in facilities like the biological sciences glasshouses and the molecular biology facilities? What if, in the decades to come, UTAS realises a need to expand its STEM capacity? Having its own cleared land ready to go gives options unavailable if sold off now. Lastly, what of the third-party facilities? What are the implications of having research and other facilities now located in an inner residential zone?

I can assume they will be approved as an existing non-compliant use, but what if they need to intensify their operations? What flexibility is there in the inner residential zone to accommodate a building expansion or other change deemed an intensification of use in the CSIRO or TMAG buildings. These are all questions that I am sure there are no clear answers for today. If there are, I invite the minister to articulate them in summing up.

This sentiment is echoed by the National Tertiary Education Union which, amongst other things, raised strategic concerns about the potential loss of STEM facilities, the loss of integral educational facilities and a 'hollowed out' Sandy Bay site. In correspondence received two days ago, division secretary, Dr Ruth Barton, wrote:

To express our deep concerns regarding the proposed rezoning of the land above Churchill Avenue without proper public consultation.

In addition to strategic concerns, Dr Barton also raises a list of issues including:

- (1) Broken election promise and democratic process;
- (2) UTAS educational mission being compromised;
- (3) UTAS's poor record of planning;
- (4) Housing market context; and

(5) Consultation and transparency issue

She concludes by stating:

We strongly urge that the rezoning process be conducted through proper planning channels with genuine community consultation, not dealt with solely by way of legislative change. The educational importance of the site and the government's pre-election commitments must be honoured to ensure transparency, accountability and the best outcomes for our staff, students and community.

We Greens support this sentiment.

I am determined to give credit where credit is due, irrespective of our overall view on this bill when amended and the fact that we will vote against it because of the embedded injustice of the parliamentary rezoning. As I have said publicly and will put on the record here, the commitment of UTAS to retain the central campus for STEM facilities is welcome. I acknowledge that changing institutional direction and remaking longstanding decisions can be difficult and takes the effort of individuals working both internally and externally. I acknowledge that effort. We believe the decision to anchor back to Sandy Bay for STEM is the right and only tenable decision for UTAS. I know, through conversations with the Tasmanian University Student Association (TUSA), that students are excited and embrace the opportunity to have a genuine involvement in the co-design of the facilities to be proposed. I call on UTAS to ensure this excitement is harnessed and students are involved in the early stages of co-design.

In his correspondence to us as members and received this week, UTAS Vice Chancellor Rufus Black reiterated the public commitment to STEM facilities at Sandy Bay, including the complete retrofit of some existing buildings and the construction of some new facilities. We strongly support this decision and will get behind the university and its pitch for federal funding. I acknowledge and understand the scepticism of some in the community. Trust is long broken, but I will bank the UTAS commitment as a significant step and going forward, outside of this amended bill, I will commit to doing everything I can to make it happen.

I flag here my own amendment to the bill as tabled. Setting a 99-year threshold for parliamentary scrutiny of any leasing arrangements is inadequate. Ninety-nine years is longer than life. In anyone's language, 99 years may as well be a sale and in commercial terms it is one. The community is underwhelmed by the 99-year loophole and afraid for the central campus, given part of the past funding model for UTAS for the original redevelopment was via a very long-term lease for redevelopment.

To adopt more normal commercial terms when it comes to a leasehold threshold, 30 years is more appropriate. This gives ample flexibility for commercial arrangements for the kind of third-party leaseholds a university campus would usually entertain, including hospitality and other staff or student services, and business and research partnerships. Should it be necessary, a viable, well-costed and articulated leasehold of over 30 years could be presented to the parliament for approval. If well articulated, one would expect it to be positively received.

Also welcome is the university's commitment to land justice. The university is located on the unceded lands of the muwinina, a nation that did not survive colonisation and whose

rights, hopes and aspirations live on through today's palawa community. I take this opportunity to acknowledge elders past and the Aboriginal community of today. Five years ago next week, UTAS took the profound and very welcome step of apologising for its role in wrongdoings towards Tasmanian Aboriginal people. Delivered in English and palawa kani, the language of the Aboriginal people, the University of Tasmania's apology acknowledged the deep wrongs committed against the palawa people in its name and unreservedly apologised for them. It recognised that the university had been built on the proceeds of war and dispossession.

Words can be hollow and we have seen in this place a shameful political promise to make things better while actively making it worse: promising a reset in the relationship with Aboriginal people while bulldozing on with four-wheel drive tracks on remote cultural landscape, tabling a review report acknowledging Aboriginal heritage protection laws do not work, then letting three and a half years pass with no legislative action to fix them. Meanwhile, major developments on cultural landscapes are supported along the way. The kunanyi cable car and Robbins Island development are cases in point.

In his correspondence to us this week, Professor Black stated the intention to return land to its rightful owners and take tangible action to give real meaning to the sentiment of its apology. I quote:

In addition, we have commenced discussions with the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania about a handback of the bushland above the parcels identified for rezoning in this legislation, which has always been intended for protection given its environmental values, in recognition that this land was never ceded.

We are committed to working with the ALCT towards a memorandum of understanding to govern the work required to facilitate this handback.

This is ground-breaking action that gives me some hope that the uni will lead other institutions and the Tasmanian Government to return land to Aboriginal ownership. It has been 20 years since public land was returned to Aboriginal people. This government has ignored opportunities to deliver. It has rejected formal land claims from Land Council, the statutory body established to receive returned public land on behalf of palawa people.

While private landowners like Jane and Tom Tenniswood at Little Swanport, and the Tasmanian Land Conservancy have stepped up where government will not, it is so refreshing to see a public institution respond to the formal claim for the return of land. First put as a formal land claim in 2021, the Aboriginal Land Council has patiently waited for a positive response from UTAS. To see it reflected in the formal correspondence to members of this parliament is welcome indeed.

Land justice on this site not only presents opportunities for Aboriginal people to engage in land management interpretation, it gives the chance for local people to engage with Aboriginal land, and for the logical, educational, and cultural cross-pollination with the work of the university. I look forward to the MOU and to adding the Greens' support to the consultation process articulated by Professor Black.

I also welcome the retention of the sports fields at Olinda Grove for ongoing community use. These were originally proposed for redevelopment, including for tourism. While bushfire

and other issues seem to have scotched the development plans, the fact that these facilities will remain available for community use is a positive development.

To recap, while I pull out some positives to finish up on, the Greens will not support the amendments of the bill. The proposed amendments will serve to reinforce distrust in politics and the frustration so many in our community feel when the electoral commitments of their representatives do not play out. Parliamentary rezoning sets another terrible precedent where parliament overreaches into the planning system to profoundly change the rules with no assessment, no credible analysis, and no community consultation.

This is a desperate last-ditch effort driven by past failures and a government missing in action, spending available funds on perverse priorities. They are more prepared to ride roughshod over community in their own election commitment than stump up the funding requested by UTAS. The government demonstrates just how cooked it is. It is broke, acquiescent, and profoundly dishonest. The community have been blindsided by this announcement. They expected a bill that would mean parliament had to approve any land sales from the Sandy Bay campus. Instead, they got approval.

To be clear for those watching or reading this, we Greens will vote to support this bill through the second reading because, as drafted and tabled in this House, the bill does the job it was created to do. It offers parliamentary oversight for the disposal of public land gifted to the university 70 years ago for the purposes of higher education. We will oppose the foreshadowed amendments from the government. As with the Stony Rise development approvals, we will not support a parliamentary rezone. It is dodgy. It is self-defeating. It is uninformed. It is unfair. If the amendments get up, we will vote against the bill.

We all want UTAS to succeed. We all want it to be as good as it possibly can be - to enjoy the support of the community, to offer quality courses, and to engage in cutting-edge research. No one can deny recent years have been expensive and damaging for UTAS and for us a community. Few would disagree that there is significant reform needed to address the failures in the act. One thing is clear in our minds - ramming through special approval for a significant rezoning of public land, with no substantiation, no public consultation, and no recourse is no way to create the platform needed for the university to claw back the credibility, trust and collaboration needed to succeed for this state.

[4.55 p.m.]

Ms DOW (Braddon - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) - Honourable Speaker, I come from a city in Tasmania that was built on the back of world-class industry, and over time those industries changed as commodities changed and large-scale manufacturing moved offshore. I come from a community that traditionally has not held a high value of education. Others have mentioned in their contributions prior to me that being the case right across Tasmania.

I find it extraordinary that we would have a government that would belittle the University of Tasmania's reputation. We have a unique position in Tasmania where we have one university to serve our community, and I would have thought the government of the day would be working constructively with them to improve educational outcomes, to elevate the value of tertiary education across this state and to increase educational opportunities for Tasmanians.

Sadly, we have a government and members of a government that at the election, when they thought they might lose their seat in the electorate of Clark, had a knee-jerk political

reaction to save their own skin and have a policy around blocking the future growth of the university in Tasmania.

It has taken them some time to bring this bill to the House. We will not be supporting this bill and we have been very clear about that. We have also been very clear about providing leadership on this issue - leadership around the housing crisis and the housing that would indeed be created on the university site if the government was not blocking it. Why, in the middle of a housing crisis, would you block housing land supply? I thought you were builders on that side of the House, not blockers.

I could not believe it during the election when this policy was announced, because in a previous role I was a member of local government in Burnie. We had a desire in our community to elevate education across our community, to increase our community's value of education and to ensure that tertiary education was front of mind, visible and integrated across our community.

We worked with the University of Tasmania and, I might add, the state government - the deputy premier at the time, who is now the Premier, Jeremy Rockliff, and the education minister and premier of the day, Will Hodgman - on revitalising the university in Burnie and relocating our campus to the waterfront. It is a magnificent facility. I am not sure if the minister for science has been there, but if she has not, I encourage her to do so because it is outstanding.

Make no mistake, along the way we had criticisms about that. As a local government, we were criticised heavily for providing land for that development, but what we saw as a local government entity was that it was a legacy that we could provide to our community. If you are the government of the day, why would your legacy not be about creating better opportunities for your people, valuing education and investing in your industries?

We should be able to have world-class university facilities right here in Tasmania. Our young people should not want to be going away to university. It is fine for them to do that, and my own daughter will probably do that next year. I did it myself. It is good to open your eyes to what is happening around the country, but for those kids for whom that it is out of reach and they cannot do that, there should be opportunities for them.

Not only that, as we see with employment opportunities in this state, people will not be in the same job all their life as they were in the past. There will be the need at certain times in your life to take up tertiary education. A great example of this that I have seen occur through decisions that were made by council and the University of Tasmania on the north-west coast was the establishment of the School of Nursing on the north-west coast, where traditionally students would travel to Launceston to undertake that course.

What that means is that local people can continue to be employed in the aged care sector and the disability sector as a carer or an assistant, and they can have an opportunity to study at the same time and get their Bachelor of Nursing degree. I have had countless people across the community mention to me the great benefits and opportunities that that has brought to our community.

Not only that, it has brought opportunities for workforce development. We have severe shortages of healthcare professionals across our regions. Why would we not offer educational opportunities close to home for them to enable them to serve our community across our

healthcare system, raise their families and live on the beautiful north-west coast? There is no place I would rather live.

The SPEAKER - Living in Bass is quite lovely, honourable member. I can kick you out for that.

Ms DOW - I started reflecting on things as I was preparing what I was going to say on this bill today, and I reflected on an opinion piece that I wrote for the *Advocate* newspaper after I had been involved in a study tour across Europe with members of the Launceston City Council, the Hobart City Council and the University of Tasmania. We travelled across different European university sites to understand the role of education in developing cities and stimulating regional rejuvenation and economies, and the importance of relationships between universities and their communities. During this delegation we visited Freiburg in Germany and Brno in the Czech Republic, and attended a conference around global international education in London. We also visited King's College, Cambridge, where their council had entered into a city deal similar to those that had been signed at the time in Tasmania, which now no longer exist.

While some of those universities were centuries old, steeped in history, many of them had recently redeveloped their inner-city campuses. The study talk confirmed the international trend of universities moving into city centres, and reaffirmed for me the steps taken by UTAS and city councils at the time to relocate their university campuses.

I think that the opportunity for Tasmanian cities to redesign their campuses and courses will give us a competitive advantage not only locally but internationally, in light of Brexit and international protectionism. Tasmania is very well placed to attract both interstate and international students. In fact, that is something that we should be endeavouring to do more of.

This tour highlighted the importance of universities investing locally through examples of shared university and community facilities - spaces like libraries and civic facilities. There was also an opportunity for under-utilised community facilities and spaces to be used differently in partnership with the university. Mendel University in Brno owned their own botanical gardens; they had agricultural land and forest reserves where they conducted research of conservation. I said at the time that this investment, along with their innovation in agriculture and forestry, warranted further exploration in Tasmania, and I am still of that opinion.

The point that I have not got to yet is the importance of the university in industry development across Tasmania. This government has dropped the ball when it comes to industry development across this state and making sure that we have the skilled workforce, tertiary opportunities, and also vocational education and training opportunities right across Tasmania to enable Tasmanians to enter into the current industries that we have here and also look to innovation and new industries across our island.

The other part of this piece that I wrote focused on the importance of people living in and around cities, which the university developments certainly encouraged. For places like where I live in Burnie, that is a very good thing, as we see regional CBDs really struggling with changes in online shopping and other things. This is a way of revitalising city centres as well.

The last point that I want to draw from that piece I wrote back then is about the importance of cities being driven by knowledge and learning, and the importance of the

knowledge economy. Right now in Tasmania we have an opportunity to seize that. I do not believe this government has done that at all. It is only today that I see that you have released another discussion paper around innovation and science. You have had 10 years to develop innovation across industry across this state, and it is sadly lacking, in my opinion.

There is an opportunity to decentralise education across Tasmania, giving more opportunity to Tasmanians to get the skills and knowledge that they need to participate in our workforce. We are facing chronic skills shortages across the state, and the workforce planning has not been done, whether across essential services or industry itself.

That gives you a bit of a preface, and my thoughts. It explains my reaction at the last state election when I heard this policy being announced. This government forever puts its party above state. It does not matter where you look across the government, whether it is our budget, fiscal position, or whether it is the example of this policy at the last state election. Other policies that were introduced at the last state election included banning ambulance ramping, and that is not going so well for the government. You have these 'thought bubbles', I believe, which are related to your own political survival. It is all about maintaining your own political survival and not about the best interests of Tasmania. This bill highlights that. In my opinion, it is shameful.

I commend the university for their vision. They have been able to have a vision for Tasmania about where and how they want their facilities to deliver an education to Tasmanians. They have had the foresight - they have been planning most of that for years. It is incredibly disappointing that their own state government would seek to block that - block opportunities for Tasmanians out of pure political instinct and pure political survival.

In summing up, we will not be supporting this bill. This government should not be blocking access to tertiary education. You should not be blocking access to housing for the thousands of Tasmanians who are on the wait list across the state. The other aspect of that is that we need more housing supply to attract professionals to come and work in Tasmania.

Speaker, I could talk for a long time. It is the last sitting day of the year. If there is one single policy that says a lot about this government and its motivation, it is this one. It is disgraceful.

[5.07 p.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON (Clark) - Honourable Speaker, I rise to speak on this bill, and I do so as a proud UTAS graduate from 2003. I care deeply that we have a fit-for-purpose university focused on academic excellence, and I am very proud of my time at the University of Tasmania. What has occurred over the last few years, it is fair to say, has been a significant distraction from that core focus on achieving academic excellence at our university - and it is our state's university.

I welcomed the government's announcement at the election of the policy and their intent to bring this bill to this place because I felt that it added an extra layer of scrutiny, consultation and oversight to the activities of the university. It allowed the university to focus on academic excellence.

Likewise, when the university announced recently that they are pivoting and looking to retain the Sandy Bay site for STEM, I welcomed that. I thought they had finally read the writing

on the wall in that particular instance, and made the right call. I thought that we had found a sweet spot, if you like, where the university was focused on STEM, on delivering that STEM facility in Sandy Bay and enhancing that, and academic excellence, as it should be. I thought that we had tabled before us, ready for debate at some stage this year, a bill which looked at a process for future development and sale, or disposal, of that particular land and the proper consultation and parliamentary oversight that should go with that.

I recognise that because the land was effectively gifted to UTAS for higher education purposes, it is appropriate that there is a transparent parliamentary process for approval before that land can be sold or leased in the future. I felt that was really important. It is important to put on the record what Ms Ogilvie said at the time on ABC radio. She said:

If we have a compelling business case that makes sense, then I think that will resonate with people. Consultation and the building of a social licence will be incredibly important, and the university is Tasmania's university. So, definitely, there is a very clear process that ought to be laid out, whether there is consultation or social licence built, and the entire state gets behind the university in terms of achieving and striving for academic excellence.

However, something has gone wrong. Somewhere between the announcement at the election and the most recent announcement by the university of their focus on STEM in Sandy Bay, we now have a position where the minister has risen today, in her second reading contribution, and effectively said that they are going to flip the tables completely. It has blindsided many in the community, who believed her at the election when she said that she was committed to a process of transparency in parliamentary approval. It has caused great concern and certainly has been deeply disrespectful.

The question is, what has changed? Has there been some secret deal done? With no transparency and no business case released to the community for consideration, for consultation, once again we have this division in our community where we are not united behind the university. There is mistrust and a lack of information presented to the community for them to understand what is going on here.

Again, what we have indicated from the minister, with her intent to move significant amendments to the bill that was tabled by the government to practically reverse the intent of the initial attempt of the bill, is another planning process which has been completely ignored.

We have statutory planning processes for rezoning land for a very good reason. It outlines quite clearly that it needs to comply with land use strategies, that there needs to be a public consultation process, and that those issues around infrastructure and development need to be worked through. That is done in a very open and transparent way, with all the information laid before not only the decision-makers but the community as well.

However, this bill, and the amendments proposed by the minister, circumvents all that, so we come to a position where I cannot support the bill as amended. That is a great shame, because I was quite delighted to be able to support a government bill, for once. I thought that was going to be a bit of a first for me, but I cannot.

Out of respect for those members of our community who have been deeply concerned about the future of the university, who have been very active in it, and who took the minister

at face value at the election that she was going to do as she said she was going to do, I believe it is important to put on the record some questions. I hope that the minister, in responding, can provide the answers to those. Minister, I would like to know:

How was the particular land selected to be rezoned and sold?

How did you come to that conclusion with the boundaries for inner residential rezoning?

How did you come up with that particular parcel of land? There needs to be a very clear explanation to the community.

As the Deputy Leader of the Greens, Mr Bayley, indicated, there are highly valued and expensive STEM facilities on the land approved, or to be approved, for rezoning and sale. How will these be preserved, or replaced? Has the university given you any assurances about how they will either be replaced or preserved? How that would be funded if they are to be replaced, and whether the money from the sale of that land would then be consumed by the replacement, and therefore provide no overall benefit to the STEM facilities?

Can the minister please outline:

- Is zoning for inner city housing appropriate for this site?

Normally when these kinds of processes go through a planning process or a council process and then a TPC process, there are significant reports provided to the planning authority, to the community for consultation, which outline all things that ought to be considered. Bushfire-prone, road access, infrastructure access, public transport access - all those kinds of things are provided.

Can the minister table some of those documents that she has taken into consideration to determine that the inner residential zoning is the appropriate zoning for this particular site?

How will the community and the Hobart City Council have input into creation of development guidelines for the rezoned land? How will the community have their say - or is this the end of the road in this parliament for community consultation, and you have just turned your back on a promise that you made to the community?

What guarantees are there that UTAS will spend sale proceeds on the STEM facilities for the Sandy Bay campus?

I recognise that the university has written to members of parliament in recent days giving assurances, but we have heard multiple iterations of different promises from the university over a number of months and years about what their plans are. I would like to know how the minister is going to provide guarantees that the university will ensure -

Mr Winter - I am sure you signed the city deal to move the university into the city.

The SPEAKER - Members will cease interjecting.

Ms JOHNSTON - Thank you, Speaker. I am sure the Opposition Leader will realise that you sign them on behalf of councils, not individually, the way you do as a mayor.

Will the sale of a land be sufficient to fund STEM? We know the significant investment that is needed in the STEM facilities in Sandy Bay is about \$500 million. How would that be achieved? What happens if the university cannot secure those funds? What happens to the proceeds of those sales then?

We have had a lot of discussion about the possibility of housing for these particular sites. Can the minister please outline if the social or affordable housing will be a requirement for the land sale? How do you assure yourself that there will be social and affordable housing on this particular site? Can the minister also give any kind of assurances or guarantees, or provide or table any documents, which say that approximately 2000 homes can be built on this land to be rezoned and sold?

Mr Winter - What is a good number then?

Ms JOHNSTON - Any homes. Have you got documentation? That is the kind of information that a council would have before them if they were making these decisions. They would have all the information about the rezoning, about the suitability of land for the purpose for which it is going to be rezoned, but before us today, we have none of that. We have nothing that the normal council process would have in place to determine that inner residential zoning is the appropriate zoning. We have to take the minister's word for it. That is not good enough,

Out of respect for the people you are letting down with these amendments, can you at least do them the courtesy of providing them an honest answer? It might not be the answer that they want to hear, and I fully understand that, but the community deserves to have an honest answer about this so that when it does turn pear-shaped, and I am sure it will, the community can look back to this moment and understand where it went wrong.

[5.18 p.m.]

Dr BROAD (Braddon) - Honourable Speaker, I have been listening to this debate. I was not going to speak, but I cannot stand by and watch this hypocrisy and complete lack of self-awareness go unchallenged.

I am staggered by some of the arguments that have been put forward not only today but in the last week. What we see is a complete lack of self-awareness from two of the speakers especially, being the member who has just resumed her seat, Ms Johnston, and Mr Bayley. On the one hand they are arguing that you cannot step outside the planning scheme and have a new process - that is one part of their argument - but at the same time, they are arguing that you can step outside the planning scheme and force an entirely new process on the university. How can you hold both of those things true? The Greens seem to be planning supremacists. It is all planning and it is all process.

What this bill actually does - and I cannot understand how the member who brings this bill, Ms Ogilvie, can actually show her face in Sandy Bay, but I will get to that later. The hypocrisy. The university has to be treated differently from everything else. We have to come into this place and make completely new legislation - create a whole new planning overlay -

for one institution. That is what they are arguing on the one hand. Then, on the other hand, the parliament cannot rezone because that steps outside the planning process.

I do not see other institutions being held to the same standard. Churches quite often sell land surplus to their requirements. Are they required to come into this place to get that approved by parliament for sale? No.

What about the Education department? I have seen the Education department sell entire schools to fund new schools. Does the Education department, despite that land being granted as a school for an education purpose, have to come into this place if they want to sell a primary school? We have seen a fair few examples of that. Did they have to come into this place and get special permission to sell the Upper Burnie Primary School? No.

What about councils when they sell their surplus land? Maybe there is land that is zoned or was given to the council for things like recreation. If we have a piece of recreation land that is surplus to the council's requirement, do they need to come into this place and get special permission to be able to sell that land? No.

Are the Greens and Ms Johnston demanding that churches, the Education department, councils - and we could probably think of a heap more different institutions that sell their land to fund something else - now require a special process? They need to be singled out so that they have to get the approval of parliament, an entirely novel layer on just one institution, because they do not like the idea of the university moving into the city.

How much hypocrisy can we actually stand in this place? It is obscene. On the one hand they are saying planning stands above everything, whether it be Stony Rise or granting extensions to planning permits, like we have been dealing with this week and last. No. Planning reigns supreme, except if you are the university. Shame on the university wanting to move into the city - then you have to create a whole new process.

You cannot hold both those positions at the same time and not be a hypocrite. That is my point. This is all about politics. It is all about a set of people in Sandy Bay who do not want extra people in the bay for whatever reason. That is what this is all about. We see the Liberal Party kowtowing to them; we see the Greens kowtowing to them; and now we see Ms Johnston also bowing down before the Save UTAS group.

How did we get to this position? We have had a government support the move of the university into the city for - what is it - a decade? Then all of a sudden, because some people get desperate to be elected, they decide to throw out a ridiculous policy that has ended up being this bill we see before us in parliament. Then, what is even more ridiculous is they do a horrendous backflip and a double dud. They are dudding the university, to start with, for the benefit of the Save UTAS group, and then what do they do? They come into this place and then they dud the Save UTAS people by actively rezoning this land.

It is unbelievable, but that is what we are seeing before us. We also have to add to the hypocrisy of the Greens. They have just admitted today that they are going to stand in the way of 2000 houses being built in an area like Sandy Bay. I do not know why the Greens think Sandy Bay is so precious that it should not have 2000 more houses.

Mr Bayley - It's the rezoning, mate. Did you not listen? Process.

Dr BROAD - Why should it be Inner Residential? These people cannot see something that is so obvious. What would happen if they did not have Inner Residential? They would have to lay all those current buildings flat and build nice little blocks with a house on it.

Now that I have just enlightened the Greens, the university could gut all those buildings and turn them into apartments and quickly get them to market. I do not know how many houses you could get into those buildings. I must also say that I have a lot of experience in those buildings. Not only was I a student there with my Bachelor of Agriculture Science, I did the vast majority of my PhD there, and I even worked for UTAS in those buildings. I know those buildings quite well, and I have been thinking to myself, how many apartments could you get into these buildings? How many apartments could you recycle out of these buildings and create homes for people in a housing crisis - put downward pressure on housing prices in an area where there are already a lot of people? There are already services there.

They talked about services. What do you think all the students do when they go to the toilet in those buildings? They flush the toilet. There is already a lot of infrastructure there. It does not need to be a whole new, repurposed, upgrade of sewerage systems and powerlines and so forth. If you are going to redevelop a bunch of buildings for housing, all the resources are already there. The sewerage connection is there, the power is there - but guess what? It needs to be Inner Residential. Otherwise, they have to lay all those buildings flat and then subdivide into blocks. Of course it needs to be Inner Residential. That is a good outcome. Turning those buildings into apartments would be a good outcome.

Now that I have enlightened the Greens, are they going to stand in the way of recycling those buildings, or are they going to insist on a different zoning so all those buildings have to be levelled? That is a question I believe they need to answer. You just cannot believe the Greens especially.

Where is Mr Behrakis? Where is he? He is so embarrassed by this that he has not even bothered to show his face during this entire debate. What was his policy? He was standing there and he put the Facebook posts up. He was captured in the photo, maybe unwillingly, but he was there and he is not willing to defend his part of this whole sorry situation.

Why do I think the move to the centre of the university is actually a good thing? That is because I have travelled. I have been to various cities, especially in Europe, that are university towns, where they have the university smack-bang in the middle of the city. I have been to places, especially in my younger days, even before I went to university. I have been to Leuven and Antwerp in Belgium, I have been to Lund in Sweden, and I have been to Freiburg in Germany. They are all university towns and they are fabulous. There is so much life.

I remember my time on the Sandy Bay campus. We used to have to walk from the top - this whole new area that the university now wants to develop for housing - from those buildings above Churchill Avenue all the way down to the bottom, to the lecture theatres, in 10 minutes. Then we had to walk all the way back up in the next 10 minutes to catch the next lecture. The university campus itself is not ideal. People do not believe that, but that was my experience. The bit that is going to remain in the university was the best part of the university. The rest was not actually as good. That is my opinion.

I support the move into the city, because having universities in the middle of the city makes it easier to get to the universities, and it creates life around. You only have to see the

impact of the student accommodation in the middle of town and what it has done to Elizabeth Street, especially those parts where there were shops that were like CWA knitting and maybe a map distributor. Now they are vibrant takeaways and there are people there all the time. I like the CWA, I have probably bought a beanie off them, but now there are people there all hours. It has a lot of life. Why is that? It is because the students are in the middle of the town. If people cannot see that, they are blind.

Getting to Sandy Bay is a barrier for a lot of people. Think about housing as a student. I lived in about nine different properties while I went to university, I worked and there was always a reason for moving. It was not about me being kicked out. We could go through that, but it would take time. I lived in Dynnyrne, in Battery Point, and in Sandy Bay. I always wanted to walk to the university. However, there were people who lived in Claremont, who lived in Kingston, who lived on the Eastern Shore, who found it very, very difficult to get to the university. They found it very difficult to park. That is why I always walked. I did not even have a car for the four years I was a uni student. I walked everywhere, because I could live in Sandy Bay. Now, you cannot live in Sandy Bay. The rents are extreme. There are people who are living much further out, staying with their parents longer. Being in the city gives you greater access. Moving into the city is a fantastic thing.

What we had from this government bringing this bill today is it creates an enormous amount of sovereign risk that the Greens and Ms Johnston obviously think is a good thing. Creating a new system, in effect a new planning system where one institution wanting to sell land then has to receive the approval of parliament. That is a new layer that did not exist before, and yet the Greens cannot see the hypocrisy of their own position. It is just insane, considering the debates we have had. Only today, we had almost all the Greens talk about how the planning process must not be subverted. What have they been doing today? Backing in an entirely new process and picking on just one university.

You are creating a whole new process. You talked about process. 'It's not about anything else, it's about process'. That is what we have heard today in the debate about Stony Rise. It is not about how good that supermarket is going to be for the people of Devonport, even though all the people of Devonport want it. It is about the process. 'We're process masters. Process, process.' Now, they are going to create an entirely new process out of thin air, just because Save UTAS happens to be the people they want the support of. Absolute hypocrisy, but they obviously cannot see it. If they cannot, maybe they should just have a good, hard look at themselves and consider putting up different arguments.

What they are actually doing - the Greens, especially - is standing in the way of 2000 houses in a housing crisis. They are absolutely going to do that. They are going to create a new process. They want to stop the repurposing of the old buildings. Where does it stop?

Here are the Greens. They talk about climate change, stand in the way of any sort of windfarm development, want Pedder drained - taking money from oil and gas developers. You would not believe that the Greens actually received campaign funding from oil and gas interests and they are not going to give the money back. If that is not hypocrisy - they wanted to not dam the Franklin because they wanted a coal-fired power station in the Fingal valley. I am going a fair way back into history, just to give you the background on why the Greens are the biggest hypocrites in this place, and it continues today.

[5.32 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark - Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy) - Honourable Speaker, I am very pleased to see we have complete consensus in the House. Well done, everyone. I say that a little tongue-in-cheek. The passions we have seen in this debate have come from a place of great care for our university and deep concern for education. That is something we do have complete consensus on in this House.

The debate is all about how we are going to get there. What I have sought to do - and I will be a bit personal about this - is to find a way forward for what has been a difficult community conversation that has gone on for quite some time.

It is absolutely evident that everybody wants the campus to remain in Sandy Bay. To do that, we need to make sure it is reinvigorated, that campus life returns, and that we are able to use it for the future education of Tasmanians and others who come here to study. In order to do that, we know we need to invest. When I say 'we', I say this broadly, as a state.

The federal government has the constitutional responsibility for tertiary education, and they have the funds. We know they have the funds available. That is the money that Tasmanians are due for tertiary education in Australia. I believe we should speak, with one voice, as Tasmanians, to demand our fair share. I know that the university's accord has mapped this. It has looked at where the funds need to go, and they are looking at regional areas. I want us to grasp this opportunity, if we can, to move this discussion forward.

A STEM campus is a marvellous thing and will be a great idea. The university has done a lot of work in reinvigorating its 2017 plan for that infrastructure development for the STEM campus. We are very supportive of that.

In order to move all of it forward though, we do have to deal with this question of the parcels of land above Churchill Avenue. For those who have their amendments before them - and I have extra copies here for those who do not - you will see we are discussing two specific parcels of land, not the entirety of the land between Churchill Avenue and Mount Nelson, which by the way, we are currently in parliament discussing as per our proposal in the bill.

I was very pleased to be able to get some information from my advisers in relation to some of the planning questions that have been raised, which are quite similar, so I will run through some responses and hopefully I will be able to address your specific concerns as we do that. Please bear with me as I do so.

In relation to the questions from Mr Bayley and Ms Johnston regarding planning, the government has relied on the substantial amount of work undertaken in the UTAS master plan. The master plan is consistent with the Hobart City Council's Mount Nelson-Sandy Bay neighbourhood plan discussion paper. This substantial body of high-quality work has helped the government determine an appropriate zone for this land.

Hobart City Council is projecting significant population growth in this area, some of which can be accommodated on this central and well-suited site. The site has high levels of proximity to recreation space, services and infrastructure including public transport. These circumstances are consistent with the Inner Residential zone purpose at 11.1.1.3 of the planning scheme, which states:

The purpose of the inner residential zone is to encourage residential development at higher densities in locations within walkable distances of services, facilities, employment and high frequency public transport corridors.

The Inner Residential zone is permissive of a range of uses including educational uses, retail uses and residential uses, which currently occur on the site. All existing activity on the site would retain existing use rights. I am advised that it is unlikely that the Inner Residential zone would place any significant constraints on the use and further development of existing activity on the site.

Dr Broad was interested in the question of why UTAS appears to be singled out for different treatment. I am going to seek to table this; I think it is helpful so that it is on the record. In relation to university land management, we have a multi-jurisdictional scan, including states and territories and federal government, in relation to the checks and balances, particularly parliamentary, on the use and sale of land. I seek to table that because I think it will be a helpful reference point.

In relation to that issue specifically, the broad question is why should government be involved in decision-making involving a private entity? Isn't this in some way sort of interfering with the government's business or sole discretion? We understand that universities are an important part of our society and they provide immense public benefit, not only for students but for staff, local communities, our business community and the industry development that Ms Dow spoke of. That is very much top of our minds.

Australian universities are predominantly creations of state governments. Each university's establishing act sets out its purpose, governance arrangements and any other responsibilities. In Tasmania, the University of Tasmania is governed by the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*, and an earlier version of this legislation gifted the university the land at the Sandy Bay campus for educational purposes.

As the only university in Tasmania, the university is an essential Tasmanian educational institution. It forms part of the fabric of many Tasmanian stories - many in this room that we have heard tonight. I have enjoyed the stories of university accommodation and the number of houses people lived in and around Sandy Bay as they were enjoying their campus life. Long may it continue. Many Tasmanians have these strong connections and there has been so much community debate about this issue. I really hope that we are able to find a consensus, agree to compromise and move forward - grasp this opportunity right now to do what is right for Tasmania, right for our kids and right for everybody who lives in this state.

I am very aware that people make choices about where they want to go to university. They choose interstate universities if and when they can, and they choose to do that if it suits them and they can fund it. However, it is essential that we have a national level, contemporary Tasmanian university that provides education across all of the core elements, a number of which are STEM disciplines, and that we do that right in Tasmania. It is of great benefit to us that we have incredible professors who are teaching these subjects. We have incredible staff working at the university, and they are working with the facilities that they have in hand.

There has been quite a bit of discussion about facilities above Churchill Avenue, and I will turn to that issue specifically. I will refer to the university's letter in relation to that in

a moment. Part of this discussion - and people have touched on it in slightly different ways - is what consultation has happened? We know that significant public engagement and debate has already occurred on this issue, including the Legislative Council inquiry into the provisions of the *University of Tasmania Act 1992*.

The inquiry ran from May 2022 until March 2023, and I will give you some details for those that are watching on. During that time, 149 submissions were received from a diverse range of people, including students, graduates, current and former academics, associations, unions, local government, business organisations and interest groups. About 65 per cent of those submissions showed concerns about relocation of campuses without consultation, accountability, transparency and research into the social, urban and ecological implications of relocation, and the effects relocation has on the students and staff in terms of teaching and learning.

The City of Hobart had a public meeting on 11 May 2022. The university was invited to provide preliminary content for the case for relocation and Save UTAS Campus was invited to provide preliminary content for the case against relocation. As it transpires, it looks like we will retain, with your support, colleagues, the university campus at Sandy Bay. This is a good thing. This is a step forward. This is what we want. I have learned that in political life we do not always get 100 per cent of what we seek. I think the compromise is sound.

An elector poll took place on 3 October 2022 by postal voting. On 29 October we had the results, showing 22,631 voters did not support the university's proposal to relocate the Sandy Bay campus to the Hobart CBD. We know that. That has been quoted in this debate in the Chamber today.

On the 'freezing' of assets of the university: we are not seeking to lock up the university's assets. What we are seeking to do, and what the bill does, is provide parliamentary scrutiny and oversight. That is what we are doing right now. This is scrutiny and oversight. We have a proposal on the table for a way forward that retains the Sandy Bay campus and provides some ability to fund it. I was very heartened by Mr Bayley's comments about some of the good things. There is a range of good discussions that are happening.

I understand the level of exhaustion some people feel with this conversation that has been going on for quite a lot of time. I have put a great deal of effort into finding a pathway forward. That is where we are today - to discuss that.

I would like to take a bit of time - I think this is also important - to acknowledge that we have all had different experiences at university, across a number of universities. I was trying to jot down the number of universities I have been to, seen or visited: Kings College, Oxford, Stanford, the University of New South Wales, RMIT, Melbourne University - where I did my first degree; I went away, I came back, it was hard to get back - Monash, ANU, and University of San Diego - they are ones that I have seen.

There are some beautiful campuses out there and we can do an incredible thing at Sandy Bay. I want our kids to have the best of the best with our technology expertise, with the ability to have jobs working locally, globally. It would be great if they get paid in American dollars. They can work here in jobs over there. This is a digital and global economy and Tasmania needs to rightly assert itself and take its place in this new economy that is developing it, Economy 2.0.

What I see across the nation is that those states and territories that have these STEM campuses, you only have to visit RMIT to see what it could be, are doing better. They are doing better than us, they are getting the funding, they are getting the partners, they are getting the research done, they are getting the grants, and they are getting the students.

We need to compete and we need to set the foundation so that our graduates who fill up our government departments, who build our bridges, who do the programming for video games, which is really hot right now, all that great stuff that they are trained to the level that we need them to be, that they are able to access these global digital roles, and that they are the workforce of the future. This is why we have organisations that have their finger on the pulse with a STEM and tech area coming out in support of a STEM campus. That is another thing we agree on. Save University campus in Sandy Bay, a STEM campus, is great as well and we all agree that, somehow, we need to fund this. We have put together a proposition which we think will take us there.

There are few other questions asked which are quite specific. I have around 15 minutes left and would like to read into *Hansard* the proposition that the university has put. Let us have it on the record so that we all know what we are dealing with. I understand that a form of this letter has gone to everybody in this Chamber, major parties and then Independents. This is the one that was sent to me, so I feel comfortable reading that out:

Dear Minister Ogilvie.

I'm writing with regard to the Tasmanian Government's decision to amend the University of Tasmania Protection of Land Bill to reduce the disposal restriction to the land below Churchill Avenue and provide for the rezoning of some land above Churchill Avenue to allow for a contribution to the development of a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, STEM, precinct on the Sandy Bay campus.

The University welcomes the government's decision to take a pragmatic and balanced approach to accommodating the University's educational requirements while responding to community considerations.

As you are aware, on 5 November 2024, I announced the University's plan for a future Hobart presence with four campus sites providing students with experiences built around the best the city has to offer, including the development of a STEM campus at Sandy Bay. This plan would involve the complete retrofit of some existing buildings, the addition of new builds and the enhancement of the natural landscape of the campus. It will also provide opportunities for industry co-location and increase school and community engagement and this decision was the result of the University's councils reflecting over an extended period of time on important matters including the educational needs of Tasmania, staff and student requirements, and community feedback.

This decision has been supported by the major new policy and funding directions for higher education set by the Federal Government, the State Government's legislation and stated desire to see STEM remain at Sandy Bay and the City of Hobart's planning direction.

Work is now well underway on the business case for the STEM precinct on Sandy Bay, informed by engagement with our College of Sciences and Engineering, staff, students and relevant stakeholders, and we expect to be able to share the final version with you in the first quarter of 2025. All indications are that the STEM facilities that Tasmania needs will cost in the order of \$500 million and support from all three levels of government will be critical just as it was to our successful northern transformation project that has delivered the new campuses, enhancing learning offering and contemporary research facilities in Burnie and Launceston.

We were pleased to see the City of Hobart pass a motion to formally advocate for government funding to create a new world class STEM hub at Sandy Bay on the 14th of October 2024. This followed the motion in the Australian Parliament on the 20th of August 24 moved by Tasmanian senators from across the political spectrum.

This motion resolved that there is an urgent need for the Australian Government to work with the Tasmanian Government to develop measures to address the STEM educational crisis in Tasmania including the development of a new STEM precinct plan for the University of Tasmania, with opportunities for community, industry and other educational providers to be welcomed to the precinct.

We are now looking to the Tasmanian Parliament to join the push for these urgently needed new STEM facilities and this is a pressing issue for our entire community. Unless we get started in the next 12 to 18 months, Tasmania will not have new STEM facilities until well into the 2030's putting us decades behind other states and as you know, that really matters when so many new jobs and the competitiveness of our existing industries are dependent on science and technologies.

Given the absence of a dedicated infrastructure fund for higher education and the financial constraints of both the State of Tasmania and the University of Tasmania, as we have detailed before the Public Accounts Committee in recent months, we have recognised that the bulk of the funding for the new STEM facilities will need to come from the federal government. We have further recognised that between the state and the University, we will need to find a way to make a financial contribution to the project to attract federal government support.

Accordingly, the University is prepared to end to end into a deed of undertaking in the form of a deed poll, a legally binding document to commit to all proceeds from the development of the rezoned land above Churchill Avenue Being committed to the STEM precinct below Churchill Avenue. The University legal team has drafted a deed poll and provided it to the relevant Tasmanian Government agencies to commence negotiation.

This draft commits the University to keep the funds arising from development above Churchill quarantined and to only use those funds for the purposes of financing the STEM precinct below Churchill Avenue. The

University would also be open to making commitments around affordable housing in the deed poll.

Given our longstanding commitment to ensuring any developments on university land include a range of price points to allow for key worker accommodation and subject to discussions with Homes Tasmania and other potential partners, there may be opportunities to include social housing and supported living for elderly Tasmanians as well.

We look forward to further conversation with relevant Tasmanian Government agencies on this topic and once negotiations are concluded and University Council has endorsed the deed poll, I propose that the final deed poll be made public in line with our institutional commitment to transparency and accountability. In addition, we have commenced discussions with the Aboriginal Land Council Tasmania about a hand back of the bushland above the parcels identified for rezoning in the legislation which has always been intended for protection given its environmental values.

We are committed to working with the ALCT towards a memorandum of understanding to govern the work required to facilitate this hand back, including consideration of the mechanisms for the land return, a thorough community engagement process and opportunities for the University were to enhance its teaching, learning and research offerings through a land return. We will also need to undertake surveying to confirm the boundaries of the land to be handed back noting, that the Olinda Grove soccer grounds need to be available for ongoing community use.

I assure you of the University's commitment to working methodically through the plans for the development of new STEM facilities to ensure that all necessary existing facilities remain available for the use of our researchers until such time that better facilities become available.

As we have said all along, we will retain many of the facilities on the Sandy Bay campus that cannot be moved, including but not limited to the student accommodation, sporting fields and a number of the key tenancies, including CSIRO and the Tasmanian Herbarium.

Finally, it is worth noting here that any development on the entire existing Sandy Bay campus, including the proposed STEM precinct below Churchill Avenue and developments on the rezoned land above Churchill Avenue would be subject to regular planning approval processes through the Hobart City Council, including standard public exhibition and community consultation.

Thank you for your important leadership on this complex issue. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Tasmanian Government to bring the STEM precinct on Sandy Bay to life over the coming years.

Professor Rufus Black.

Thank you for indulging me on that. It is important that we have those commitments on the record and that we have it in writing.

Mr Bayley - It begs a couple of questions that I put to you though, minister. One was about Homes Tasmania's position, and one was very explicitly around whether the Tasmanian government is making a financial contribution to the STEM precinct.

Ms OGILVIE - I will just confirm on the Homes Tasmania issue to see where we are at with that.

I have just received some advice on that. We are open to having negotiations between Homes Tasmania and the university. They have not occurred yet, but certainly something that we would be open to having. Your second question was?

Mr Bayley - Is the Tasmanian government making a financial contribution to the STEM?

Ms OGILVIE - We have not agreed to make a financial contribution to STEM. It is part of the reason why the sale of the two parcels of land is important. Having said that, I remind the Chamber that as a state government, we have a number of programs that we are working closely with the university on: research programs, the Menzies, IMAS - many ways that we are connected into the university and do support the university in that regard.

What we are doing, and I hope you will come on this journey, taking it at your word about where this might go, we would like to very strongly support the university's bid to the federal government. I know the Hobart City Council takes that view as well and it is something we could do together. Somebody, and it may have been you Mr Bayley, mentioned the co-development word. Was that you?

Mr Bayley - Students are very keen on that, co-design.

Ms OGILVIE - Yes, I like that too. Co-design is good and 360° feedback is really important. My understanding is the university has started to have some of those conversations particularly with the science leaders at the university around - they had a nice name for it; I cannot quite recall it - bringing everybody together to say let us vision this. I agree: the students are an incredibly important piece of that conversation. That is the current support that we are providing.

I will just flick through my questions to see if there is anything else.

Next steps for the deed you were asking: the university has provided a draft to our agencies. It is a very basic draft and would need discussion and negotiation. As has been my commitment to anybody who is deeply interested in this issue, I am very happy to engage with everybody and you have seen me endeavouring to do that. I am very happy to go on that journey with you as well. I understand you are interested in the Aboriginal land issue. I think that was it.

Bill read the second time.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (No. 31)

In Committee

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 -
Commencement

[6.00 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY - This is a simple question. The commencement date for the act reads that the act is taken to have commenced on 14 May. I am interested in why 14 May was chosen. What is the relevance of that date? Depending on your answer, I have a follow up question in relation to a parcel of land in that regard.

Ms OGILVIE - That date is the date we were sworn in as a government and therefore the election commitment became effective as of that date.

Mr BAYLEY - Is that usual for an election commitment to be a date for the commencement of an act, as opposed to sometime in the future?

Ms OGILVIE - I will ask my advisers. Some information that will help as to the commencement date being chosen: when we went to the last Tasmanian election, we made a commitment to prevent the university from unilaterally disposing of the land at Sandy Bay without parliamentary oversight. It was important for us to move quickly on this commitment to provide the required certainty to the Tasmanian people. Further, it was important that we prevent any sales from the date the Tasmanian people chose us to represent them. That is the government date and that is why the legislation commenced on the day that we formed government, 14 May 2024.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 -
Interpretation

Mr BAYLEY - I have foreshadowed an amendment to this clause in relation to page 4, paragraph (i). The amendment I intend to move is to leave out '99' and insert instead '30'. This goes to the issue of a commercial lease and what would need to have parliamentary oversight as it is written at the moment. A lease for a term of not less than 99 years would need to come to parliament for oversight. The logic of that is that if it is longer than 99 years, it would need to come back to parliament for a decision. Ninety-nine years is a very long time in anyone's language. It is longer than life or most lives. It is considered a sale and in terms of commercial arrangements for many operations. I have had this put to me by a number of different people, including people very close to the university, that our amendment is for 30 years.

Mr Winter - Save UTAS you mean, right?

Mr BAYLEY - No, not necessarily. No. Including someone who used to sit on the University Council that a lease term of 30 years would be more appropriate. Thirty years is a significant period of time. Thirty years is time enough for your average business that is

operating on campus to negotiate, be that for hospitality services for students and staff, or for some kind of co-location or research partnership with business. Thirty years is pretty standard and pretty reasonable.

Remembering that this is for a check and balance: this is to come back to parliament to actually say with a proposition, this is the lease, this is the terms of the lease, this is what is going to happen. If that case is put well and articulated, I expect any reasonably minded parliament to agree to it.

While this has been put to me as well, Mr Winter, by others who are concerned, I make the point that quite a lot of UTAS's original development plans for the central campus area were not necessarily for a sale as per paragraph (a) for example - sell, barter, exchange, deal in or agree to sell. It was for a long-term lease - very long-term leases. Many people see this clause as a significant loophole that UTAS could use effectively to execute its original plan and, as a result, undermine the policy intent and the practical intent of the bill, which is to provide a level of oversight for anything that is effectively sold.

I move the following amendment -

Page 4, definition of dispose, paragraph (i)

Leave out '99'

Insert instead '30'

We do this in good faith, recognising that 30 years is also a very long time and is a pretty standard commercial lease length. I used to be a property valuer and do some work in this space, and 30 years is a significant length of time and probably longer than many businesses sign up to in the first place.

This is about trying to address a genuine community fear that it might be a loophole that will allow the original master plan to be delivered irrespective of this legislation. We have set it at 30 years - not three, not five, not 10, not 25 but 30 years, because it is a big chunk of time and it gives plenty of room for just about any commercial activities that I can envisage on site to be signed up for less than 30 years without parliamentary approval, and over 30 years with parliamentary approval. We have to remember that if that proposition is put, and it is well put and stacks up, it would be a brave parliament to knock it off.

Ms OGILVIE - Unfortunately, we do not support the 30-year amendment and we would vote against that. The reason is that it goes to the question of commercial value and the ability to bring in partners that we will need to make this entire project work. When I say we, I mean broadly as a state.

Industry, we believe, would likely want those 99-year lease terms because it does give them maximum value and flexibility and the ability to plan over the long range, not just the short term. They would have CapEx for the initial fit-out and modifications - we would need to anticipate that - and the longer the lease, the longer they have to pay that back so that their business arrangements would stack up. They will also get regular rent reviews that could incorporate increase in land values.

In relation to rent, in particular, rental lease payments are likely to be fairer value to the tenants with a 99-year term. More broadly, the 99-year term is well understood from a business or industry perspective based on historical common law. I have some advice here that says 30 years is somewhat arbitrary and difficult to explain to market.

We will not support that 30-year amendment, but thank you for raising it.

Mr WINTER - We do not support the amendment in any way, shape or form. This is a desperate attempt by the Greens, frankly, to keep sweet with the Save UTAS group and prove that they are more anti-development than the Liberals' original bill. The Greens have laughably claimed to be supporters of renters and people needing social housing, and they are now locked in this race with the Liberals to see who can be the most anti-development.

The Deputy Leader of the Greens knows that by setting this lease term at this low level means it will be very difficult for anybody to partner with the university on commercial terms. It means it will be very difficult for them to operate. This is about politics and the politics of Save UTAS and Sandy Bay; it not about good policy outcomes.

It will kill off any prospects of industry co-location with the STEM facility in Sandy Bay. Cutting allowable lease periods to just 30 years would create too much uncertainty for any industry partner to invest in a co-located facility in the new STEM precinct. The substantial capital investment required for those sorts of facilities will not proceed if there is no guarantee of a long-term future, which has to be what this is about - a long-term future for the university, not one for 30 years. Slashing the lease terms by 70 per cent therefore slashes the time available for investment to stack up by 70 per cent.

It is very short-term thinking from the Greens, who need to take a longer term view about the future of the university and Sandy Bay. The amendment means there would be no industry co-location with STEM. It would be very difficult for the university to attract a partner under this circumstance. There would be fewer jobs in science for young Tasmanians and a diminished university for our state. A poorer university does not bode well for our state. We will not be supporting this amendment. It makes a bad bill even worse.

Mr BAYLEY - I again make the point that any industry partnership, or hospitality or other services, can put up a proposition as per the rest of the bill in terms of the commercial terms, the details of exactly what is at stake here, and bring it to this parliament. This is not a prohibitive clause. This is making it more realistic in terms of commercial arrangements, and also addressing a genuine concern of community around this loophole being used to deliver on the original vision for the central campus. I reject the assertions of the opposition leader on this lease. Thirty years is a significant portion of time and consistent with the rest of the act. Put up a proposition, cost it, make the business case, make the case to the parliament and it will get up.

Mr WINTER - The level of naivety in that contribution is staggering. A business looking to invest or partner with the university does not want to have to go through all of the work that goes into getting a development application up and doing a partnership agreement with the university and then, having done all that work, the suggestion from the Deputy Leader of the Greens is that that proponent should then come to the vagaries of a minority parliament and the other place to get approval there.

You could spend years of your time to get to the point where this place, on its own whim - whatever government is in place and whatever policies they have - could potentially cut your entire project off at the legs. Who would ever sign up to doing that? The point and intent of this is to kill off any chance of partnership for the university. That is what this whole thing is about - whether you see a long-term future for the university or whether you want to stop it from doing anything, whether you want it to be a university of the future that is invested in new technology and the future of young people, or whether you want to go back to the past, to the 1960s and 1970s. I want it to be a university of the future.

This amendment from the Greens is all about placating the Save UTAS group. I have already spoken about them today. I understand that they passionately believe in what they are doing. They are spending an incredibly large amount of their time on this. They are passionate people; I understand it all. I just entirely disagree with what they are saying. I disagree with just about every single thing that they have said. I think the university has been on the right track. It has not been the university that has changed its mind, as we heard from earlier speakers, it has actually been the levels of government that have flipped and flopped.

You had a state government that signed up to the city deal and that wrote letters supporting the University of Tasmania's move into the city and request for federal funding. Former senator Abetz, who now says he does not support the university leaving, was one of the people in the press saying he was going to go to Canberra and fight for money so the university could move its STEM facilities into the city. The people who have chopped and changed have been people in this place, people in the federal parliament and people in the City of Hobart. The uncertainty has not been built by the university, it has been built by people in positions like ours who have chopped and changed and created uncertainty.

This amendment creates even more uncertainty. There are people in this place making contributions about how the university move is a bad idea who actually signed up to the city deal that said the University of Tasmania should have built its STEM inside the city. I have not gone back to the Glenorchy City Council minutes, but I suspect if I did, I would have found alderman Johnston had supported signing up to the city, or it must have gone through the council. Perhaps she will prove me wrong and find the minutes.

Ms Johnston - I recall we only got it 24 hours before we had to sign it. It did not go through any councils, did it?

Mr WINTER - There was a large amount of consultation, Ms Johnston, and I remember exactly the level of support. I remember what was going on at the time, and there was a huge level of support - particularly from the City of Hobart, which voted more than 10 times to support the university's move. They supported the move conceptually, supported the master plan, all the components, particularly when former lord mayor Hickey was there.

There was great support from councils like Kingborough, Glenorchy and Clarence to have a university that was based in the city and it was more accessible for people from the northern suburbs, from in Kingborough, further down in the Huon, from all the way up from Clarence and all the way out to Sorell. Some of the strongest comments, when I looked into this, were from the former mayor of Sorell, Kerry Vincent, who was a passionate advocate. He said he could cut more than half an hour of time for young people from Sorell to get into the city and study. You would see more young people from out in the regions study if the university was in the city.

I remember all those comments. I remember who was there fighting for the university, who has changed their position, and who has not. We have had a consistent position. I have had a consistent position; I signed up to this and I was a strong supporter. In fact, I lent my signature to advertising all sorts of things to back in this move, because I passionately believe in it.

We cannot create more uncertainty, which is what the amendment does. It creates more uncertainty for the university and it makes it more difficult for them to find a partner. I believe we need them to find great partners that can help to deliver better facilities for young people, better learning opportunities, better partnerships with industry. Let us get it done. This amendment does the exact opposite to that.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mrs Beswick) - The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 7

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

NOES 23

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

Amendment negatived.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 6 agreed to.

New Clause A -

[6.27 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE - Deputy Chair, I move amendments to the bill. Let me say that these amendments have been drafted following ongoing engagement with the university. Since the introduction of the bill in the House, the University of Tasmania has been engaged in dialogue with the government with respect to their business case and proposed amendments needed to realise a STEM-led future on site at Sandy Bay.

The Commonwealth's funding of this project which, alongside UTAS, we will advocate for is predicated on a co-investment by UTAS into the project. These amendments, which you have already received, seek to assist the university to achieve the funds required through a carve-out of its land above Churchill Avenue from the current bill. This therefore means UTAS will not be required to bring any disposal of this or these parcels of land through parliament as would be required in an unamended bill.

Mr Bayley - Isn't this the rezone, not the carve-out? The carve-out is in schedule 1.

Ms OGILVIE - My apologies. Yes, sorry, schedule 1. It has been a long day. It is the rezoning. The amendment reads:

NEW CLAUSE A

To follow clause 6

A. Rezoning of certain land

In this section -

- (1) **"applicable planning scheme"** means the planning scheme, within the meaning of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, that applies to the registered area;

"Commission" has the same meaning as in the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993;

"Planning Minister" means the Minister to whom the administration of the Land Use Planning Approvals Act 1993 is assigned;

"proposed area" means the areas of land specified in Schedule A that are owned by the University on the commencement day;

"registered area" means the area of land identified in the plan registered in the Central Plan Register in accordance with subsection (2).

- (2) On the day on which this Act receives the Royal Assent, the Planning Minister is to cause a plan, in respect of the proposed area, to be prepared and registered in the Central Plan Register

- (3) As soon as practicable after the day on which the plan is registered in the Central Plan Register in accordance with subsection (2), the Planning Minister, by notice in writing to the commission, is to direct the Commission to amend the applicable planning scheme, including any maps or plans relating to the applicable planning scheme, to reflect the change in zoning of the registered area.
- (4) On the day on which the Planning Minister gives the Commission a direction under subsection (3), the registered area -
 - (a) is declared to be zoned Inner Residential, within the meaning of the applicable planning scheme; and
 - (b) ceases to be within the Particular Purpose Zone 3 - University of Tasmania (Sandy Bay Campus), within the meaning of the applicable planning scheme.
- (5) Within 14 days after the Commission is given a direction under subsection (3) in relation to the registered area, or such longer period as specified in the direction, the Commission must amend the applicable planning scheme, including any maps or plans relating to the applicable planning scheme, to reflect the change in zoning of the registered area.
- (6) The Commission is to notify the Planning Minister of the amendment of the applicable planning scheme, in accordance with this section, as soon as practicable after the amendment has been made.
- (7) Despite any provisions of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 and the applicable planning scheme -
 - (a) the amendment of the applicable planning scheme under this section is not to be invalid by reason only that -
 - (i) the amendment has not occurred in the manner or following the procedure that, but for this section, would have been required to be followed under the applicable planning scheme or the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993; or
 - (ii) but for this section, the amendment of the applicable planning scheme would be in contravention of that Act; and
 - (b) a use or development of the registered areas, the area that is in accordance with the applicable planning scheme, as amended, is not to be taken to be in contravention of section 63 of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act.

- (8) Nothing in this section prevents the future amendment of the applicable planning scheme in relation to the registered area.

Mr WINTER - This amends the entire intent of the Liberal Party's policy. It does not only amend the bill, it amends a promise that the Liberal Party made to the people of Clark. The person who made it was the person who just moved the amendment. I agree with this amendment and we will support it, but I cannot help but note the cynical nature of the Liberal Party and the politics that they played with the people of Sandy Bay.

I also note that the member for Clark, Mr Behrakis, has not been here for any of the debate. He came in for the vote, but he has not been here for the debate. I wonder why he would not be here. We heard from Save UTAS, saying that the member for Clark appears to have been sidelined - I wonder where they got that information from - and that he was blindsided by this decision, whether it was made in Cabinet, or by the minister or the Premier. It does not appear as though he is happy about it.

He, like minister Ogilvie, went to the people of Sandy Bay and said that he would stop exactly this amendment from happening. Do not be mistaken about the debate. A lot of this debate has been about the fear of people, particularly in Sandy Bay, about development happening on this site. They did not want it. Part of the argument has been that the University of Tasmania was gifted the land decades ago, and therefore we should never allow it to divest itself of that land, because it was gifted. I do not agree with that argument, but it is an argument that the Liberals used as part of their justification for an appalling policy.

One of the biggest supporters in this place of the old UTAS policy before this amendment was also the leader of government business, minister Abetz, who also has been championing the maintaining of the university on this site. This amendment rezones the land for the university to sell. As I have said before, I have been a long-term and consistent supporter of the University of Tasmania's city move and all the work they have been doing.

The investments they have been making in education have been great, they have been needed, they have delivered a huge amount of construction activity in the city and they are producing better education facilities for young people who are more accessible and easier to get to for people from places like New Norfolk, Sorell, Huonville. We have heard from the former mayor of Sorell, Kerry Vincent, who made that argument better than anyone.

The thing that always worried me when I spoke to UTAS about this not so long ago was how are they going to get this land rezoned? Even though the City of Hobart had previously supported - and no bigger supporter than the former deputy lord mayor Helen Burnet, who also has not spoken on the bill yet. I look forward to her making a contribution, because she has been one of the most staunch and best supporters of the move of the University of Tasmania into the city and, unlike many of her colleagues, never shifted her position. Always stood for those young people.

I was wondering how they were going to get through the council, because in the normal planning process, there needs to be an initiation of a rezoning, and the university was obviously going to need one. Before this bill - without this bill - it was difficult to see how the university was going to be able to get through a City of Hobart Council that - apart from a few people like former deputy lord mayor Burnet - was pretty against the development. In fact, the politics of trying to have that land rezoned would have been almost impossible.

Yet there, last week, comes the solution from the Liberal Party - it is this amendment that we are debating right now. This amendment rezones the certain land. It rezones the land that the university wants to develop to allow them to build housing on the site - up to 2000 new homes. Fantastic for Sandy Bay, fantastic for Hobart, fantastic for Tasmania. However, it is the exact opposite to their policy. I would like to hear, again, the minister try and explain how this is not a direct contravention of the policy and the promise that they made to the people of Clark, to the people they told that they would maintain this land.

Instead of maintaining the land, they are rezoning it and setting it up ready for sale. I support it. I support the amendment. I believe it is much better policy than the initial bill, but I do think the minister has some explaining to do, not only to the parliament but to the people of Clark.

[6.37 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, the Greens will not be supporting this amendment, that is for sure. This is the most egregious change and amendment to this bill, and we should make no mistake as to why we are here and why we are debating this amendment. It is because of the perceived urgency about money and the ability for the 'state', being either the state government or the university, being able to make a co-contribution to the federal government, ahead of an election, which could be as early as March next year.

The reason we are here is because of this government's inability, or unwillingness, to actually demonstrate a commitment to STEM at Sandy Bay with a financial contribution of their own. Had the state government been able to put up the \$50 million, \$100 million or \$150 million to either underwrite or contribute directly to STEM facilities at Sandy Bay, we would not need to be bypassing proper process. We would not need to be sidelining community, we would not need to be trampling all over the City of Hobart's community neighbourhood planning - Mt Nelson and Sandy Bay neighbourhood planning process - because we could match, and make a contribution to, the federal government.

The reason we are concerned about this amendment is obviously because it bypasses proper process, and the proper process has been the City of Hobart process, the Mt Nelson and Sandy Bay neighbourhood planning process. This has been going on for a while. The most recent discussion paper that was published to articulate the results of engagement was April 2024, only six months ago.

In relation to the UTAS campus issue, which has been identified as an issue, this is the City of Hobart's response to the concerns that have been raised, the propositions being put by UTAS:

In developing the draft plan, Council will review for the feedback received from the community and consider a scenarios-based planning response which will contribute to the sustainable growth and development of the city. This role involves balancing the wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives.

Balancing the wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives. Contrary to the Opposition Leader's position that this means that anyone who opposes this rezoning is somehow opposing houses, that is certainly not the case. What we would support would be

a proper rezoning process that ends up and lands in a place where rezoning is deemed appropriate for that piece of land.

It is clear from the process that was underway, the City of Hobart's actual consultation and neighbourhood planning process, which would have led to rezoning - there is significant amounts of work to do. Based on the answers of the minister, I can take it that she has no advice whatsoever that balances the range of social, economic and environmental objectives. No advice whatsoever.

You have not said it yet, opposition leader, so I will give you credit, but sitting behind all of your criticisms of the view of Sandy Bay people is the notion of being NIMBYs. You have not said it, I will give you credit, but that is what sits behind it. Can you not understand that people do have genuine concerns about the viability of new, intensive development - the highest-intensity development in all of the residential zones - in the middle of an existing suburb? What are the implications for public transport? What are the implications for schools? What are the implications for sewerage and other services? These are the kinds of answers that a proper planning process actually goes through and unpacks.

Above anything else, this is also a process to bring people along, to build consensus, and get people to embrace the opportunities that are being presented. It is not opposing houses; it is about a process that brings people along so that they can accept the modification of their suburbs, and accept the advice and evidence that the proposition will actually be sustainable, viable, and harmonious with the values of the area itself. It is very interesting.

As I articulated in my second reading speech, one of our deepest concerns is in relation to the land above Churchill Avenue but south east of College Road, so the Science, the STEM facilities that are there, the TIA glasshouses. There is deep concern - including from within; some are in the university and ex-staff - that some of those buildings are not surplus to need, and may come into their own again.

I do make the point that here, the neighbouring zoning to that patch of land is low-density residential. You can completely understand people's concerns when they have not been brought along as part of the process and have not actually had the consultation promised to them delivered and completed. Instead, this parliament just rides in and imposes a zoning arbitrarily, with no studies or evidence to balance the wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives.

This rezoning is a problem. It is a problem in terms of process, but I also deeply feel that this is a problem for the university as well. The university needs money. It needs \$100 million. It needs to make a co-contribution to the federal government - the pitch and the ask that it is going to put in to the federal government for STEM funding. It needs that, I acknowledge that. What it also needs is a break from the controversy. This does anything but that. This is the imposition of the highest level of residential density midway through a consultation process that was underway.

We do not support this amendment. Similar to the fact that we did not support Stony Rise, and the fact that we will never support the parliament reaching into the planning process, we will not support this amendment.

It is difficult to sit here and listen to the opposition leader chastise anyone - anyone, whether they be on this side of the Chamber or the other - about changing their position, when you are the ones who backflipped on your pokies commitment. You are the ones who backflipped on your stadium commitment. It is just an exercise in the pot calling the kettle black. You can lecture everyone you want from over there, but the reality is, people respond to the evidence in front of them. Whether you want to malign them and their motives or not, people were genuinely involved in a process - a council process, a statutory process - that could lead to a rezoning, that could help bring the community along, and could help the university build a consensus behind its vision. I feel like we have stuffed it - we are about to stuff it - by imposing our will, unilaterally the parliament's will to have an Inner Residential zoning over this land.

I fear it is a big mistake. I think it is a mistake for the university, and I have told them that. I have told the university that I think this is complete overreach. Sure, they need their money, but I think it is on this government that they have not been able to stump up some money to make a contribution to STEM. Above everything, they need a way forward without controversy and with a broad consensus of the community, and imposing the will of the parliament through a unilateral rezoning is anything but building consensus around a future direction for the university.

Mr WINTER - Deputy Chair, the reason the state government is not stumping up \$100 million is because they are currently running \$8.6 billion worth of net debt.

Mr Bayley - Yes, I know, building a stadium you support. They are giving \$37 million of funding to racing, which you support.

Mr WINTER - I am sure they would love to be able to tip in a whole bunch of money, but the problem is they have completely stuffed the budget, and when they now ask themselves, 'Can we find \$100 million?', they cannot. They have stuffed and broken the budget.

What I heard there was the Deputy Leader of the Greens, who is pretty shaky now on housing, getting a bit shaky about whether -

Mr Bayley - Mate, you can talk to us about housing when you back rental reforms.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, member for Clark.

Mr WINTER - Getting a bit shaky on housing. He is a bit like Max Chandler-Mather. Remember how shaky he has got on housing? Federally, the Greens have been trying to stop housing, blocking the massive investment into housing all over Australia for the past two-and-a-half years, and all of a sudden they have decided to change their position, back in Labor and actually build homes - all on the back of politics.

They have seen the results in the Australian Capital Territory; they have seen the results in Queensland of the sort of approach they have been taking across Australia, and it is here as well.

Mr Bayley - I have been consistent on process.

Mr WINTER - Blocking of decent housing options for Tasmanians - that is what they are doing today. Their decision to block this housing speaks to the sort of approach that they have been taking all over Australia.

There is an opportunity on this site to build up to 2000 homes and I heard the Deputy Leader of the Greens saying that they would support a proper rezoning process. He did not say they would actually support the rezoning on the council because they would not. He would support a 'process', so that during that process the Greens councillors on the council could knock it off, because that is what they do. There would not be support on that council for the rezoning; if there was, we would know about it.

Mr Bayley - Until now, you have been saying they are the biggest supporters.

Mr WINTER - What is that? There was one Greens councillor who is no longer there who was very staunch supporter of this, and unfortunately for Hobart, that level of support is not on the council anymore. I think that is disappointing. I hope that at some stage the former deputy lord mayor gets up. I know it is difficult when your party is doing you over like this, deputy lord mayor, on something that you held as your vision for this city.

We still have not seen the member for Clark, Mr Behrakis, arrive. We have seen him for the vote, but we have not seen him contribute on this. Has he been blindsided? I do not know, but there is deep division in the Liberal Party on this and there is deep division in the Greens Party on this.

There is only one place that has been consistent and united on the university and backing it in, and that is the Labor Party.

Mr Bayley - You are about to support a very different position.

Mr WINTER - What is that?

Mr Bayley - Two thousand homes, mate, is development across the whole site, and you want to back STEM.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - The Deputy Leader of the Greens has just said, '2000, mate, is across the whole site'. He seems to be saying that he is not sure you can build up to 2000 homes on the site. Is there a number that the Deputy Leader of the Greens would support. If the number was 1000, would he support the rezoning?

Mr Bayley - I would support a rezoning process that was carried out according to the statutory process.

DEPUTY CHAIR - I ask members to refer their remarks through the Chair.

Mr WINTER - The question is, through the Chair, would the Deputy Leader of the Greens support 1000 homes on the site?

Mr Bayley - Depends what the process demonstrated.

Mr WINTER - He supports the process, but he cannot say if he supports new homes for Tasmanians. Here is the fact of it. I hope there is a mix of housing on the site, but adding more homes into Sandy Bay, particularly the sorts of homes that I think we are talking about - but of course, that is up to the university; I am not running the university - means that we add more capacity for young Tasmanians, including students, workers and professionals, to live close to public services like public transport, education, healthcare services and shops. The sorts of things that young Tasmanians want are available on that site for development and the choice for the Greens tonight is whether they support housing or not.

The answer they are giving us tonight is they do not. They talk about housing and they talk about a housing crisis, but when it comes to the decision - and they have taken a long time to come to this decision - they have decided they do not support housing. That is a matter for them. At least four of them do not support housing. We do not know what the other one thinks, but I think the Greens have had a very difficult time with this.

There was uncertainty about their position on the original bill. They never said whether they supported the original bill or not until today. They never said anything on the amendments until today. They pushed this debate back as long as possible. We are here late in the night because of the time they wasted earlier, such that this debate is being held as late as possible into the night. That is exactly what happened.

Dr Woodruff - You actually think we would delay this? That is totally hilarious.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, Leader of the Greens.

Mr WINTER - I suspect very strongly that the Greens wanted this on late at night because they are pretty embarrassed about their position on this.

DEPUTY CHAIR - I will draw the member to the question.

Mr WINTER - The question is, through the Chair, do we support more housing in Hobart or not? We do in the Labor Party. The amendment from the government, admittedly, took them a long time - it took them a long time to adopt Labor's policy. I thank them for it.

We announced, very early in my time as leader, that we supported this and we wanted to see up to 2000 homes built on that site. Last week, the minister started distributing amendments that does exactly that through this amendment. Through this amendment, we see the opportunity to build homes and repurpose. Some of the buildings there can be repurposed for homes pretty quickly. The choice is do you leave those buildings dilapidated and unused, or do you turn them into homes? We choose homes.

In some of the contribution from the Deputy Leader of the Greens, it sounded like he wanted to go and run the university. If that is what he wants to go and do, he should go and do that. I do not want to run the university. I think it is up to them to run it. That has been our entire point the entire time.

We are not here tonight to choose what the university builds. We are not here to debate whether or not some of the buildings that the Deputy Leader of the Greens wants to stay there or some of the people he has spoken to want to stay there - that is for the university. What this

amendment does is allow them the option to turn some of the buildings they are not currently using into homes - to build new homes for Tasmanians.

This is entirely normal for an organisation to do. Organisations recycle assets all the time. They have assets that are surplus to their needs and so they sell them and recycle those assets into new ones that fit with what they want to do. This university has made a decision. It has decided it wants to invest in more homes and help build a new STEM facility, and this amendment allows it to do it.

Labor supports this amendment because it is Labor's policy. I thank the government for adopting yet another Labor policy.

[6.53 p.m.]

Ms JOHNSTON - Deputy Chair, to pick up on the final point of the Leader of the Opposition, yes, businesses and organisations decide they want to reuse their assets in a different way. The point is that they go through the proper planning process when they decide that.

They do not get to come to parliament or go to the government and say - well, unless you are Stony Rise developers, my mistake. They do not normally or should not get the opportunity to go to parliament and circumvent an entire planning process. I deeply oppose this amendment. It is a significant backflip on what the minister originally promised the community.

I want to circle back, as I did in my contribution to the second reading debate, to the really important statement that Minister Ogilvie made on ABC Radio. She said, 'Consultation and the building of a social licence will be incredibly important'. What this amendment does is remove the opportunity for consultation and for proper planning processes, and it removes the opportunity to build that social licence. The university has taken away the opportunity for the community to have their say by going through this process with the government.

Mr Bayley - It cuts it off at the knees.

Ms JOHNSTON - It absolutely cuts it off at the knees. That is absolutely right, Mr Bayley.

What the minister has failed to answer and failed to put on the record is the information that would ordinarily inform a proper planning process and a rezoning process if this went through council and the TPC. She has failed to put all that documentation - I have sat, and I am sure that the Leader of the Opposition and others, like the former deputy mayor of Hobart, my colleague, member of Clark, have sat through a number of planning amendments and rezoning processes.

The paperwork that goes with that is extensive. You have before you all the information you need to take into consideration to ensure that the proposed rezoning is the appropriate rezoning. You had that before you. The community can consult on that. The community can comment on that; go through a representation process, not just at the initiation at council stage, but the TPC stage as well. There are multiple opportunities for information to be shared, for consultation, for representations to be made.

This amendment completely voids that process. It is not building a social licence for the university. It is not consultative. In fact, it does the complete opposite. As Mr Bayley said in his contribution, if the university really wants to move forward on this and gather people around them, to support them in trying to enhance their STEM facilities, and to focus on academic excellence, then they need to have that social licence. This is not the right way to go about it. This will only create division within the community. That is a tragic part.

We have had the opportunity to unite with the initial bill. What you are injecting back into this process is further division. I have lost count of the number of times we have done it over the last two parliamentary sitting weeks, when we take planning process and throw that out the window for the sake of developers. The community ought to be deeply troubled by this. The university is the latest example. What will it be next? Will we see the same process happen with the stadium when it gets all too hard with the TPC? Is that what will happen next? Next year we will have a bill because Macquarie Point Development Corporation cannot respond to the 12 pages of questions that TPC have?

Mr Bayley - It is too arduous.

Ms JOHNSTON - It is too hard. We will donate to the government or knock on their door and plead the case, then we suddenly have a new bill before us. The Labor Party opposition, which is not an opposition, which seem to be in cahoots with the government, will just waive it through. What does that say to the community about proper processes and democratic processes? Out the window. I am deeply troubled by this. It is incredibly disrespectful to the members of the community who want a say in their neighbourhood as they could with any other development.

While I am on my feet, to address Dr Broad's contribution, can I make the point that you do not go through a planning process to sell your house. You do if you want to rezone it or make significant changes to it, but to sell your house, you do not. This needs to be clear. I am not sure what Dr Broad was suggesting we are trying to do and how hypocritical we are. It was a very confused argument.

You have proper planning processes for a very good reason. It involves community and it means the community voice can be heard. It is evidence-based. There is a process of review, of merit to the application. All that goes out the window with this particular amendment. I reject it wholeheartedly.

Mr WINTER - To address the first point, the member for Clark said there does not seem to be an opposition. Can I remind members where we have gotten to on this? This is the original bill, the dumbest, most pathetic bill I have ever seen in this place. It has been backed in by the member for Clark, for votes. It has been backed in by the Greens, for votes. This bill is all about freezing the assets of the University of Tasmania. There is only one political organisation in this state that was prepared to stand against it and that was the Labor Party. We would not have this amendment if not for the Labor Party standing up for people wanting to own and live in a home, for people who want to go to university and a go to proper, first class STEM facilities.

It has been all about the politics for the member for Clark, all about the politics for the Greens, who used to back the university's city move. The Greens backed it. The member for Clark backed it. She put her signature on the city deal. Then the politics changed and they saw a political opportunity. Now she wants to say there does not seem to be an opposition. Where

were you when this ridiculous legislation was tabled? Nowhere to be seen. Where were the Greens? They would not even outline their position. There has been no public comment from the member for Clark about this.

It has been the Labor Party that has stood against the ridiculous legislation and got to this amendment, a really important amendment that actually allows the university to invest and grow itself.

The member for Clark said you do not go through a planning process to sell your house. That is our point. The bill forces the university to come back to the parliament if it wants to sell any of its land. That is what the bill does. At its core, the bill wants to make the university, if it wants to sell or lease its land, come back to this place, to the parliament, if it wants to sell or lease land.

Our point is, there should not be a process around this. There should never have been. The politics of Ms Johnston and the Greens were that they should have to deal with the red tape of a parliamentary approval through both this Chamber and the other Chamber if they want to sell their land. You cannot have it both ways. You cannot say we want proper process and go through a standard process, and then also say but I also want this bill to come through the House so that they cannot actually sell any land without us approving it. Which one is it?

Ms Johnston - We want a proper process.

Mr WINTER - Proper process, I believe for the member for Clark, is to mean whatever she wants it to be. In this case, they want it to be this bill tonight that actually requires the university farcically to require both Chambers of parliament to agree to it.

I have heard it erroneously claimed that other states have that in place. They do not have the sort of level that this bill has in it. They do not require parliamentary approval. It is ministerial approval in some cases, but it is not what was in this bill before this amendment and the other amendment.

The Greens and Ms Johnson cannot have it both ways. They cannot say that there is no opposition when they have been no opposition to bad public policy, terrible public policy. The people who have been opposed to this reckless attack on the University of Tasmania has been the Labor Party.

[7.02 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE - Deputy Chair, I would like to bring the conversation back in again. It has been good and helpful and it is good to know what is on people's mind. I welcome everybody's support. I am looking towards the Labor Party and I hear you. We disagree on some things.

I would like to reiterate the answer that I gave to your question before, Ms Johnston, that the government has relied on a substantial amount of work undertaken in the UTAS masterplan. The masterplan is consistent with the Hobart City Council's Mt Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan discussion paper, which I see you have before you. This substantial body of work, high quality work, has helped the government determine an appropriate zone for the land.

I believe it is important, as I am moving the amendment, to expand a little on the dialogue that we have been having with the university. The amendments have been drafted following ongoing engagement. Since the introduction of the bill in the House, the University of Tasmania has been engaged in dialogue with us with respect to their business case and proposed amendments needed to realise the STEM-led future on-site at the retained Sandy Bay campus. Let us not lose sight of that.

The Commonwealth's funding of this project, which alongside UTAS, we will advocate for and I encourage you all to come on that journey. It is predicated on a co-investment by UTAS into the project.

For those who are listening in, let me reiterate: two parcels of land; not the entirety of the land between Churchill and Mount Nelson. It is worth having a look at exactly what those parcels are. These amendments seek to assist the university to achieve the funds required through a carve out of its land above Churchill Avenue from the current bill.

This therefore means UTAS will not be required to bring any disposal of this or these parcels of land through the parliament as would be required in an unamended bill. As part of this carve out, the amendments will amend the University of Tasmania (Protection and Property) Bill to limit the application of proposed protections to land below Churchill Avenue and, as we have been speaking about, rezone two parcel parcels of land above Churchill Avenue as identified in attachment 1 from particular purpose to inner residential under the Hobart City Interim Planning Scheme 2015.

We believe that this strikes the right balance between protecting the land on which the Sandy Bay campus sits, as well as being financially sound to ensure UTAS can deliver the STEM future, which I think we are in robust agreement on, that we want to see delivered.

Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, I have to respond and I will direct that to the Opposition Leader.

Opposition Leader, the day you back us in on our attempts to rein in short stay accommodation, to control rents, to do away with no cause evictions, I will cop your criticisms around housing. We are not opposed to housing. The saddest thing about this Opposition Leader is, I do not know that anyone was opposed to housing in here. I acknowledged in my second reading contribution that there is surplus land, in my view, to the university's needs. It is not about the issue of housing. It is about how we get to identify where the housing is, how dense it is and how appropriate it is.

You mentioned that this is perfect land. It is close to services and so forth. To an extent it is, but do we know whether they are capable of coping, can the schools cope? Can the childcare cope? Can the public transport cope?

We have the same challenges across Sandy Bay and Mount Nelson as there are in other parts of the state. There is no guarantee that the level of infrastructure and services that are on this site can actually cope. That is why we go through these kind of planning processes. That is exactly why we go through the planning processes is to identify those needs.

The City of Hobart was going through a comprehensive planning process. It was slightly flawed at the start because the assumptions built into the discussion in the very first place assumed the full university, the full 2,700 homes, would be built. That was the basis upon

which the conversation started. That is why this process was paused and then restarted. It is because people did not accept some of the assumptions and premises in it.

The City of Hobart has re-initiated it. It has published its most recent discussion paper. It has identified that there is a process, and it still needs to identify what and how you can balance the wide range of social, economic and environmental objectives. This is about a proper process that can identify exactly what level of housing any land in the state can cope with. The simple fact that you can bypass it through an act of parliament, and cut the consultation process off at its knees, does nothing in terms of building consensus.

I take the opportunity to say thank God we have an upper House in this place. We have just learnt that the development assessment panels have been knocked off in the upper House, which is fantastic. Development assessment panels posed a real risk across the state including with this site because development assessment panels could have presented an opportunity to just cook up the proposal that is wanted on this site and ram it through. We are certainly excited and we are certainly proud of our role both in this place and the other of standing with independents to oppose this every way. You, Mr Winter, and your party backed it in. The Liberal-Labor coalition backed it in. You wrung your hands through the whole debate on that bill. You said it is so bad for local government, it is terrible you did not talk to the mayors, it is horrible you did not do this. Then you just acquiesced, you rolled over and you supported it.

Mr Winter - No I did not. I blamed you for inspiring it. I actually said you inspired it.

Mr BAYLEY - Thank God for the Independents and the Greens in the upper House. You are very willing to cast shade on other members of this place, be it Mr Behrakis, who is not here, or Ms Burnet -

Mr Winter - He is in the Chair.

Mr BAYLEY - Oh, he is in the Chair. Sorry, Mr Behrakis. Apologies - or Ms Burnet who is here engaging, participating and observing this. I make the point: where are your members? Where are your members for Clark, Mr Winter?

Mr Winter - They all support the bill.

Mr BAYLEY - You think they could be here observing and watching, and so forth. This is an issue. I am not going to dwell on this because it is really clear that the Liberal-Labor coalition is going to team up again to just roll over and put this through. We will put our faith in the upper House that they will stand again for proper process. I reiterate that the Greens will not support perverting proper planning process. We will always support processes that identify new opportunities for housing and other development, but unilateral parliamentary approval to do that is not the right way to do it. We will never support it.

Ms OGILVIE - Deputy Chair, I can add some information. I sought some advice. I am advised that people, local community, will be able to engage in the planning process as per usual when or if a developer lodges that application. The planning process of the Hobart City Council will still have a requirement for UTAS to go through.

Mr BAYLEY - I accept that, minister.

Ms Ogilvie - I thought it would have been a bit confusing to some people.

Mr BAYLEY - No, no. I accept that. You have to understand that they will be participating then in a process that is constrained, or at least informed, by this rezoning. They have been cut out of a process to identify the broad framework upon which further consultation and process will happen. I accept there will be a process and you can bet that they will engage in it strongly. I hope they do. You have to accept that they have been hobbled by this parliament when this amendment passes, because you and Labor are teaming up to prescribe here and now the terms on which they can engage into the future.

That is profoundly unfair to those people, not least because many of them have given significant amounts of their time, unpaid, to advocating for their community in the City of Hobart process. In some ways, cutting the consultation off halfway through is worse than not doing it in the first place.

Mr GARLAND - I recognise my vote will not be the deciding vote on this bill. This bill will pass today because it has Labor support.

I am faced with a choice here to take the principled approach and oppose the amendment to this bill, to rage against the flawed process of community consultation by the university, to express the frustration over how the university has handled this whole process and its finances, and to highlight the government's backflip. These points have been well made by others in this debate.

The one thing that everyone seems united on in this debate is the need for much greater investment in STEM facilities at the university. Indeed, that was what the recent motion of the Hobart City Council called for. I support the university's pursuit of world-class STEM facilities. STEM-trained graduates will be vital to our future economy. Picking up on my MPI topic earlier today, the best way to make sure we are guided by the best science and the best scientists is to make sure we do everything to nurture their development in Tasmania. If only the Liberal government would prioritise the funding of this STEM facility instead of the stadium. The point was well made by Mr Bayley earlier.

The other important thing in this debate is to acknowledge that we are in the midst of a housing crisis. As we approach Christmas, spare a thought for Tasmanians sleeping in parks and in cars, and families with nowhere to live. We have a moral obligation to do everything we can to ensure housing is available for everyone in this state.

I want to read from the Anglicare 'Stretched Too Far Report: Children and Families Surviving the Cost of Living Crisis in Tasmania 2024'. The report found that housing is the number one non-discretionary item for households. Limited housing supplies drive a rental market that is unaffordable for low- and middle-income households, with rents equal to or higher than equivalent mortgage repayments. For those who own their own home, sharp increases in interest rates are leading to mortgage stress, with many Tasmanians facing the prospect of losing their home and being forced into a more expensive rental market.

Its main recommendation was for the Tasmanian government to increase the supply of social and affordable housing for Tasmanian families to fully meet demand based on current and projected need, including the needs of families escaping domestic and family violence.

I am here in this parliament to do what I can for those in desperate need of housing. In this debate, for me, that is the most important thing. While I am not comfortable with government intervening in the rezoning process, I also recognise that sometimes principle must take a back seat to pragmatism. I have spoken to the Hobart City Council. They are not dead against this amendment. In fact, if you read the Mount Nelson and Sandy Bay Neighbourhood Plan released by council last year, they specifically identified the land above Churchill Avenue as a key redevelopment opportunity that could, in the council's words, 'provide for a variety of housing types, including incorporating affordable, social and co-housing models'. This is not something out of the blue.

I have received a lot of emails about this bill in the past couple of weeks. I acknowledge there are a significant number of people living in Sandy Bay and Mount Nelson who are strongly opposed to this bill, but it is also apparent, from many of those emails, those same people recognise the need for and importance of social and affordable housing in Hobart.

Those same people are deeply sceptical about the university's claims that it wants to see some of the rezoned land above Churchill Avenue used for social and affordable housing. I think the university generally recognises its obligation to give back to the community, particularly when the land it proposed to sell was gifted to them in the first place. It will be up to the university to honour its commitment and for this government, through the Planning minister and Homes Tasmania, to work closely with the university to ensure this golden opportunity to see 100 or more social houses to its target of 10,000 is not missed.

I would like to ask the minister what agreement she has secured with UTAS to require this outcome and whether that agreement will be tabled in the parliament. I acknowledge the commitment given by the Vice Chancellor in the last few days for the rezoned land to include a range of price points to enable key worker accommodation. Yes, key worker accommodation is important. Our nurses, ambulance officers, doctors need accommodation. What good is a top-class university if there is no accommodation or affordable accommodation for its students to stay in?

I want to make clear that social housing is very different from key worker accommodation. Key worker accommodation is not enough. What is desperately needed out of this process is new social housing. I have spoken to Anglicare and Shelter Tasmania and they have told me that 100 or 200 more social houses in the Homes Tasmania portfolio would be a fantastic outcome. That is what I want to see the university commit to: a specified number of social houses as part of the development at least 5 per cent, ideally 10 per cent. A vague commitment is not good enough.

I will finish by saying this to the university and the government. If this bill passes, if you are genuine about trying to win back the community support, you must ensure a specified portion of houses developed on that land above Churchill Avenue is for social and community housing. I and the community intend to hold you to account over this.

The community have had enough of hollow promises. If this bill goes through, you must deliver on the social housing and affordable housing as part of this redevelopment. There are the levers the government can use to compel the university to ensure this comes to pass, and I look forward to reading the report of the Legislative Council Committee inquiry into the UTAS Act, particularly about the composition of the University Council and the financial management of the university.

[7.18 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE - To respond to Mr Garland, thank you very much for a well-considered contribution and I do know that your desire in relation to housing and social fairness is genuine.

I will again reiterate: the university has advised that they are prepared to enter into a deed of undertaking, a deed poll. I understand they have spoken with you about engaging on that and being very supportive of that. I also understand that the university is desirous of discussing options of working with Homes Tasmania and that according to the letter from Rufus Black, who is the Vice Chancellor of the university, they are indeed open to affordable and housing in the deed poll. They have a long-standing commitment to make sure there is a range of price points to allow for key worker accommodation. Subject to discussion, they would like to include social housing and supported living for the elderly Tasmanians - I quote from the letter.

Mr Garland, my message is that I think you are right that we need to negotiate, we need to move this forward. I am very happy to support your engagement in that discussion, which I think you have already been participating in and I hope that is helpful. I feel like we have got to move this thing forward and hopefully this is the right way to go.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mr Behrakis) - The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 24

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

NOES 6

Ms Badger
Mr Bayley
Ms Burnet
Ms Johnston (Teller)
Ms Rosol
Dr Woodruff

Amendment agreed to.

New Clause A agreed to.

Clauses 7 to 9 agreed to.

Schedule 1

Vested Land

Ms OGILVIE - Deputy Chair, I move the following amendments to schedule 1.

First amendment

Page 11, after "that falls within".

Leave out everything after "that falls within".

Insert instead "the following descriptions: "

Second amendment

Same page, at the foot of the Schedule.

Insert the following paragraphs:

- (a) all that area of land within Volume 176312, Folio 1, in the Register kept under section 33 of the *Land Titles Act 1980*, that falls between Churchill Street and Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay;
- (b) Volume 167420, Folio 1, in the Register kept under section 33 of the *Land Titles Act 1980*.

Mr WINTER - I am keen to hear the minister to give me the level of comfort that I am looking for about the land that we are talking about. This is the lands listed on page 6 of the amendment, the areas to be zoned in a residential under the Hobart City Interim Planning Scheme 2015. Will those areas of land require parliamentary approval to be sold or leased?

Ms Ogilvie - That is the purpose of the amendment, so they do not have to be. They are carved out.

Mr WINTER - They are carved out of the amendment and they do not require parliamentary approval in order to be sold?

Ms Ogilvie - Those areas of land are carved out of the definition of the area of the land that is subject to the requirement to come before both Houses of parliament.

Mr WINTER - That is my point. When I listen to the second reading speech from the minister, it made it sound as though there was parliamentary approval required for the sale of this land. It is not. It does not require parliamentary approval for the sale of the land. This is a very good amendment. We support the amendment. It allows the university to get down to business of selling this land or developing the land so that it can reinvest back into STEM. That is exactly what we wanted. That is exactly what Labor's position has been.

The university has been asking for it for a long time. It is not new. They have been saying they want to do this for years through the processes - in fact, even the Deputy Leader of the Greens talked about the processes that have been ongoing. They have clearly identified they have wanted to sell this land for a while. It is not new. That desire was evident before the Liberals' policy, and it is certainly still evident. The Liberals went to the election saying that they would have a bill which would require the university to gain parliamentary approval for the sale of any land on the site. What this amendment does is implement much better policy, which we support. It has to be said it is also a betrayal of the policy and of the people that wanted it.

The clear policy on the Liberal Party website in the Strong Plan was to stop the divestment of the university without parliamentary approval. It was to set up a new level of red tape to stop them from doing it. This amendment does the exact opposite of the Liberal Party's policy. It does the exact opposite, which is why I am very pleased to see it. It was such a bad policy. It had the potential to lock up the land forever.

It was going to be very difficult for the university. They have said this publicly - very difficult for them to find a partner that would invest with them without this land having been carved out by this amendment. If this amendment is lost, it means that the university is unable to build its STEM facility. It means that university is unable to build more homes. It leaves the university in as bad a position as it was in when the Liberals first made this policy. I support the amendment

[7.34 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, I will talk to the amendment in a minute specifically, but I will just make a point for the Leader of the Opposition who is levelling accusations at the minister that she is changing the government's position - which I completely agree with. That is correct. However, you, sir, are changing yours as well. You opposed this bill applying to any of the university land. This carves out some of it and it still applies to the land below. Your support for the university's move for STEM at Sandy Bay I absolutely support. You have to acknowledge that is not consistent with your position, which was for them to move into the city and to build 2000 homes on the lower campus. You can cast as much shade as you want over Ms Ogilvie and the rest of us, but you also are changing your position. You should acknowledge that here tonight. You can live with that, you can explain that, you can shake your head as much as you want, but that is the reality.

When the university anchored back to Sandy Bay with STEM, that was welcome, from my perspective. That also puts you in a difficult position. This bill, and when you support this bill with this amendment, is a profound change from your position. I will leave you with that, opposition leader.

On this amendment, this is where I am incredibly disappointed; where I feel like the rezoning overreach has sort of torpedoed the consensus that could have been built around this bill. I feel there could have been a consensus around carving out some of the land above Churchill Avenue to not be subject to the encumbrances of the bill. We would have supported that. The Aboriginal land return - I do not think that needs to come through parliament.

Mr Winter - So that is okay?

Mr BAYLEY - I believe land return and land justice are very different things, Mr Winter.

Mr Winter - So, some divesting is okay.

Mr BAYLEY - The change of ownership of the sports fields on the top of Mount Nelson into other public hands, whether it be the City of Hobart, or whether it be the Education department, that is something. There is other development, including housing opportunities, in bits of this land. As I articulated in my second reading speech, I am concerned, and have heard significant concerns from the community - including the academic and scientific community - about the lack of STEM facilities and resources that are on some of this land above Churchill Avenue.

We will support this amendment. It does disappoint me, because I believe this is where the bill has fundamentally failed and where the parliamentary rezone was a critical overreach that has torpedoed the ability for a consensus around this. There are important natural and other values on this land above Churchill Avenue. There needs to be mechanisms to make sure they are protected and preserved.

I have a question for the minister as well. Minister, in your summing up or in one of your comments, you made the point that this parliamentary action of us taking this vote is effectively exactly the same as the bill as intended. It is the parliament voting on the disposal of land as per the original bill. I am paraphrasing a little bit. I did note down your exact words, but that is effectively what you said. The original bill has a provision in it that ensures the university:

- (a) must include:
 - (i) a clear description, or plan, of the area of vested land that the University proposes to dispose of; and
 - (ii) if the disposal of the land is by lease, details of the term of the lease; and
 - (iii) details of the amount of payment or consideration, or any other benefits, that the University is to receive if the disposal of the vested land is approved and required under this section; and
- (b) may include such other information as the University considers relevant to the disposal or proposed area of vested land.

I think you said in parliament we are discussing the disposal of land as per the bill. It is a rhetorical question to ask, but do you have those details? Do you have details of the terms of disposal and details of the amount of payment or consideration or any other benefits that the university is to receive? I take it you do not.

Ms Ogilvie - It is a rezoning discussion.

Mr BAYLEY - That is not a rezoning discussion. It is a discussion in relation to a carve-out. I take it you do not, because the university is not in that position - they do not have a partner, they do not have a sale. I make the point that, for the community and others, this process of parliament agreeing to the excision of this from the encumbrance of the bill does not conform with the intent of the original bill, because we as a parliament do not have those details in front of us. We do not have the details of the amount. We do not even have a very

detailed plan. The only plan we have is a very thick line on a map that is about a quarter of an A4 page. The level of specificity here is pretty low.

A question for you, minister, is how will that be finalised? How will the exact boundary as to what is rezoned or not above Churchill Avenue going to be finalised, given the scale of this kind of map that we have? It is probably a question more for the rezoning clause, I am sorry. This one has the natural logical barrier, or border, of Churchill Avenue. How exactly are you going to give effect to the details on this map, which is of such a scale that there can be no level of confidence as to exactly where the boundary is going to be drawn?

Ms OGILVIE - I have some advice on that. I can give you a bit of advice that I have just received. It would need to be properly surveyed and then that survey would be given to the commission, who would then do the rezoning.

Mr BAYLEY - On that survey, how does a surveyor on the ground survey in line with this - that we are approving tonight - with any level of accuracy or detail?

Ms Ogilvie - That is what surveyors do.

Mr BAYLEY - That is what surveyors do, exactly. We are approving these two hatched areas as to be rezoned, but I would imagine that line, as it is drawn there, is probably 100 metres or so on the ground, as it stands. Where do you draw the line and how do the surveyors actually deliver the level of detail?

Ms Ogilvie - I note your comments. It is one of the things that I asked.

Mr WINTER - I have to respond to the Deputy Leader of the Greens saying that we have changed our position. It explains, again, the Greens' approach to compromise that they might say we have changed our position.

I will go back in time, after I became leader and this bill had been proposed by the government. I started having the first conversations with the University of Tasmania and they were very clear, at that stage, that they did not know if they were going to commit to fully putting the STEM facility into the city or whether they would keep it down at Sandy Bay. My response to that was, 'That is your decision'. I would love to see it in the city. If they want to put it at Sandy Bay, that is their decision. You will find on *Hansard* I actually said that right here. I would love to see it in the city, but it is up to the university to make those decisions. I trust the university to make decisions. That is what this whole debate is about. Do we want the parliament running university or do you want the people who actually run the university running it? I want them running it.

Yes, I would love for STEM to be built in the city. It would be great. I would have loved to see the original one that we signed off on through the city deal. It was for the federal government to come in and fund a new STEM facility in the city. After that point in time, unfortunately, the momentum went from the city deal, the loss of the support of the council. It became too difficult and it did not happen. I respect them to make that decision. I have said it in this place, I have said it in my speech to the business community, that if that is their decision, to make it.

The point of our policy was that we could see the opportunity for the university to divest itself of an area above Churchill Avenue to build new homes and use that money to build a new STEM facility. Guess what this bill, this amendment, now does? Exactly what the intent of our policy was. I am so pleased about it.

Mr Bayley - It is not, though. What about below Churchill Avenue?

Mr WINTER - Now, the Deputy Leader of the Greens points out, accurately, that the rest of the bill still locks up the part below Churchill Avenue. We have everything we wanted out of the policy. Now, would I prefer that land to be not locked up? Yes. Is this bill better for Tasmania? Is it better for the city of Hobart? Is it better for the university? Does it align with our policy priorities? Absolutely.

Mr Bayley - No. It is not your policy.

Mr WINTER - This is exactly what the Greens do. Because it is not exactly, perfectly what the Greens want, we should oppose it. It is the Max Chandler-Mather approach to politics.

Mr Bayley - It is what you are accusing her of.

Mr WINTER - This is exactly what the Greens do.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - Because it is not exactly what I want, I should oppose it and fight it forever, just like the Greens do. That is why they will never be anything more than a minor protest party, because they do not know how to compromise and they do not know how to get good outcomes.

Mr Ellis - Is that why you let them back into government?

Mr WINTER - Minister for planning, I would not be saying too much if I were you right now, because you must be embarrassed at this point in time.

Mr Ellis - We got a \$40 million development through today, so -

Mr WINTER - Minister for planning -

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - You must be embarrassed today. I mean, honest to goodness.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Interjections will cease.

Mr WINTER - Not a single member of the Legislative Council, not Liberal or Labor, voted for that bill tonight.

Mr Ellis - Well, Labor voted for it, so that is bipartisan support.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, interjections on my right will cease.

Mr WINTER - Exactly right. Set up to blame Labor. Played the politics on the amendment, like the Greens.

Members interjecting.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order, interjections will cease. The Leader of the Opposition can address his comments through the Chair, please.

Mr WINTER - Quite right.

Mr Bayley - Mr Winter, you should both be very embarrassed about that bill.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - Just like the Greens, the Liberals went through this approach of wanting exactly what they wanted. They thought they would go and abuse people that did not agree with them and abuse people in local government. What did it get them? No bill; no legislation.

The Minister for Housing and Planning is now in the Chamber, sitting there looking a bit sombre and disappointed because a lot of people have been let down by his approach to planning this evening. A lot of people who were relying on that bill have been let down, because instead of trying to bring people together, he just went full assault on local government, and look what happened. We have seen this before so many times.

Mr Bayley - They are going to have to pay for newspaper ads, are they not, just to get it up?

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Mr WINTER - What newspaper ads? We want good outcomes, and I am not afraid to put forward policies that deliver good outcomes. The policy on UTAS is about building more homes and supporting STEM. I am really proud to see this amendment here because it backs in Labor's policies. It provides us with a great outcome for jobs and a great outcome for the university.

Members interjecting.

Mr WINTER - We will continue to put up good ideas, and the ones that the government takes, as they have with this bill and this amendment - the minister is giggling, but this is exactly what we wanted.

Ms Ogilvie - I was coughing, actually.

Mr WINTER - We are going to get outcomes here. You might want to oppose everything. You might want to take everything, or nothing at all. That might be your approach to things, but mine is compromise.

[7.47 p.m.]

Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, I have to respond to that. I just want to say and put on the record that we are very comfortable with and wholeheartedly support the university's decision

to anchor back to the Sandy Bay campus and build STEM there. We are very satisfied and comfortable with the university's signal of intention to return land to the Aboriginal community. We are very comfortable with the university's decision not to develop the sports fields on top of Olinda Grove at Mount Nelson. I think that is a good decision that many in the community will welcome.

When you lose that kind of facility, you do not get it back. They are good outcomes that we are fully supportive of, and if they are outcomes that have been forced through the presentation of this bill, that is good and I welcome them.

The sad fact, though, from the Greens perspective, as we have articulated consistently for all of our existence and certainly for the last few weeks, is the perversion of proper process. We will not support the planning process being undermined by the parliament and that is why we will not support this amendment, and ultimately, sadly, the bill.

DEPUTY CHAIR (Mr Behrakis) - The question is that the amendments be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 26

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

NOES 6

Ms Badger
Mr Bayley
Ms Burnet
Ms Johnston
Ms Rosol (Teller)
Dr Woodruff

Amendments agreed to.

Schedule 1, as amended, agreed.

New Schedule A -

Ms OGILVIE - Deputy Chair, I move the following amendment -

NEW SCHEDULE A

To follow Schedule 1.

SCHEDULE A - AREA TO BE REZONED

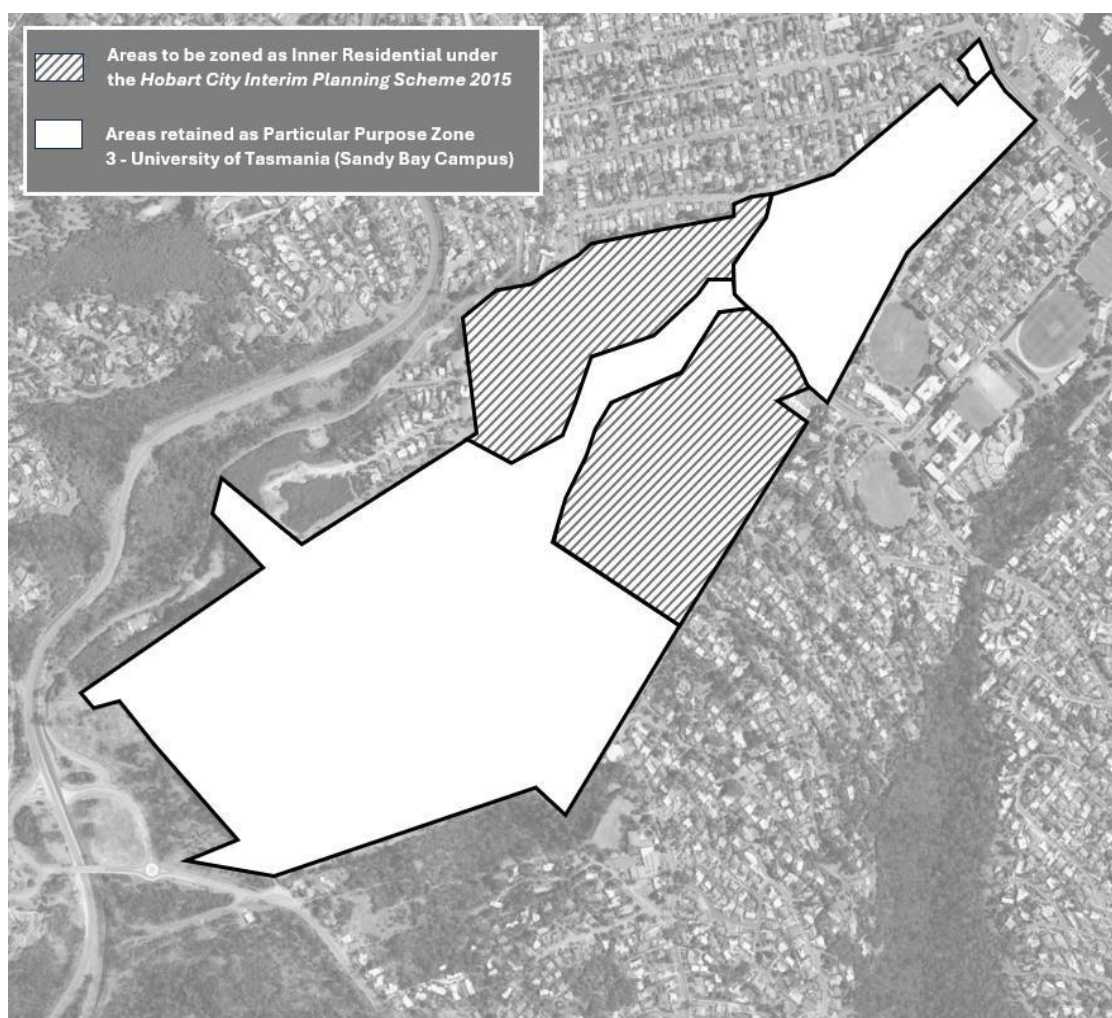
Clause A

Part 1 - Area of land

All the area of land, within Volume 176312, Folio 1, in the Register kept under section 33 of the Land Titles Act 1980, that -

- (a) is not vested land; and
- (b) is shown shaded, and bounded by thick lines, in the plan which is set out in Part 2 of this Schedule.

Part 2 - Plan



Mr BAYLEY - Deputy Chair, I am not going to talk for long on this because we have done the rezoning piece and I will reiterate our opposition to that. We will vote against this. I am not going to divide on this. I respect the parliament. We want to hear Ms White's speech and get to the Christmas wishes.

I do want to ask the question, and could have asked it in the previous conversation about Volume 167420, folio 2. If you look on the map we are discussing on Schedule A, there is the little chunk of 6 and I think it is Evans St down below here. That is part of the university's plan. That is actually a university title, and it is not there. Can you explain why that is not included in this bill? I do not have an amendment here because we do not have a capacity to amend the map, obviously. Can you explain, if you look on the list - what is it?

Ms Ogilvie - It is a matter for the surveyors. We have talked about that.

Mr BAYLEY - Yes, that is a block of university land there, I think it is 6 Evans St, that could and should be subject to the bill and schedule, but it is not.

Ms Ogilvie - Sorry, Mr Bayley, I will seek some advice for you. It might be something I have to bring back to you later. Is that okay?

Mr BAYLEY - That would be appreciated. For the record, given we are talking about land, incredibly valuable land with natural, cultural and other values, I find that the level of detail in this map is underwhelming in terms of the job at hand. We are carving up land and talking about a map that is not even a quarter of an A4 page of paper. I hear you, that the surveyors are going to have to do their work. Clearly they are going to have to do their work, but they are going to have to be instructed somehow about where they do their work. I am interested in who gives the instructions to the surveyors. Is it the university? Is it you as the minister? Is it the Surveyor-General?

Ms Ogilvie - It is the landowners.

Mr BAYLEY - The landowners ultimately get to say where the line is drawn on where the rezoning is to be.

Ms OGILVIE - I will have to seek some advice about what the process is about certainty with the boundaries. My understanding from the advice I had before was it was surveyors who do that work. You are now asking who hires the surveyors. I will need to confirm that.

Mr BAYLEY - I see the surveyors do the work. I understand that. You are not going to give this map to the surveyors and say map that out on the ground for me because there is not enough level of detail there. Who tells them where the line should be?

Ms OGILVIE - Sorry, Mr Bayley, it is as I thought. Instructions will go from the university to the surveyor to do that work.

Mr BAYLEY - To be clear, and without besmirching the university's reputation or intent, that is a little curious, is it not, that the university therefore gets to choose exactly how much of this land is rezoned. I would have thought there is an inherent conflict of interest there.

Ms Ogilvie - I do not think that is what we are saying. I want to make sure I am clear. Your proposition is that the map needs to be more granular and more refined. The advice I have had is that the surveyors will do that work.

Mr BAYLEY - With respect, minister, you have come to this House and given us this map, which is less than a quarter of an A4 page, and basically said, 'These are the titles that are going to be surveyed. These are the titles'. What? Does the surveyor get this map and try to work out where on the ground these points are, and therefore how they translate that into an actual title? These are going to be titles one day and then they are going to be stratum titles and everything. The instructing party to a surveyor has a significant amount of power and influence. They can say, 'Right, we want you to draw a line from point A to point B' and at this point, point A and point B on this map are pretty nebulous because they are big fat black lines on a little tiny map. Who gives the instructions?

Dr BROAD - This is really getting ridiculous. Here we are at, what is it, 8.00 p.m., and you are arguing about a surveyor and the thickness of a line on a page. The real question is, does it matter? Seriously, if they go to the absolute extreme of that edge, what are they going to do? Oh my God, the university is going to get another 10 metres of land to turn into housing. Seriously, there are surveyors in the world. No doubt the university has some rationale behind how they have drawn that. It could be a vegetation thing. I do not know what it is. I am sure surveyors are absolutely capable of doing that. If, for example, they get out a microscope and have a look at the thickness of that line and line it up against a house and accidentally get another 10 metres, is that the end of the world? Seriously, why are we getting into such irrelevant detail? It gives you an example that it is not going to be all the way up to the top of the hill, is it?

Why are we having this debate? Seriously, if you are getting down to this level of detail, all you are doing is obstructing this place. You are literally standing in the way of people being housed. It seems like the thickness of that line is more important to you than the people who come into my office and say, 'I am going to be homeless tomorrow, my lease has run out, my family and I are going to be in a car tonight'. That is what is important, not the thickness of this line.

We need these houses now. The Greens, and Ms Johnston, who also opposed the rezoning, should be ashamed. The biggest frustration that I have as a politician is dealing with those predominantly women who come into my office and are just about to be homeless, or are homeless, because there are not enough houses. This government has a history of not doing enough, but today they are. They are rezoning to allow 2000 houses. As I have said before, the university will get the opportunity to repurpose hopefully some of those buildings and get people housed quickly. Here we are tonight - what is more important to you is where the surveyor makes a judgment on the thickness of that line. You should be ashamed of yourself and embarrassed.

Mr BAYLEY - Thank you, Dr Broad. That is enlightening. We had the same kind of attitude from you last week when it came to the development assessment panels articulating the case for the government, rolling over, passing it. Look what has happened tonight. The upper House has done your job for you.

This is more a question about the level of detail that this government is bringing to this House to ask for a significant change to our suburban landscape and what happens there. I am

not going to die in a ditch about it, Dr Broad. I am just asking the question about who gets to instruct the surveyors. You might want to go home, mate, but you are the one who extended the debate last week.

Dr Broad - My fault?

Dr Woodruff - That is true.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Order.

Dr Broad - It is my fault?

Dr Woodruff - Exactly right.

DEPUTY CHAIR - Less interjections, please, and keep the comments directed at the Chair.

Mr BAYLEY - We have a right, an obligation, and a responsibility to be asking these questions on behalf of constituents. I withdraw the 'mate'; I do not know that he is my mate. I am not going to labour the point. I am just asking the question about who gives the instructions. I think it is pretty loose for a parliament to sign off on a rezone and basically say, 'Alright, over to you, landowner, you can rezone it how you want'.

That is my point. I will leave it there. I said we will oppose the rezone. We are not going to divide on the rezone. I am just making a point, minister, that you probably should have a level of probity over the process as it goes forward because the level of detail that you have brought to the parliament here is pretty high. At the end of the day, it does matter, Dr Broad. It does matter where these lines are, because this is a significant change to a neighbourhood landscape.

There are a whole raft of different values there that you may not value, but the people who live in this neighbourhood do, and will into the future. They are the ones that actually have to live there, Dr Broad.

Dr WOODRUFF - I will make the obvious point that what Mr Bayley is saying is that what you would normally expect in this situation is to have a map that would have either GIS coordinates on it or have the property titles. It has neither of those things. It is a high school map with a big Texta line around it. That is woefully insufficient in this situation.

Ms OGILVIE - I am appreciative and take on board all of your comments. I am very keen to see this work done properly. Surveyors would undoubtedly be engaged. Their work would be presented to the commission and the process would be followed.

New Schedule A agreed to.

Schedule 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported with amendment.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Third Reading Forthwith

[8.09 p.m.]

Ms OGILVIE (Clark - Minister for Innovation, Science, and the Digital Economy) - Deputy Speaker, I move -

That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the bill from now being read third time forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA (PROTECTION OF LAND) BILL 2024 (No. 31)

Third Reading

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Street) - The question is - That the bill be now read a third time.

The House divided -

AYES 24

Mr Abetz
Mr Barnett
Mr Behrakis
Ms Beswick
Dr Broad (Teller)
Ms Brown
Ms Dow
Mr Ellis
Mr Fairs
Mr Ferguson
Ms Finlay
Mr Garland
Ms Haddad
Ms Howlett
Mr Jaensch
Mr O'Byrne
Ms O'Byrne
Ms Ogilvie
Mr Rockliff
Mr Shelton
Ms White
Mr Willie
Mr Winter
Mr Wood

NOES 6

Ms Badger (Teller)
Mr Bayley
Ms Burnet
Ms Johnston
Ms Rosol
Dr Woodruff

Bill read the third time.

ON INDULGENCE

Valedictory - Member for Lyons - Ms White

[8.13 p.m.]

Ms WHITE (Lyons) - Honourable Speaker, sometimes there are moments in our life that shape us in the most profound ways, but we do not realise that until much later. For me, one of those moments was in my 20s when I was given the opportunity to participate as a member of a delegation to the United States as part of the Australian Political Exchange Council. What was profound about that experience for me was that it gave me confidence to ask questions and share my opinion, and for it to be heard and validated in different rooms of people.

My harshest critic has never been the people standing outside the arena or even those standing in it. My toughest critic has always been myself. For a young woman, feeling very unsure about why anyone would take me seriously or think I had anything useful to contribute, that was a pivotal moment that gave me self-confidence and bravery that helped me overcome my shyness and nerves.

That experience changed me and it has stuck with me ever since. Sometimes, all it takes is a kind word or a moment of affirmation to help someone believe in their own potential. It was due to John Dowling, the state secretary of the Tasmanian Labor Party at the time, that I got that opportunity. It was JD who encouraged me to stand for the state seat of Lyons.

I owe a lot to him, as well as to Lara Giddings, Bryan Green and Duncan Kerr, who also encouraged me to put my hand up as a 26 year old and stand for election, along with a brilliant campaign team which included Brian Mitchell, the current federal member for Lyons, who I will say more about in a minute, the late Casey Johnson, Nicole Wells, Senator Carol Brown and Stuart Benson, who stood by my side through the ups and downs and has my unwavering loyalty.

There are so many others who I named in my inaugural speech who helped me get here, and it is a mark of how important it is to have a great team around you if you want to succeed. Nothing I have ever achieved has been achieved alone. That first campaign was one of perseverance and a determination to listen to the community I was striving to represent. Thankfully there was no early election because I made up for my lack of profile with a strong grassroots campaign that saw our team out every weekend, knocking on doors for 12 months and giving the electorate of Lyons a chance to meet me and know what I stood for.

I was brought up with the motto that there is no such thing as 'can't'. As unlikely as it was that I was going to be successful in my first attempt at running for state parliament, that did not stop me from trying. Trying, failing, learning from those mistakes and getting up and having another go has become something of a hallmark of my political career.

Sometimes you do not succeed but that does not mean that you stop trying. On that occasion in 2010, there was a win on the board at the end of the campaign. Since that time, I have been fortunate enough to have been elected five times by the electorate of Lyons to represent them here in this House. That is an incredible privilege.

I always knew, growing up in the country at my home in Nugent, that there was something special about belonging to a community. In Nugent, we all look out for one another, support one another and stand up for one another, and you keep each other going even when things can get really tough.

That resilience comes from a place of knowing that in the country you cannot give up because there is no backup. If the tractor breaks down or stock gets through the fence, you have to find a way to fix it. There is no maintenance department you can call to come and help you out. You have to find a way to get the work done because your family depends on it. That is why country people are so tough. That is why I do not give up. I will keep fighting for my community because these are my neighbours, this is my family, and for me, it is personal.

The impact of my community has also shaped my values of friendship, loyalty and a fair go. My family, especially my mum, Anne, and my dad, Lindsay, continue to play a huge role in my life. They have always supported my ambitions and encouraged me to take on any challenge. I want to thank them for the enormous amount of love and help they have given me and continue to give me, and the important role that they play as Pa and Granny Annie to my two beautiful children, Mia and Hudson.

Those two little kids have never known anything different than mum working in politics, not that I think they have much of an idea about what I do day to day. For a long time there, Mia thought that I was a farmer due to the amount of time I spent battling the irrigator in the lucerne paddock. The main thing Hudson seems to pick up is that my face is on the shop at the traffic lights in Sorell. They are the most incredible kids and I am grateful every day that I get to be their mum. They give me perspective and inspiration to do all that I can to make their lives and the lives of all little ones in our state as joyful and as full of opportunity as possible.

My family grew when I joined the Labor Party. I have been incredibly lucky to have made friendships that will last my lifetime. From the bonds forged through campaigns and caucuses to those shared with people I have worked with who I will forever be in debt to for the remarkable way they have supported me, both in the PLP and across our staff. Some are here.

I will never stop finding it incredible how people gift their time, often in a volunteer capacity, to help support our movement and campaigns. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the number of people who have been there for me over the years and continue to show up.

I want to single out two tenacious and whip-smart women who played a big role during my leadership. They are Michelle O'Byrne and Anita Dow. As deputy leaders, both Michelle and Anita did so much for me, and I am thrilled to see them each in their respective roles today. They are well deserved.

In particular, I would like to thank three people who I worked most closely with while I was leader of the parliamentary Labor Party. They are all brilliant, all stoic, and all worked their guts out. I could not have done it without the help and guidance of Michael Steadman, Mel James, and Marcus Atkinson.

We built an incredible team over that time. I loved working with all the people who came to make up the leader's office over the years. They will remain some of the fondest memories of my time in this role.

Another person who had to spend more time with me than any person should be made to endure is Paul Watt. Paul and I did hundreds of thousands of kilometres together over the years. He has set a benchmark for driving that no other person I know has been able to meet when it comes to safety, punctuality, reliability and a never-ending supply of lollies and chocolates to keep the 'hanger' away. I regard Paul to be part of my extended family. Luckily for me, he does not live far away and he has a great knack for putting up posters these days.

I also want to thank the incredible souls who have worked in my electorate office since 2010. Our EOs play a significant role, as significant as ours, in representing our constituents and making sure people get the help that they need. I have been so lucky to work with great humans who care deeply about our community and go above and beyond. Along with the people who have volunteered in my office over the years, I want to pay particular thanks to Annette Branch, Shirley Parkinson, Kester Takayama, Penny Goodland, Kate Brooks, Heidi Berry, Jo Birch, Gail Simmons and Celeste Abari.

Like my inaugural speech, the list of thank yous continues, but this next one is a big one. I want to acknowledge the significant generosity of spirit of Brian Mitchell, who has decided to support me to become the federal candidate for Lyons instead of standing again. His decision is truly selfless and not something that I have witnessed before. Brian has been a friend of mine for nearly two decades. We both worked together in the office of Duncan Kerr, and Brian played an instrumental role in my first campaign. In my inaugural speech to this House, I thanked him by saying:

Brian Mitchell, I do not think you sleep because I have never met anyone as efficient as you, and whenever I asked for a response to something, you were there like a flash. Thank you for being so available, so talented in your work and for always keeping me smiling.

It seems entirely fitting that in what may be my last contribution in this place, he bookends my time here. It is also not lost on me that just as Brian helped launch my entry into state politics, he has done the same for my entry into federal politics. I would not be doing this if I did not have his total support. Our friendship means more than politics and I most genuinely wish Brian all the very best with whatever challenges he turns his talents to next.

I owe an enormous amount to the Labor Party, and I know as I prepare to leave this place that my role is to pay it forward to support the next generation of leaders as they strive to make a difference for our community. The Labor Party is built on the foundations of working people who came together as a collective because they understood that when we join together as one movement we can achieve so much more and build a fairer society. Values of fairness, equality and social justice have guided the Labor movement in Tasmania for more than 120 years. These principles are as important today as they were then. They have certainly guided me in this role and will continue to light the way.

What comes next for me will be decided once again by the people of Lyons, the same people who have given me the honour of standing here in this place for nearly 15 years. I have strived to meet the expectations of my community as their representative. I have endeavoured to act with integrity, to always show up and work hard, and to follow through on the things that I say I will do. I hope that people feel that I have done a fair job of that but for me, the job is not done.

As I prepare to depart from this place, it is not because I am taking a step back from public service. It is because I am putting my hand up to take a step forward to hopefully represent the community where I grew up and went to school, my home and the place where I am raising my children - my electorate of Lyons - in the federal parliament. The election is yet to be called and the date is yet to be fixed, but I know that it is coming soon, and I give this speech to say thank you to everybody who has helped me to get where I am today.

I do not think there is an adequate way to describe how humbling it is to be elected by your own community to be their voice in this parliament. It has been the greatest honour of my life, and as I step away from this parliament it is with both a mixture of sadness and excitement for the next challenge. I will be sad to leave a job that I have loved, to leave a career in the state parliament that I have given so much to and that has given so much to me, and to leave colleagues who have become dear friends.

I am determined to work as hard as I possibly can to win the federal seat of Lyons at the upcoming election so I can take my experience and the skills and the relationships I have developed to be a strong voice for our community in Canberra. This campaign will be won by the margin of our effort. As we have demonstrated time and again, when we work together, when we work hard, when we listen to what our community wants and strive to represent them well, then we give every reason for our community to put their trust in us.

It would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to also thank everyone who works in this building who I have come to admire and enjoy friendships with over the years that I have been here. Some of you saw me enter this place and you will witness me leave. All of you have treated me kindly, providing outstanding service, advice and support, and I will miss working with the familiar faces in this parliament.

I guess that goes for those opposite, too. You are not all bad. I have particularly enjoyed the committee work that I have been able to do this year, because it has given me an opportunity to spend more time working with people from across the parliament, and I have found it constructive, I have found it purposeful, and a reminder that there is far more that we agree on than not.

I leave at a time when the tide is turning here in Tasmania. I wish the Leader of the Labor Party, Dean Winter, every success as we get closer to a change of government and a return of Labor to the Treasury benches in this state.

Opposition members - Hear, hear.

Ms WHITE - It is overdue, and I regret that I was unable to lead our great party to success. I know in Dean, and the team he has supporting him, that we are ready to provide stable and good government for this beautiful state, and do so in a way that upholds Labor values, which I believe best represent our community's values.

I will finish what has become quite a long speech with a quote from the first speech I gave in this House. It was how I concluded that contribution, and it is what I will leave you with now:

One of my favourite authors, Albert Facey, titled his autobiography *A Fortunate Life*. His disposition towards life was both pragmatic and

optimistic. I think we in this place could do well to replicate his attitude and keep in mind that we are, indeed, fortunate, and that each of us has an obligation to help every Tasmanian achieve their own fortunate life.

Thank you.

Members - Hear, hear.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS

[8.27 p.m.]

Mr ABETZ (Franklin - Leader of the House) - Honourable Speaker, with the kind agreement of the Leader of the Opposition, I table, rather than reading into the *Hansard*, the response of the Premier to questions taken on notice today. I table the Questions on Notice Nos. 42 and 15.

No. 15 - Robbins Island Wharf

Mr GARLAND question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES, Mr ABETZ

See Appendix 8 on page 178.

No. 42 - Public Funding for Industries

Ms BADGER question to MINISTER for BUSINESS, INDUSTRY and RESOURCES, Mr ABETZ

See Appendix 9 on page 180.

Speaker, I briefly take the opportunity to thank you, the Clerk, and everybody else in assisting me in my role as Leader of the House during the last seven months or so and allowing me to adjust to the forms of this House. I wish everybody a happy Christmas. I think the Premier will now move a certain motion.

ADJOURNMENT

[8.29 p.m.]

Mr ROCKLIFF (Braddon - Premier) - Honourable Speaker, I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Christmas Wishes and Acknowledgements

Rebecca White MP - Tribute

Mr ROCKLIFF - Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words tonight in wishing all members of our parliament and all parliamentary staff and their families in this Chamber and others, a very happy Christmas and an enjoyable summer break. I will come to the member for Lyons in just a moment and wish Ms White all the very best, but I will save my words in just a moment for that.

I wish all Tasmanians a very happy, safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

On behalf of our team, I thank everyone here at Parliament House for the work they do - and I concur with the comments of the previous speaker - and who keep this place ticking over and functioning smoothly - mostly - and who support our members and everyone in this Chamber and staff alike, particularly the Clerk of the House, Ms Ross and her team - I am being very formal here - Ms Donovan; the Deputy Clerk, Ms Hesford; the Clerk Assistant and Sergeant at Arms, Mr Foxe; Second Clerk Assistant, Ms Murphy; and the Clerk of the Papers, Mrs Morrison. That is very formal, is it not? We very much appreciate your guidance. We are grateful for your professionalism and competence.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr ROCKLIFF - We very much appreciate that, as we do our parliamentary officers and assistants, including Charles, who I understand retires soon. Charles has been here a lot longer than I have. Thank you, Charles. You have been an absolute joy to work with and you are an institution in this establishment, a friendly face and, for many of us who have difficult days, would you believe in this place, to see a friendly smile is very comforting at times. Please do not underestimate not only your guidance, and others, but your impact on our wellbeing as we navigate our way through this place, particularly for the newer members of parliament. I am sure many of our newer members could empathise with what I have just said. I wish you all the very best, Charles.

Members - Hear, hear.

To Scott and Mary, Kristy, Kiah, Mark, Luke, Georgia and Liz, all who are absolutely wonderful, courteous and willing to provide assistance.

To the parliamentary education team, Kimbra and Colette, we love your work, and especially for introducing our young people to our parliament for that education and inspiration, and making this place such a friendly atmosphere for us all. It is a joy to see young people in and around this parliament. Can I say a special tribute to Kimbra, of course. It was not until the other day when the honourable Speaker, the honourable Deputy Leader of the

Opposition and I were speaking with students from Zeehan Primary School that I realised that Kimbra is moving on to other pastures, which we are very sad about. What a fantastic person Kimbra has been for this parliament - a wonderful educator, incidentally. We wish Kimbra all the very, very best, and her legacy will continue, which I am very pleased about.

We thank the broadcasting and IT services, led by Peter Hancox, his colleagues, Jason, Rob, Ben, Chris, Ryan, James, and the new bloke, apparently Dan. Thank you very much.

Thank you also to Finance, HR and the maintenance team of Adrian, Kate, Mehrdad, Craig, Shane, Gaye, Jenna, Simon, Robert, Rob, Pooja and Anil. To our parliamentary catering and dining staff and bistro staff - Mandie, Simon, John, Jacqui, Chris and the team, and Jo. Jo recently lost her father and our thoughts are with Jo. It is the reason why Jo was not there last week as we were going down to have Samboy chips. We thank that team very much indeed. The latest sitting times have been very good for the dining room, I am assuming, so we can have some friendly engagement, which has been fantastic.

I also thank the Parliamentary Library and the research team, Marijana, Deb, Sue, Louise, Jen, Sarah, Cassandra, Jayne, Kate and Catriona, and particularly pay tribute to them losing their friend, Bryan Stait, who passed during the year. Bryan was such a big part of this parliamentary family. I know he is very much missed. I miss him and, of course, his work colleagues do as well.

The Hansard team - I do not know how they do it - Helen, James, Harrison and Richard, and the entire team who support us in that important role.

I thank my parliamentary colleagues, our Liberal team, for the support of each other. It has been a very interesting, challenging, but mostly rewarding year. I very much appreciate the work that you do for your electorates, your constituents, as of course I do, all of us in this place. I am very fortunate to have a group of people who are so committed to our team and, most importantly, to the people of Tasmania, as indeed our staff are. We have a number of our staff who wear blue very proudly, as they should, but most importantly they are there for the right reasons, and they want to make a difference.

As I engage with staff of other sides of the parliament of all colours as well, I know that everyone is deeply committed to making a difference and doing the very best that they can for the people of Tasmania, through engagement with each other and through other MPs as well.

I am very grateful for my team led by Ned Whitehouse, who I have thoroughly enjoyed working with over the course of the last few months. He is a terrific young chap, a lot younger than me, and he keeps me on my toes. I commend Ned for the work and his leadership of our team as well.

At this time I thank in advance the many frontline workers who will be keeping us all safe and in good health over Christmas and the holiday period: our nurses, our doctors, our paramedics, our firefighters, police, emergency workers, and the many more frontline workers who unlike us, do not have the privilege of being able to relax, hopefully, and unwind with their families over the Christmas and New Year period. We thank you sincerely on behalf of all Tasmanians. I hope that we do not get those extreme events that cause all Tasmanians angst and indeed challenge people's safety as well.

Lastly, we are very well aware that there may be a federal election before we return to this place. If that is the case, I pay tribute to outgoing member for Lyons, Ms White. I want to thank you, Rebecca, for your contribution to not only Lyons, but to the Tasmanian people. I want to thank you for trying to be a friend to me over the years. It is very difficult sometimes, Opposition Leader and Premier, but there were times when we reflected on the challenges of this role. I do remember a particular occasion of which I did appreciate a conversation.

Thank you on behalf of the Tasmanian people. You mentioned your grassroots campaign with great fondness, which was a very good grassroots campaign to raise your profile. The Polly Waffle ad, I think, had more of an impact on your profile racing. It was a very good ad. Well done to that. As the Prime Minister said, you are a person of conviction indeed. I wish you well.

It is a long parliamentary career, 2010 to what will be 2025, I am assuming. It is a brave move leaving a seat in the state parliament for the federal parliament and, of course, you will forgive me for handing out the blue leaflets, not the red ones, when it comes to the next federal election. Nonetheless, I wish you well. Most importantly, irrespective of the outcome of the next federal election, I wish you well in life. I wish your family all the very best and I want to thank you most sincerely for your service to our state.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr ROCKLIFF - I will conclude by thanking Tasmanians. I thank Tasmanians for their engagement. I want to also thank all members of this parliament. This is an expanded parliament. We have had our moments, but we have got through to at least the Adjournment debate on 28 November.

The SPEAKER - There is still time.

Mr ROCKLIFF - There is still time. As I reflect on what we have been able to achieve, we have agreed on most things. I am very proud of our team that has been able to have our agenda, mostly, through both Houses of parliament, which we are proud of, but also individual members in this place. Other parties in this place have got their agenda through as well in certain circumstances.

I am proud of the way it has worked, mostly well. I appreciate everyone's willingness to get to this point, at the very least, in the best interest of Tasmania and Tasmanians. We will never lose sight of what Tasmanians want to see in their elected representatives. We will all redouble our efforts next year. I refer to our team, and I am sure that is the same of other members as well.

With those few words, thank you for indulgence honourable Speaker, thank you for the role that you have played and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Thank you very much.

Christmas Wishes and Acknowledgements

[8.41 p.m.]

Mr WINTER (Franklin - Leader of the Opposition) - Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and hopefully a restful time for everybody here.

I would like to start by thanking my office staff: Marcus, Celeste, Pam, Adisen, Heidi, Kate, Boyden, Dave, Lachie, Stuart, Leena, Kaspar, and also Cameron, who now drives me. I used to chip members of the government for having a driver 12 months ago. Now, it is the greatest thing. It allows you to see more of Tasmania than ever before. Those of us who are privileged enough to have one understand the relationship, the support that it provides, and the ability for us to be more effective. Thank you to Cam and all the other drivers who look after us.

I would like to thank all the electorate office staff, not only mine, but all the electorate office staff across Tasmania who are on the frontline, dealing with people in their biggest crisis points. Whether they are in the government, Greens, Labor, or independents, electorate office staff have some of the toughest conversations that any of us have. They are on the frontline, they are always in the office, always available and they do a fantastic job.

Thanks to Laura and the team here - I will not go through all the names because the Premier did - Pete, the ICT crew, finance, Adrian, and all the parliamentary officers. Thanks to Charles for being very welcoming and being a very good, very reassuring person to have around the place and someone who will be very dearly missed by all members. The Parliamentary Education Office - that is the first I have known that Kimbra is leaving but I share your sentiments exactly.

The Hansard staff - I was door-knocking with Luke Edmunds a few weeks ago and I door-knocked and explained who I was and did the usual spiel. The person said to me, 'I actually work at Hansard'. I said, 'Oh, okay, I suppose you know the sort of rubbish we talk, don't you?' She did not say anything. I assume that is because she was very professional. I will not take any offence to it. Thanks to the Hansard staff who listen to our rubbish or otherwise and do a great job.

Thanks to the Parliamentary Library. I wanted to mention Bryan Stait as well, who I dearly miss and dealt with over many years here. He was a very wise man, very funny in a very dry way. We miss him very much.

Thanks to the security staff, the utility officers, the committee secretaries, and everyone who makes this place tick and makes it a good place to come to.

I genuinely love coming to this place. I enjoy every moment of debate. I enjoy even the most heated arguments and debates in this place, with members opposite and members of the Greens - especially members of the Greens. Dr Woodruff, I especially enjoy our debates. I also enjoy that when we finish having a debate in this place, afterwards we can agree to disagree and have a good relationship. I really appreciate that.

If people understood a little bit more about what we do, that parliament is not just Question Time, that parliament is about compromise and sometimes it is about debate, but it is

also about us understanding that we are all in it for the same reasons. All of us here, I have no doubt, are here to try to make Tasmania a better place. I am. I know the Premier is. We disagree on a lot of things. I disagree with the Greens and some of the independents on many things, but I know that everyone is here for the right reasons.

I also thank our political party, the Australian Labor Party, and our union affiliates who have made me feel so welcome and supported in this role. It is a huge step up. I will admit that the day that I have dreaded coming to was my first day as Opposition Leader and having to ask the first question. I was hitting myself a little bit. It has been the support of the team behind me, but also the team in our party, our affiliates, that has given me the support I needed to set us on a path that I hope leads to a Labor government.

I thank all our team. I have loved coming into this role for all those reasons I mentioned, but also because I genuinely love, appreciate and like my colleagues who I go to work with every day. Our caucus is a place where people are open to ideas and to debate. It is that relationship that I hope stands us in really good stead.

I have to talk about the fact that we are losing one of the best and brightest that the Tasmanian Labor Party has ever had. Albo, well done, Prime Minister, on getting such a good recruit for your team, but it does leave me a little short.

The member for Lyons, Rebecca White, is someone who has left an incredible mark on this place over nearly 15 years. She is somebody who entered into parliament at the end of the former Labor government and has come through so much. I was thinking about the way that Rebecca arrived in this place. No-one expected her to win, frankly. I was there running a different campaign - Scott Bacon's campaign. I think people expected Scott to get elected and they did not expect Rebecca to get elected. It was through her hard work and tenacity - and a little bit of polly waffle, I agree - that she got here, unexpectedly, then created a legacy. Only those of us in the caucus will really know what Rebecca has been through and the way she led us.

In my time in life, I have not seen a leader quite like Rebecca White. There have been times that have been extremely difficult for us in the Labor Party. The way that she has led us has been with grace, dignity, but most of all, strength. Rebecca does not give up, ever. She never, ever gives up. She said that she owes the Labor Party a lot. The Labor Party owes Rebecca a lot more.

Members - Hear, hear.

Mr WINTER - We all do. We will miss her. It did occur to me as she spoke that pretty soon she will be too cool for us, and she will not want to speak to us anymore. When she does, we will understand that she will be too cool, like all the other federal members. At that stage, we will understand, and we wish her well and look forward to supporting her in her campaign.

Again, I say, Merry Christmas to everyone. I appreciate our debate and our banter. This is a stressful job, but we are all here for the right reasons. I hope everyone has a great break and enjoys their family and time off, and comes back here full of energy and ideas to make Tasmania a better place in the new year.

Members - Hear, hear.

Christmas Wishes and Acknowledgements

[8.48 p.m.]

Dr WOODRUFF (Franklin - Leader of the Greens) - Honourable Speaker, it is always a bit of a shock when this time comes. I do not think we can believe that it is going to be Christmas in just four weeks. I enjoy this time of the year because it is an opportunity to be nice and say something nice about each other. Let us face it, it is not always what happens every day.

The SPEAKER - I encourage you to do it whenever you want.

Dr WOODRUFF - We all know it has been a whirlwind this year. Thank you, Premier. It was a somewhat unexpected election, but here we have not only another balance-of-power parliament, but a fully restored one. What a fantastic step it is to have 35 seats back in this House of democracy. It has been a pleasure getting to know all the new colleagues in the Chamber, some of whom I am sure will be happy to leave the building and possibly have a little break from the Greens for a while.

I want to especially say how great it is getting to work with this big, expanded crossbench. We are only just getting to understand how to work together in this minority parliament. I can say, as a person who has worked really hard with other Greens MPs and our team to try to progress legislation, there is a lot more work, a lot more conversation, and a lot more going around. There is a joy in the conversations, and there is a lot of work to be done. I feel proud that the Greens have progressed two bills through this place this year, and other independent members have also progressed legislation, as has the Labor Party. We are in a place that is very much a stronger and healthier democracy than it was this time last year.

I will spend a short amount of time giving sincerest thanks to the people in the parliamentary House team who have helped the members, new and old, along the rocky - pun intended - road that we have traversed. Without you all, this great democratic institution that we sit within would not function. We appreciate the latitude of time that you have given, Speaker, because these people deserve to be named.

Thank you to our fantastic Clerk of the House, Laura, in this first year of being in charge of us. You have done an incredible job. We have deep respect for you and your crack team, Steph Hesford, Ben Foxe, Fiona Murphy and Colleen Donovan. You have kept us all in check and that is just as it should be.

To the House team - Ali Morrison, Kiah Charles, Georgia Gray, Michael Barnier, Mary de Groot, Scott Hennessy, Mark Groom, Kristy Lang and Luke Viecele, we would be lost without you.

And of course, Charles. A special shout out to you, Charles Casimaty. You are retiring. You have been a longstanding treasure in this place. What I can say is it is the twinkle in your eye that gives me a certain - you are just a very beautiful person, and thanks for that twinkle. I know you will keep it with you for the whole of your life. We will miss you.

To Adrian Munnings and the finance team, Craig Thorp, Kate Duggan and Mehrdad Tavangar, thank you for keeping this place running and keeping us all compensated for our sometimes questionable work.

Thank you to the Roberts in People and Culture: Robert Wright and Robert MacDonald.

To Kimbra, I cannot believe you are going. How will it be? You have done the work of setting up the Education Office. Now with Colette Goyne, who will be here, I am confident that the service that you provide to young people visiting will continue. It is a gift of democracy that we provide in the Parliament of Tasmania through those people. You are teaching and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.

After the election there was a mass of Greens who moved into this place, as well as a whole range of other new members. That has not been without a logistical challenge. To one of the snappiest dressers in parliament, Simon Munn, thank you for solving every question, every problem and fixing almost every single thing along the way.

Sincerest thanks to the utilities crew, the incredible Shane Watterson, Gaye Batchelor, Angela McCreghan, Jenna Kink and Anil Sharma for keeping our offices and, therefore our minds, tidy and in order. Brendan, we miss you too.

To the Parliamentary Library team, Dr Marijana Bacic, Deb Jensen, Sarah Ravanat, Sue Knowler and Louise Kemsley. Thank you particularly for attending to our every single rush job request so patiently and kindly.

To the PRS for your quality work and for running the UTAS intern program. Thank you to the excellent Cassandra Hennessy, Jen Makin, Dr Catriona Ross and Jayne McPherson, and to Kate Roberts, who has been on maternity leave. I also want to say thank you to the late Bryan Stait for his service to this place and to democracy.

To our new friends in OPC, we could not have changed a single law without you. Thank you. I know I am saying this for Tom, particularly to David Bingham, Adine Bowerman, Ruth Henderson, Nick Jones, Nicola Norton, Paul Potter, Holly Purcell, Melanie Ross, Allyson Veska, Helen Wagner and Katherine Woodward.

To the computer services team - Peter Hancox, Chris Machin, Ben Hughes, James Sly, Jason Hergert, Ryan Ling, Rob Huck and the new Dan. Thank you for taking every call and coming to our aid with a smile, no matter how big or small, and fixing all the problems. More importantly, you are unreservedly and without exception always friendly and helpful. We really thank you for that.

To the heroes of our late 'hangry' nights after sittings, to John and Simon in the dining room kitchen, to the manager, Mandie Donnelly, who is on a very well-deserved long service leave, and to acting manager, Jacqui Kozakiewicz.

The SPEAKER - There will be a special meal served for you next time.

Dr WOODRUFF - I was going to say, thank you for always knowing that we need a cheeky sparkling when we turn up in there. Thank you, Jacqui.

To Jo Smallhorn, Christina O'Sullivan, Renee Hale and the bistro crew, we would not have a sitting day without you. You are endlessly warm and provide us with sustenance, and you definitely provide all our staff with lollies in an endless supply.

Thank you again to the welcoming - hopefully sometimes not too welcoming - security team, Hugh Tucker, Syed Abuzar, Animesh Baink, George Chaperon-Tucker, Bir Gravanf, David Holland, Syeda Kinza, Samuelu Lopa, Yatin Maria, Shreya Mishra, Kyriakos Resvanis and Satnam Singh. It is extremely rare, and we should be grateful, that we have a security team who are courteous, respectful, kind, but strong when they are needed. This is a rarity and we are grateful.

I will take a breath before I start the next, thank you. These people are the hardest workers and the largest group of workers in the building. They sometimes, for the worse, seal our words into the history books. To the Hansard team: the Transcription Supervisor, James Reynolds; the Editor of Debates, Helen Allmich; the Associate Editors, Richard Santos and Harrison Palmer; and to Alexander Scarcia, Anne Baker, Catherine Wurf, Damian Bester, Estelle O'Neill, Deb Melksham, Gabby Cayoun, Gabrielle Rish, Gaye Mitchell, Henry Rogers, Janine Toms, Jenny Morgan, Jericho U'ren, Jun Jie Law, Karen Cuzzucoli, Kate Stewart, Kavindya Walalawela, Kaye Toohey, Laura Cusack, Lesley Andelman, Loretta Thompson, Margaret Peters, Mike Ward, Nicole Christopher, Robert Jenkins, Roey Johnson, Ronan McGowan, Sabine Borgis, Sarah Carr, Sarah Fernando, Siobhan Dooley, Stella Beswick, Susan Hood, Terry Boots, and Ulrike Loofs Samorzewski. These are the people who transcribe the words that we speak, and we thank you very much.

Finally, for me, to our seriously and impressive and much-expanded since this time last year Greens team. To my fellow Greens MPs Vica, Helen, Tabatha, Cecily, and Cassy in the other place. I am so proud of being in the company of such capable, passionate, hardworking people who are all committed to working as a team and getting the best outcomes for the people who we represent. In our team there are some people who have been working with us for a very long time. Alice and Tom in particular are in that group. To people who have been there, newer and not so new, Steve, Dan, Ellen, Rachel, Alex and Sam. To Sophie, Emma, Niall, Kate, Jack, Nick and Suze. I cannot overstate the pleasure of working with such smart, hardworking, green-hearted, deeply ethical, deeply kind and caring, witty and sassy people. We all know how hard this work is. We all know how important it is to work with a great team. I thank them.

To you, honourable Speaker, thank you for what you have brought to the Chamber in the time that you have been here. We have not always enjoyed everything that you have said and we might disagree quietly on the inside to some of the things that you rule, but you have brought an order to this Chamber which is deeply appreciated. Thank you.

To everyone else here in the Chamber and floating around in the Chamber, Merry Christmas. Sometimes we are not always the best of friends here but I utterly concur with what Mr Winter says. It is the conversations that we have in the corridor, and the fact that we can have some deep disagreements in this place and still come outside and be able to continue to work together. We are all here together for the interests of this island and its people. On behalf of the Greens, we look forward to seeing you all next year, although perhaps not you, Bec. I especially wish you all the best. I have no doubt you will be an amazing representative in another place. Good luck and go well.

Have a lovely Christmas, and more importantly, have some time for yourself and your families to recuperate. I have no doubt it is going to be a big year next year.

Christmas Wishes and Acknowledgements

Charles Casimaty - Tribute

[9.00 p.m.]

The SPEAKER - On that, honourable members, I get to say a few words.

First of all, members always make mistakes and leave a couple of people out so I have been asked to, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, remind everybody what a great job Shane does.

Mr Winter - And Jenna.

The SPEAKER - And Jenna. Shane, in particular, will not care because he actually has a royal appointment from the Governor. He is going to outlive all of you anyway in this place.

Premier, I know that you feel bad about this, but Bryan Green did it to him as well. Rexy, the Premier's driver, who also used to be Greeny's driver, was missed out again. The Premier asked that I add those words in.

Mr Rockliff - We are buying KFC tonight.

The SPEAKER - You know the way to Rexy's heart.

Before I speak about our dear friend Charles, I advise that Kimbra is going to work in the other place, which is why we are disappointed. In the nine years she has been running our education office as the senior parliamentary education officer she has seen 30,500 students through. She has trained 554 mini-Speakers who, oddly, are often taller than me. She has done an amazing job.

We gave her a thank-you card with some of the quotes: children always write quotes about how they found the course. The favourite one of everyone's is that apparently it was, for one child, the second best day of their life. That was great.

Mandie Donnelly, who has been on extended long service leave, has advised us that she will not be returning at the end of that long service leave. Some of you will know that. We will not be in a position to see her again to thank her. If you do run into her, please do so. We are ensuring that she is appropriately thanked for her years of service and support for everyone here.

The parliament is not saying a lot about Bryan Stait per the wishes of the family, but there is not a person in this building who does not love and miss him. I will leave that there.

Now it is my honour to say a few words about our parliamentary stalwart and our dear friend, Charles Casimaty, who, if we keep him going until 9.30 p.m., will qualify for the last late sitting fee of his long career. I do not think I can talk that long, but maybe I will have to let somebody else say something.

He will be retiring in early January. He is incredibly excited about that. We are sad to see him go, but excited. Charles, I am going to give the thanks of the people who work with you,

who have pulled together a couple of things that they wanted me to say tonight. Your impact on all of them has been huge.

Charles began work in parliament in 1989 as a bartender. Yes, for those newer members, we did have a bar. It is now the Deputy Premier's office. Read into that what you will.

He then became an attendant at the House of Assembly several years later before becoming a committee secretary in 1996, and moving into his current role of community engagement officer in 2016. This year marks his 35th year of employment in this place. I am going to note that is exactly the same amount of time that Simon Behrakis has been on this Earth. In this time he has seen 10 premiers, nine Speakers, four Clerks and 97 members elected to this place.

Charles holds a degree in Political Science and a graduate certificate in Social Statistics from UTAS where he studied alongside several members of this place. It may be said that he was a better student than some. You may say that I could not possibly comment.

He has a deep knowledge of parliament from both a practical and a theoretical perspective. I have always thought of him as the keeper of our secrets and stories, from the quarried rocks to the convict stones upon which our building rest, to the Welsh and Spanish slate - he is not even going to nod he is so professional - that covers our roof. He knows, unlike most of us, the truth about the bullet in the Long Room. He understands the history, the traditions and the worth of this institution and, in some ways, can be considered the conscience of this building.

Charles's knowledge of parliament makes him an extraordinary tour guide and the tours he gives have been mentioned in *Lonely Planet* as some of the must-see things for visitors to do when they are in Hobart. He has been known to keep people willingly captivated for over two hours. I know every time I come across him giving a tour I learn something new about this place. Members will not be surprised that we are desperate to do an oral history with Charles before he leaves, although he has said he is not quite sure that many of his stories should be committed to writing.

The former Clerk, Shane Donnelly, once remarked, 'Charles is a man who knows something about everything. He is broadly read and understands history, politics, science, and has an excellent grasp of geography and vexillology'. You all know what vexillology is, don't you? Fun with flags is what we are thinking.

Charles, despite having a very quick wit and a very dark sense of humour, has always been kind, he has always been welcoming and he has always been inclusive. He is helpful, he is humane and he is empathetic and, as generations of staff will attest, he is always supportive and willing to share his knowledge while acting as a calm and somewhat steadying influence.

In his retirement, he is looking forward to spending more time with his partner, Rachel, their dogs and their cats. He has a shack on the Tasman Peninsula, which he is going to be restoring. When the weather is fair, he is going to be found out on the river kayaking, contemplating the nature of things.

Charles, we hope that you will often come back and brighten our days. As you embark on what we know will be the next wonderful adventure of your life, please know that we will

miss you and that all of us thank you for your exemplary service. Whilst clapping is unparliamentary, please clap.

Because the Leader of the Greens has mentioned every person in the building, I will not do that again. However, I thank all the parliamentary team for making a 35-seat parliament work. It has been a monumental effort by the people in this building and they have done it with dignity and commitment. None of them have stabbed us at any stage, and I am sure they felt like it on occasion. We could not appreciate the staff in this building more for what they do.

As an Opposition Speaker, I have to also give my thanks particularly to the leadership team here. Laura, Stephanie, and Ben have provided such incredibly wise counsel and I am very fortunate to have been the beneficiary of that. Ben has not had to use the Mace. I am a bit disappointed about that. That is something for next year, members, if you could make that happen.

With that, and unless somebody else seeks the call, Merry Christmas, everyone.

The House adjourned at 9.07 p.m.

Appendix 1

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Thursday, 23 May 2024

Question No. 5 of 2024
House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Ms Ella Haddad MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney-General

5 Ms Haddad to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to the Witness Intermediary Scheme:

- (1) How many people have been employed as witness intermediaries since the introduction of the scheme, broken down by court registry?

ANSWER:

28 health professionals have been admitted to the witness intermediary panel since the commencement of the scheme on 1 March 2021. 9 witness intermediaries are based in the north, 6 based in the north-west and 13 based in the south of the state. All intermediaries are available to travel to other regions when required. This ensures that specified communication needs of a witness is appropriately matched to the specialised skillset of the intermediary and avoids any delay in matters where an intermediary may not be available in a given region.

Witness intermediaries are engaged on a sessional basis. The majority of intermediaries are engaged by a deed of agreement and maintain other jobs whilst also accepting referrals for intermediary work. A small number of intermediaries are employed by the Tasmanian Health Service and are released to perform intermediary work on a sessional basis. Their periodic release is overseen by senior staff within the Tasmanian Health Service to ensure there is no reduction to patient services.

The demand for intermediary services in the northwest is very high and it is a region with low numbers of professionals that meet the criteria for the role of witness intermediaries, namely allied health professionals. To ensure equal access to justice, the department has directly employed 1.5 FTE in-house witness intermediaries. This ensures an intermediary is available at short notice when urgent requests are received from Tasmania Police.

- (2) Have any witness intermediaries been engaged to assist in court, and if so, how many times, broken down by court registry?

ANSWER:

Witness intermediaries have been engaged to assist in court on numerous occasions in all regions of Tasmania. The Witness Intermediary Scheme has received 169 requests for intermediary services from the Tasmanian courts. The number of requests received from each registry are as follows (as of 12 September 2024):

- Burnie Magistrates Court: 21 requests
- Burnie Supreme Court: 34 requests
- Devonport Magistrates Court: 5 requests
- Launceston Magistrates Court: 11 requests
- Launceston Supreme Court: 32 requests
- Hobart Magistrates Court: 26 requests
- Hobart Supreme Court: 40 requests

- (3) Have any hearings had to be adjourned or delayed due to the unavailability of a witness intermediary, and if so, how many times, by court registry?

ANSWER:

The intermediary liaison team works very hard to ensure court hearings are not delayed due to the unavailability of a witness intermediary. Witness intermediaries prioritise attendance at court hearings and routinely juggle existing commitments to attend court. If an assigned intermediary is not available for a given hearing, another intermediary will be appointed to perform the role at hearing. If an intermediary is not available in a particular region, an intermediary from another region will be assigned to perform the role.

The intermediary liaison team is not aware of any hearings being delayed due to the unavailability of a witness intermediary.

The *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act 2001* requires the judge to make an order for a witness intermediary assessment order as early as practicable before the witness may be required to give evidence. This ensures there is ample time for an intermediary to assess the witness's communication, prepare a report for the court and attend all required hearings including the ground rules hearing and the hearing where the witness gives evidence.

There have been matters where the need for a witness intermediary has been identified at a very late stage in proceedings and the intermediary liaison team has facilitated the provision of an intermediary within very short timeframes. It is feasible that if the need for a witness intermediary was not identified by the court at an early stage, a hearing may have been delayed to allow for the judicial officer to make an order about the use of a witness intermediary.

- (4) If there have been delays due to unavailability of a witness intermediary, how long has each delay been in months?

ANSWER:

The intermediary liaison team is not aware of any instances where a hearing has been delayed due to the unavailability of a witness intermediary.

There are numerous examples where a considerable effort has been made to ensure trials are not delayed including the provision of an assessment report and attendance in court within a three day time period and appearing in court with as little notice as a few hours.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice

Date: 27 November 2024

Appendix 2

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Thursday, 13 June 2024

Question No. 10 of 2024
House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Ms Rebecca White MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Guy Barnett MP, Attorney-General

10 Ms White to ask the Attorney-General – In relation to the independent review into whether Public Officers received grants of legal assistance during the Commission of Inquiry:

- (1) When will the independent review into whether Public Officers received a grant of independent legal assistance during the Commission of Inquiry be delivered to the Attorney-General?
- (2) Does the Attorney-General plan to publish this report when received, and if so, when will it be published?

ANSWER:

- (1) Mr Tatarka has not yet completed his review. It is anticipated that Mr Tatarka will provide a report in December 2024.
- (2) The outcomes of the review and the recommendations will be made public, as permitted by law.

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice

Date: 27 November 2024

Appendix 3

QUESTION ON NOTICE

QUESTION NO. 11 OF 2024

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Mr Craig Garland MP, Member for Braddon

ANSWERED BY: Hon Felix Ellis MP, Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs

QUESTION:

In relation to complaints made to Work Safe Tasmania and any investigations:

1. Does Work Safe Tasmania assess and/or investigate the complaints it receives?
2. In the past 15 years, how many complaints have been made to Work Safe Tasmania?
3. Of those complaints to Work Safe Tasmania, how many have been assessed?
4. Of those complaints to Work Safe Tasmania, how many have been progressed to investigation?
5. How many investigations have resulted in findings that have been found in favour of the complainant?
6. What were the full range of consequences to those subject to adverse findings of those investigations?

ANSWER:

All complaints received by WorkSafe Tasmania are subject to assessment and triaging to determine if the matter falls within jurisdiction and the priority to be given in responding to it. WorkSafe Tasmania administers and may receive complaints under several Acts. There is no single definition of a complaint across these Acts and therefore the 15 years of data requested is not readily available. In relation to work health and safety, workers rehabilitation and compensation, and industrial relations (long service leave), WorkSafe Tasmania received 3758 complaints between March 2020 and November 2024.

All complaints have been subject to assessment and triaging.

WorkSafe Tasmania is focused on ensuring duty holders comply with their legislative obligations. This makes it difficult to categorise findings in favour of the complainant, as this approach does not consider the non-coercive measures used to achieve compliance.

Where non-compliance is identified WorkSafe Tasmania's response consists of one or a combination of encouraging and assisting compliance, directing compliance and sanctions. The sanctions available are listed in the relevant Act.

APPROVED NOT APPROVED



Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs

27/11/2024

Appendix 4

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. 14 of 2024 House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Craig Garland MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Felix Ellis MP

QUESTION:

In relation to the planning process and the approvals of Robbins Island Wind Farm Development application

- (1) Did the planning process assess the development of a wharf and access through Back Banks against the State Coastal Policy, which refers at Clause 1.4.2 that development on actively mobile landforms such as frontal dunes, such as Back Banks on Robbins Island, will not be permitted, and if so, did the Circular Head Council, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Tasmanian Civil Administration Tribunal (TASCAT) fail to apply Clause 1.4.2 against the planning approvals?
- (2) Did TASCAT overrule the EPA's requirement for the wind farm to shut down for five months of the year due to environmental considerations related to birdlife?
- (3) Has the Minister for Energy and Renewables flagged changing the rules to suit at least one private developer, and cover over the failures of the planning authorities who did not meet the standard required?
- (4) Did the Premier make recent comments that the project has undergone "enormous scrutiny" and if so, do you agree with these comments?
- (5) Has there been adequate scrutiny by planning authorities over this project, and if not, what will you do about it?
- (6) Can you explain how the Robbins Island wind farm development application was approved by the Circular Head Council Planning Authority and the Environment Protection Agency with the appeal against the approval rejected by TASCAT, despite the application not being assessed against the State Coastal Policy?

CA

- (7) Are there any areas in Tasmania where there are approved developments on actively mobile landforms such as frontal dunes, and if so, for each of these examples, provide the date and approving authority of when those developments were approved?

ANSWER:

1. The Environment Protection Authority and the Circular Head Council both undertook their respective assessments and decisions consistent with the commonly held view about the application of the State Coastal Policy, and its interaction with the former Circular Head Interim Planning Scheme 2013.

The legal advice provided after those decisions has concluded that both decision makers had not applied the coastal policy correctly. This position would also apply to all other past approvals by Councils in relation to developments on actively mobile landforms.

The Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) received evidence and submissions on the application of the State Coastal Policy and upheld the decisions of the EPA Board and the Council. The reason for this decision is presented in the TASCAT published decision.

2. Yes, TASCAT set aside the decision by the EPA Board to impose a five-month shutdown, unless it approved a shorter period, to remove any risk of bird strikes impacting the Orange Bellied Parrot. The reason for this decision is presented in the TASCAT published decision.

3. The Validation (State Coastal Policy) Bill 2024 is about providing certainty to all developments, approved in good faith by planning authorities at the time. It is not just about one project or one development.

The Bill validates all previously issued planning permits with respect to Outcomes 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 of the State Coastal Policy to ensure it does not give rise to unintended consequences in terms of liability for owners or managers of infrastructure on the coast and for the previous decision makers.

All decision makers have undertaken their respective assessments and decisions consistent with the commonly held view about the application of the State Coastal Policy. This interpretation has now been brought into question, so we aim to protect what has already been issued in good faith.

4. The Robbins Island wind farm proposal has been subject to comprehensive assessments by Circular Head Council, the EPA and TASCAT as evidenced by the various published decisions.

5. The EPA and the Circular Head Council both undertook their respective assessments and decisions consistent with the commonly held view about the application of the State Coastal Policy, and its interaction with the former Circular Head Interim Planning Scheme 2013.

The Robbins Island wind farm proposal has been subject to comprehensive assessments by Circular Head Council, the EPA and TASCAT as evidenced by the various published decisions.

6. The proposal was assessed against the State Coastal Policy in manner that was consistent with the commonly held view about how the policy should be applied. Later legal advice has changed the view about how the policy is to be read and applied.
7. There is no agreed definition on what an 'actively mobile landform' is beyond the example given in the State Coastal Policy of 'frontal dunes'. This makes it very difficult to ascertain which developments may have been approved without fully considering the State Coastal Policy.

We have not provided a list of permits that may be affected as this is basically unknowable. You would need to audit every permit issued since 2003 within 1km of the high water mark. But not only this, you need to determine what assessment was undertaken, and importantly know whether it was located on an actively mobile landform, which is subject to differing opinions. And if you did identify them, you are basically naming them up as being in breach of the State Policies and Projects Act 1993 and potentially subject to legal challenge and fines. This is not an outcome we want for the many people that acted in good faith in accordance with what they believed to be valid permits.

☒ APPROVED ☐ NOT APPROVED



Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs

Date: 27/11/2024

Appendix 5

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. 20 of 2024 House of Assembly



ASKED BY: Ms Cecily Rosol

ANSWERED BY: Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP, Minister for
Corrections and Rehabilitation

QUESTION:

Ms Rosol to ask the Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation, in relation to Covid-19, have there been any lockdowns in Tasmanian prisons due to staff sickness from Covid-19, and if so, how many times has this occurred? (1 August 2024) – QON

ANSWER:

The Tasmania Prison Service does not record the level of detail relating to individual staff illness for absences and how they relate to lockdowns in a way which allows it to provide any information as to how many lockdowns have occurred due to staff illness caused by Covid-19. Anecdotally, there have been periods of lockdown caused by staff shortages that were due to staff illness which was likely caused by Covid-19.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine Ogilvie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon. Madeleine Ogilvie MP
Minister for Corrections and Rehabilitation
Date: 28 November 2028

CA

Appendix 6

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question No. 22

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



ASKED BY: Hon David O'Byrne MP

ANSWERED BY:

QUESTIONS:

My questions are to the Minister for Education.

Currently, the Tasmanian Education Department considers any teacher with a teaching degree capable of teaching any subject in high school. Having qualified and specialised teachers ensures better education outcomes for Tasmanian students:

- (1) How many science and math teacher roles in Tasmania are performed by specialist teachers, by region?
- (2) How many teachers trained in physical education are working as science and math teachers by region?

ANSWERS:

The majority of teachers are assigned duties and curriculum areas based on knowledge, experience and qualifications.

Qualification data is available for the majority of the Department's teaching staff with some limitations due to: where teachers have mutual recognition for registration held interstate, teachers who were employed prior to the introduction of the Teachers Registration Board of Tasmania (the TRB) in

2000 and where a specialisation (i.e. majors) within broad teaching degrees are not identifiable.

Where full qualification information is available, teachers are aligned against their subject or learning areas e.g. science or mathematics.

The following information is provided in response to the questions raised with the data being the head count as at 7 November 2024.

- (1) Number of teachers teaching science or mathematics who also hold qualifications that include subject specialisations (i.e. majors) and/or experience:
 - a. Northern Region – 154 science and 189 maths
 - b. Southern Region – 127 science and 138 maths.
- (2) Number of teachers teaching science or mathematics and hold qualifications that includes the subject specialisation of physical education:
 - a. Northern Region – 44 science and 60 maths
 - b. Southern Region – 7 science and 11 maths.

Some of these PE teachers also hold qualifications in Maths and/or Science:

- a. Northern Region
 - i. PE and Science qualifications - 15
 - ii. PE and Maths qualifications - 4
 - iii. PE and Science and Maths qualifications - 17
- b. Southern Region
 - i. PE and Science qualifications - 3
 - ii. PE and Maths qualifications - 0
 - iii. PE and Science and Maths qualifications - 1

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date: 28/11/24

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question No. 38

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



ASKED BY: Hon Vica Bayley MP

ANSWERED BY:

QUESTIONS:

My questions are to the Minister for Education.

In relation to teacher staffing shortages:

- (1) Are there any teaching positions that are currently vacant across Tasmanian schools, and if so, how many?
- (2) Are there any workplace improvements that you will commit to, to incentivise people to fill vacant teaching positions?
- (3) Teachers say that classroom sizes are becoming unmanageable due to staffing shortages. What is the average ratio of students to teachers in schools?
- (4) What workplace improvements will you commit making to incentivise teachers to stay within the profession?
- (5) Teachers have reported that there are not enough teacher's assistants, support workers, counsellors or psychologists. What is the current ratio of these staff in schools to students?

ANSWERS:

- (1) I am advised that as at 14 November 2024 there were 27.2 full time equivalent (FTE) teacher vacancies.
- (2) The current *Teachers Agreement 2023* has a range of new or improved provisions that apply to isolated schools on the Bass Strait Islands and West Coast locations. These arrangements include incentive payments on commencement and the first 6 years of continuous employment, an experienced teacher allowance, a settling in payment, paid time to attend urgent personal business and travel and accommodation support for specialist medical appointments.

In addition, teachers who are transferred to an isolated or regional location are provided with broad relocation expenses and discounted rental accommodation.

Negotiations are occurring with the Australian Education Union in regard to providing a new pilot incentive for hard-to-staff schools that will be effective from the start of the 2025 school year. This is separate to existing provisions and will involve an initial trial of 8-9 schools where there are current staffing challenges.

Further to our new or improved provisions in the *Teachers Agreement 2023*, a range of additional measures have been implemented that are designed to assist with workload and related supports that also assist with attraction and retention of teachers.

This includes an additional staffing resource of 170 FTE allocated during 2023 and 2024 in areas of need as follows:

- 25 FTE to school leadership roles in targeted areas of need
- 25 FTE Education Support Specialists
- The equivalent of 66 FTE Teacher Assistants to provide in-class support during 2023, increasing to 100 FTE in 2025
- 20 FTE social workers.

We have also reduced instructional load and provided time release and professional development for new or early career teachers, which includes an intensive 4-day induction program in the week prior to the commencement of Term 1.

Our Government has also delivered significant investment in education infrastructure over the last decade. We know that giving our hardworking teaching and support staff positive and safe environments to work in is good for their wellbeing, it makes their jobs a little easier and benefits educational outcomes. We are continuing with this investment with \$204.1 million in new funding over four years in our 2024-25 State Budget and forward estimates to progress education related capital infrastructure projects.

- (3) As at 31 March 2024, the ratio of students to teachers in schools is 12:1 FTE.

The student FTE figure presented in this ratio is from the school census (31 March 2024).

The number of teachers based in schools, also as at 31 March 2024, was 4,615.20 FTE with this figure

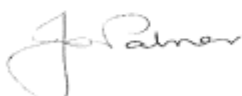
including promotable positions (i.e. Advanced Skills Teachers, Assistant Principals and Principals).

(4) In addition to the workplace improvements detailed in my response to question (2), I am actively working with the Department for Education, Children and Young People to determine what more can be done to free up teacher's time. Supporting our teaching workforce is a key priority for me and I look forward to being able to announce additional actions in this space soon.

(5) As at 31 March 2024, the ratio of students to support workers, counsellors or psychologists in schools was as follows:

a. Teacher Assistants:	38:1 FTE
b. Education Support Specialists:	734:1 FTE
c. School Psychologists:	715:1 FTE
d. Social Workers:	711:1 FTE

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED



The Hon Jo Palmer MLC
Minister for Education

Date: 28/11/24

Appendix 8

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. (15) of 2024

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Craig Garland MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Eric Abetz MP

QUESTION:

- (1) Was an application to construct a wharf to extend the North-East of Robbins Island in Bass Strait from an access road through Back Banks coastal dunes made part of the Robbins Island wind farm proposal?
- (2) Was this development inconsistent with the State Coastal Policy and fail to comply with the State Policies and Projects Act 1993?
- (3) If this wharf is approved and built, would this wharf be:
 - a. privately or publicly owned?
 - b. accessible to be used by the public and if so, give details on any limitations to this access?
 - c. accessible to be used by entities upon negotiation (if privately owned) and if negotiations would take place with Robbins Island landowner(s), the owner(s) of the wharf infrastructure, or the State Government?
 - d. accessible to be used by business, companies, or corporations to undertake operations? and;
 - e. available for use for future fin fish farming enterprises that wanted to use this infrastructure

ANSWER:

Following liaison with the offices of the Minister for Parks and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs, I can advise the following:

1. The application to construct the wharf and associated road infrastructure is a matter best directed to the proponent, as are queries related to the wharf proposal's intent and use.
2. The State Coastal Policy applies to the Crown in all its capacities, by force of s.4 and 14 of the State Policies and Projects Act 1993 and s.63(2) of the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993. Planning authorities are also required to give effect to this Policy. Any

1 | Page

assessment of development applications by the relevant planning authority is required to consider compliance with the Policy.

3. Aspects related to ownership, access, and potential future uses of the proposed infrastructure, such as its suitability for businesses or fin fish farming, would be best directed to the landholder or proponent.


 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

Hon Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Date: 28/11/2024

Appendix 9

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Question No. (42) of 2024

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Tabatha Badger MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Eric Abetz MP

QUESTION:

1. In relation to industry funding, in the last financial year, was any public money given to the aquaculture, mining, forestry and gambling industries, and if so, how much?

ANSWER:

1. For the Business, Industry, and Resources portfolio, public funding totalling \$3.61 million was provided directly to the aquaculture, mining, forestry, and gambling industries during the 2023-24 financial year. Note also that the Department also provided \$12.0 million to Sustainable Timber Tasmania as an Administered Expense item for Community Service Obligations.




Hon Eric Abetz MP
Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Date: 28/11/2024