



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 1

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2025

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

### PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

**1 COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.

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

#### A PROCLAMATION

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

AND WHEREAS the Assembly was dissolved on 11 June 2025 and a general election of members of the Assembly was held on 19 July 2025.

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

NOW THEREFORE I, the Honourable Barbara Baker, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, exercising the power and authority vested in me, do hereby fix 11:00 am on Tuesday 19 August 2025, in the Houses of Parliament situated in the City of Hobart in Tasmania, as the time and place that the said Parliament shall assemble for the despatch of business; and the members of the said Parliament are hereby required to give their attendance at the same time and place accordingly.

GIVEN under my hand at Hobart in Tasmania on 6 August 2025.

BARBARA BAKER, Governor

By Her Excellency's Command,

JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier

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

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

Who being come;

The Honourable *Craig Maxwell Farrell* said:—

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

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

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

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

GREETING:—

WHEREAS by a Proclamation under the hand of Her Excellency the HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, dated 6 August 2025, a session of Our Parliament of Tasmania was summoned to be held for the despatch of business on 19 August 2025.

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

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

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

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

WITNESS THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia at Hobart in Tasmania on 15 August 2025, and in the third year of Our reign.

BARBARA BAKER, Governor

By Her Excellency's Command,  
JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier

Then the Honourable *Craig Maxwell Farrell*, said:

"Honourable Members of the Legislative Council and Members of the House of Assembly: “We have it in command from Her Excellency the Governor to acquaint you that Her Excellency desires that you take into your earnest consideration such matters as may be submitted to you in this First Session of the Fifty Second Parliament and I now declare the Session open”.

The Members of the House of Assembly withdrew.

*Ruth Jane Forrest* and *Tania Verene Rattray* resumed their seats.

**5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said: “We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the first inhabitants and the continuing custodians of this land.”

**6 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – PRAYERS.**— The President said:—

“Standing Order 28 requires that on each sitting day the President will take the Chair and read Prayers at the time appointed on every day fixed for the meeting of the Council”.

The precise words of the Prayers are not set out in the Standing Orders but have been in place by virtue of a combination of the President’s authority and a Sessional Order agreed at the commencement of each Session of Parliament. Members may recall that the Sessional Order in the last Parliament set out the words of the Lord’s Prayer for all Members to say alongside the President.

To remove the Prayers altogether requires a change to the Standing Orders. Therefore, it remains a requirement for the President to read some form of Prayer at the commencement of each Sitting Day.

While maintaining parliamentary tradition, the requirements of the Standing Order and to reflect contemporary values I propose that, by my authority as President, the following Prayers will be said at the commencement of each Sitting Day:—

Hon Members, I invite you, as I read the Prayer to reflect in your own way on your role as a Member of this Parliament and your responsibilities to the people of Tasmania.

Almighty God, we humbly beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory and the true welfare of the people of Tasmania”.

**7 STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT – APPOINTMENT OF LEADER FOR GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.**— The President said:—

“I wish to advise Members that on 13 August 2025 I received the following letter from the Premier:

Hon Craig Farrell MLC  
President  
Legislative Council

Dear Mr President

I write to advise that the Hon Tania Rattray MLC is to be the Leader of Government Business for the Legislative Council.

I would be grateful if you could inform the Members of the Legislative Council about this appointment.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Rockliff MP  
Premier”

**8 BILL NO. 35.**— Ms Rattray presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Partition Act 1869*.

The Bill was read the First time.

*Ordered*, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for tomorrow.  
(Ms Rattray)

**9 PAPER.**— The Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the Table the University of Tasmania Annual Report 2024.

**10 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBER’S INTERESTS.**— In accordance with Sections 19 and 20 of the *Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996*, the Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table of the Council the Register of Members' Interests for the electorate of Montgomery.

The Primary Return having been lodged with the President and this day Tabled and placed on the public record, is deemed to have been published.

**11 MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.**— Ms *Rattray* made the following Ministerial Statement in regard to Ministerial Appointments:—

“Mr President, on behalf of the Premier, I wish to advise the Council of Ministerial Appointments:

**Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP**

Premier

**Hon Guy Barnett MP**

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

**Hon Eric Abetz MP**

Treasurer

Minister for Macquarie Point Urban Renewal

Leader of the House

**Hon Bridget Archer MP**

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing

Minister for Ageing

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

**Hon Nick Duigan MLC**

Minister for Energy and Renewables

Minister for Parks

Minister for Sport

**Hon Felix Ellis MP**

Minister for Business, Industry and Resources

Minister for Skills and Jobs

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

**Hon Jane Howlett MP**

Minister for Tourism, Hospitality and Events

Minister for Racing

Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

**Hon Madeleine Ogilvie MP**

Minister for Environment

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

Minister for Community and Multicultural Affairs

Minister for the Arts and Heritage

**Hon Jo Palmer MLC**

Minister for Education

Minister for Children and Youth

Minister for Disability Services

**Hon Gavin Pearce MP**

Minister for Primary Industries and Water

Minister for Veterans' Affairs

**Hon Kerry Vincent MLC**

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Housing and Planning

I, the **Hon Tania Rattray MLC**, appointed Leader for the Government in the Legislative Council.

The **Hon Kerry Vincent MLC**, appointed Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council”.

**12 PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY.**— The President said:—

“By my authority I have determined that Advisers to the Honourable the Leader for the Government; and the Deputy Leader of the Government; Minister for Infrastructure and Transport; Minister for Local Government; Minister for Housing and Planning; and Minister for Education; Minister for Children and Youth; Minister for Disability Services; and Minister for Energy and Renewables; Minister for Parks; Minister for Sport, be authorised to go onto the Floor of this House for the duration of the Session in order to provide advice and support to those four Honourable Members”.

**13 SITTING SUSPENDED.**— *Resolved*, That the Sitting of the Council be suspended until the ringing of the Division bells. (*Ms Rattray*)

The Sitting was suspended at 11.28 o'clock a.m. and resumed at 12.10 o'clock p.m.

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

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

**16 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.**— *Ordered*, That *Ms Rattray* have leave to move Motions without Notice to establish certain Sessional Orders.

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

The sessional orders were as follows: —

1. An E-Petition is a Petition:
  - (a) in the correct form, stating a grievance and containing a request for action by the Council;
  - (b) sponsored by a Member and lodged with the Clerk for publication on the Parliament's Internet Website for a nominated period ("posted period");
  - (c) persons may elect to indicate their support of ("join the petition") by electronically providing their name, address (including postcode) and signifying their intention to join the Petition.
2. The posted period for an E-Petition is to be a minimum of one week and a maximum of six months from the date of publication on the Parliament's Internet Website.
3. The Member sponsoring the E-Petition must provide the Clerk with the details of the Petition in the correct form; the posted period and a signed acknowledgment that they are prepared to sponsor the E-Petition.
4. Once published on the Parliament's Internet Website an E-Petition cannot be altered.
5. Only one E-Petition dealing with substantially the same grievance and requesting substantially the same action by the Council shall be published on the Parliament's Internet Website at the same time.
6. Once the posted period for an E-Petition has elapsed, a paper copy of the Petition shall be printed by the Clerk in full (including the details of the persons who joined the Petition) and presented to the Council in the name of the Member that sponsored the E-Petition.
7. An E-Petition published on the Council's Internet Website, but not presented to the Council prior to the prorogation or dissolution of Parliament, shall be presented to the subsequent Parliament and becomes a Petition of the subsequent Parliament.

8. An E-Petition may be sponsored during any adjournment of the Legislative Council and during any period of prorogation.
9. Persons must join an E-Petition by filling out their correct details and personally agreeing to join the E-Petition, and by no one else, except in the case of incapacity from sickness.
10. A person cannot sign or join an E-Petition more than once.
11. Only the name and address of the Principal Petitioner shall be made public on the Legislative Council's website.
12. The Clerk may decline to publish an E-Petition on the website not in conformity with these Orders and shall advise the sponsoring Member accordingly.
13. The Clerk shall ensure that all Government responses to E-Petitions are posted on the website.
14. The Clerk or any Member may seek a ruling from the President of the Legislative Council relating to the conformity or otherwise of any E-Petition with these Orders.
15. The Clerk is authorised to create and maintain an appropriate internet website on which to publish E-Petitions, responses to E-Petitions and other explanatory information and do all things necessary in order to give effect to these Orders.
16. The Clerk must dispose of all electronic personal data relating to the posting and joining of an E-Petition within six months after an E-Petition is printed and presented to the Legislative Council.
17. The Standing Orders for petitions have application to E-Petitions insofar as they can be applied. (Ms Rattray)

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

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

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

**138. After division called —**

**How Division taken**

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

**Locking of Doors**

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

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

**200:**

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

- (b) press releases or statements made by a Member of the Committee on the authority of the Committee; and
- (c) written submissions presented to a Select Committee and authorised to be published by the Committee. (Ms Rattray)

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

**21 SESSIONAL ORDER: AFTERNOON BREAK.**— A Motion was made (Ms Rattay) and the Question was proposed, That for the period commencing on and from this day through to and including Wednesday, 27 November 2025, whenever the Council is sitting at 4 o'clock pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, the sitting will be suspended for thirty minutes.

A Debate arose thereupon.

An Amendment was proposed to be made to the Motion (Ms O'Connor):—

*Leave out* the following words

“Tuesday and”

A Debate arose thereupon.

Question put, That the Amendment be agreed to.

Council divided.

AYES 3

Mr Gaffney  
Ms O'Connor (Teller)  
Ms Thomas

NOES 11

Ms Armitage  
Mr Duigan  
Mr Edmunds  
Ms Forrest  
Mr Harriss (Teller)  
Mr Hiscutt  
Ms Lovell  
Ms Palmer  
Ms Rattray  
Mr Vincent  
Ms Webb

So it passed in the Negative.

And the Question being put, That the Motion be agreed to.

It was resolved in the Affirmative

**22 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 9.30 o'clock a.m. on Friday, 12 September 2025. (Ms Rattray)

*Resolved*, That the Council do now adjourn. (Ms Rattray)

The Council adjourned at 12.38 o'clock p.m.

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