



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Annual Report 2024-25

Members of the Committee

(as of 30 June 2025)¹

Legislative Council

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
(Chair)

Hon Luke Edmunds MLC

Hon Bec Thomas MLC

House of Assembly

Mr Josh Willie MP
(Deputy Chair)

Mr Simon Behrakis MP

Mr Mark Shelton MP

¹ On 11 June 2025, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC (Governor of Tasmania), agreed to Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP (Premier) request to prorogue the Parliament and dissolve the House of Assembly and a State election was called for 19 July 2025. In accordance with the Parliament's long-standing practice and convention, all Committee activity ceased until the Parliament next meets and reestablishes the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts (subject to the will of the Council or the Houses).

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAG	Assistant Auditor-General
ACPAC	Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees
Act	<i>Public Accounts Committee Act 1970</i>
AFL	Australian Football League
ALP	Australian Labor Party
CAPAC	Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
Committee	Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
DECYP	Department for Education, Children and Young People
DoH	Department of Health
DoTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
FAS	Financial Audit Services
Hon	Honourable
Ind	Independent
Lib	Liberal Party
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MP	Member of Parliament
PAS	Performance Audit Services
SoU	Statement of Understanding
TAO	Tasmanian Audit Office

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	i
Public Accounts Committee	1
Background	1
Functions of the Committee	1
Role and Statutory Responsibilities of the Committee	1
Committee Activities	3
Year in Review 2024-25	4
Completed Inquiries	4
Inquiries in Progress	8
Briefings with Stakeholders	9
Public Hearings Held	11
Meetings Held	13
Committee Secretariat	15
Liaison with External Bodies	16
Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees	16
Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees	16
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association	16

Public Accounts Committee

Background

The Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts Committee (the Committee) is a Joint Standing Committee of the Tasmanian Parliament constituted under the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* (the Act). Prior to the Act, the Committee has been in various forms since a House of Assembly Select Committee was appointed to enquire into the system of keeping and auditing public accounts on 28 August 1862. It first became a Standing Committee of the House of Assembly pursuant to a new Standing Order No. 408A being recommended by the House of Assembly Standing Orders Committee on 7 December 1960. On 11 November 1965, a similar amendment to the Legislative Council's Standing Orders saw for the first time the establishment of a Select Committee of Public Accounts and Finance in that Chamber under authority of Standing Order No. 248A.

The Committee comprises six Members of Parliament: three Members drawn from the Legislative Council and three Members from the House of Assembly.

Functions of the Committee

Under section 6 of the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970* the Committee functions are as follows, the Committee:

- **must** inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter referred to the Committee by either House relating to the management, administration or use of public sector finances; or the accounts of any public authority or other organisation controlled by the State or in which the State has an interest, and
- **may** inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate; and any matter referred to the Committee by the Auditor-General.

Role and Statutory Responsibilities of the Committee

Under the *Audit Act 2008*, the Committee has the following statutory responsibilities:

- in relation to the appointment of the Auditor-General, the Treasurer must consult with the Public Accounts Committee and the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the House of Assembly (section 9(2))
- consider and may comment on the draft Auditor-General's annual plan of work (section 11), and
- receive the findings of the periodic review of the efficiency, effectiveness and economy of Tasmanian Audit Office's (the Office) operations (section 44) – the last review undertaken was conducted by Moore Australia Audit in March 2024 and covers the period 2019-2023 (the past three reports are available on the Committee's website).²

² See [Section 44 Tasmanian Audit Office Reports](#)

The Committee and the Auditor-General have a Statement of Understanding (SoU), the latest iteration being available on the Public Accounts Committee website.³ This SoU informs the relationship between the Committee and the Office of the Auditor-General including matters related to the statutory obligations of the Committee and Auditor General.

The latest version of the SoU seeks to provide better details with respect to the following:

- the involvement of the Committee in the periodic review of the Office (as per section 44 of the *Audit Act 2008*)
- the involvement of the Committee in setting the budget and forward estimates of the Office
- managing conflicts of interest and threats to independence of the Office, and
- the annual declaration of interests of the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General.

The SoU also reinforces the Committee's support of the true independence of the Auditor-General and work of the Committee and Auditor General to ensure that this independence is not compromised and the Auditor-General is unfettered in reporting to Parliament objectively, thus enabling Parliament to make informed judgements.

In support of the Auditor General's independence, the Committee will support the Office during the budget and forward estimates setting process, as described in the SoU. This support is provided as follows:

- the Auditor-General will consult with the Committee during the preparation of any of the Office's budget submissions
- the Auditor-General will provide the Office's submission to the Treasurer and Committee at the same time
- the Treasurer or the Treasurer's delegate may brief the Committee on the Office's budget submission at the Committee's discretion
- the Auditor-General and Chair of the Committee may brief Cabinet Budget Committee on the Office's submission at the Cabinet Budget Committee's discretion.

Under the SoU the Auditor-General refers all tabled reports prepared by that Office to the Committee for consideration.

As described under the SoU, the Committee and the Auditor-General share a common mission to enhance Tasmanian public sector accountability and performance. Through cooperation, the Committee and the Auditor-General will promote probity, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of, and reporting on, public resources.

The Auditor-General may refer matters to the Committee that the Auditor-General determines warrant consideration by the Committee in addition to, or in place of, an investigation by the Auditor-General. Conversely, under section 25 of the *Audit Act 2008*, the Committee may refer matters to the Auditor-General that it determines warrant consideration by the Auditor-General in addition to or in place of investigation by the Committee. The Auditor-General will give

³ See [Statement of Understanding between the Public Accounts Committee and the Auditor-General](#). A new Statement of Understanding between the Committee and the Auditor-General, Mr Mark Thompson was tabled in Parliament on 10 September 2024. This latest iteration of the SoU follows from the original version entered into on 29 March 2007 with follow-up versions in October 2015 and September 2021.

serious consideration to investigating the matter referred and inform the Committee on the Auditor-General's response to the referral.

The Committee and the Auditor General consider and comment on the Annual Plan of Work for the Audit Office as required under the *Audit Act 2008* and the SoU.

An ongoing and important area of focus for the Committee relates to the follow up reviews undertaken of the Tasmanian Auditor-General's reports to Parliament with this work continuing through 2024-25.

The Committee under its 'own motion' powers has initiated inquiries into major capital works projects considered and approved by the Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Public Works. These reviews have included following up of completed works or the reviewing of progress of selected major public works. Through these reviews, the Committee can bring to the public record any issues identified relating to budget variations, scheduled completion, management of delays to completion, delivery of stated outcomes and benefits etc., and make recommendations for affected Departments to consider as appropriate.

Finally, the Committee may also inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any matter arising in connection with public sector finances that the Committee considers appropriate. Areas of interest may come from within the Committee or brought to the Committee by external third parties from time to time.

Committee Activities

The Committee activities for 2024-25 include a combination of self-initiated inquiries and referred inquiries. The Committee receives submissions and briefings and conducts public hearings on such matters as required.

Results of inquiries are presented in reports that are tabled in both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council. Those reports are available to the public on the Committee website.⁴

The website provides background information on the Committee's roles and functions, provides details of Members, administration, current inquiries, meeting dates, recent reports and past inquiries.

The Committee also has an email address: pac@parliament.tas.gov.au which is used for external correspondence.

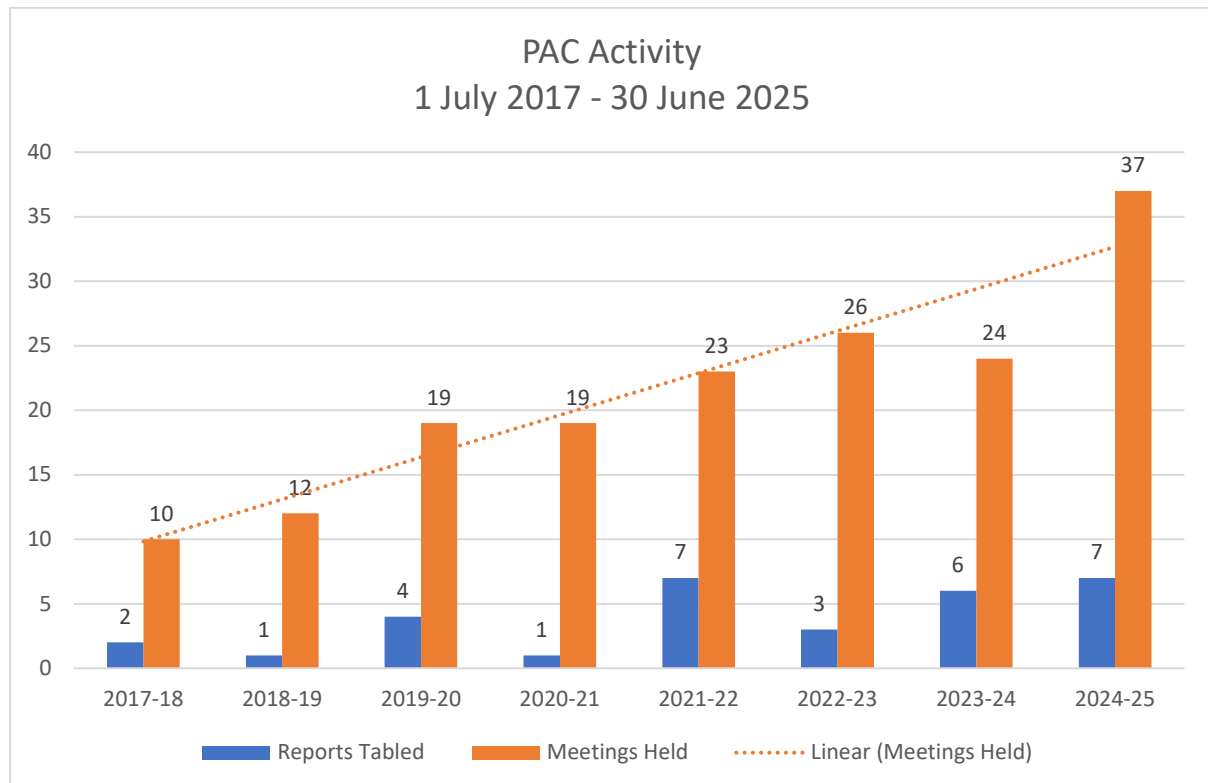
The Committee receives administrative and other support from its Secretariat (Committee Secretary and Assistant Committee Secretary) and from the Parliamentary Research Service.

⁴ See Public Accounts Committee, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/committees/joint-committees/standing-committees/public-accounts-committee>

Year in Review 2024-25

During the reporting period, the Committee's planned work was deferred due to Parliament being prorogued on the 11 June 2025. Accordingly, this was another reporting period whereby by parliamentary convention, no Committee work could be undertaken and work in progress was delayed due to the prorogement.

Notwithstanding, the period ending 30 June 2025 was particularly busy for the Committee and the following chart illustrates the trend of the Committee's work since 2017-18:



Completed Inquiries

The Committee tabled the following seven (7) reports over the period:

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
<u>Annual Report 2023-24</u> 06 August 2024 (No.11 of 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report of the Committee's activities for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
<u>Short inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's use of provisions of the <i>Financial Management Act 2016</i> to fund election commitments in 2021</u> 10 September 2024 (No.16 of 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Tasmanian 2018 election the Tasmanian Integrity Commission released a report criticising the Liberal Party of Australia (Tasmania Division) (Liberal Party) grants program ahead of the 2018 election. Following the 2021 election, the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) undertook an investigation into the Liberal Party's 2021 State Election policy commitment to establish a Local Communities Facilities Fund in April 2022. A follow-up ABC report in November 2022 made allegations that 'a

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
	<p>total of 111 projects worth \$2.47 million did not go through Parliament’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee resolved, by its own motion, to undertake a targeted short inquiry process into the funding of the 2021 election commitments, with particular regard to the 111 election commitments referred to by the ABC. The Committee sought to identify the legislative mechanism utilised for the funding of all the Liberal Party’s 2021 election commitments. • Whilst the Committee found the use of the Treasurer’s Reserve to fund some of the 2021 election commitments was lawful, the use of this mechanism avoids deliberative scrutiny by Parliament prior to the expenditure being approved. Actual expenditure from the Treasurer’s Reserve is only able to be retrospectively scrutinised and approved by the Parliament. The funding from the Treasurer’s Reserve in 2021 of the 111 election commitments, was the only time between 2010 and 2021 where election commitments had been funded in this manner. • The Committee made ten findings and on recommendation.
<p><u>Statement of Understanding: Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Auditor-General of Tasmania</u></p> <p>10 September 2024 (No.18 of 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SoU between the Committee and the Auditor-General of Tasmania is a keystone document that underpins the common mission of the parties to enhance public sector accountability and performance. The Committee and the Auditor-General seek to achieve this mission through providing assurance, promoting probity, efficiency and effectiveness in the management of, and reporting on, public resources. • This latest iteration of the SoU follows from the original version entered into on 29 March 2007 with follow-up versions in October 2015 and September 2021. • This version of the SoU seeks to provide better details with respect to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the involvement of the Committee in the periodic review of the Tasmanian Audit Office (Office) (as per section 44 of the <i>Audit Act 2008</i>) ○ the involvement of the Committee in setting the budget and forward estimates of the Office ○ managing conflicts of interest and threats to independence of the Office, and ○ the annual declaration of interests of the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General.
<p><u>Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.4 of 2019-20 – Rostering of Specialists in Tasmania’s Major Hospitals</u></p> <p>21 October 2024 (No.21 of 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the Auditor-General’s Rostering of Specialists in Tasmania’s Major Hospitals report, the Department of Health was undertaking reforms in its rostering practices of medical specialists, with a particular focus on the automation and modernisation of rostering to enhance transparency, fairness, and efficiency in managing staff rosters. This included progressing a Best Practice Rostering Framework and the rollout of the Human Resources Information System. • The Department anticipated that the automated rostering system will eliminate the need for timesheets through a roster-to-pay process. Specialists will be required to log into the system which includes the digital medical record as a mechanism for tracking time at work for the Department. • The Department is yet to fully address the incorporation of private practice time in specialist rosters and the appropriate allocation of non-clinical time.

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee made 15 findings and 4 recommendations. The recommendations highlight the need to expedite the automated processes to ensure fairness and transparency in rostering across the Department of Health.
<p><u>Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.2 of 2015-16 – Capital Works Programming and Management</u></p> <p>28 November 2024 (No.33 of 2024)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a follow-up review of Department of Treasury and Finance (DoTF), Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) and Department of Health (DoH) responses to the Auditor-General's recommendations. The Committee made 37 findings that outline the progress that has been made over the past decade and is continuing across these three departments in response to the Auditor-General's Report. In broad terms, the Committee acknowledged that all of the Departments under review had responded positively to all recommendations with actions completed or in progress to respond. The Committee made four recommendations across the departments.
<p><u>University of Tasmania Financial Position</u></p> <p>1 April 2025 (No.8 of 2025)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee found the University of Tasmania (UTAS) continued to navigate a challenging financial landscape, driven by external economic pressures, government policy changes, and shifting student demographics. The institution faced ongoing financial strain due to inflation, declined international student enrolments, and rising capital and operating costs. UTAS had implemented financial adjustments and strategic projects to ensure long-term stability but remained highly reliant on external funding and government policy reforms. UTAS' ability to navigate policy uncertainty, manage capital investments, and secure diversified funding sources will determine its long-term financial sustainability. Continued scrutiny is required on government policy impacts, debt management strategies, and capital investment priorities. The Committee made 38 findings and 2 recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> regular parliamentary scrutiny of UTAS' financial performance by a relevant parliamentary committee, and recognising the need of regional universities, which includes UTAS, the Tasmanian Government advocate on behalf of the State's only university, to the Australian Government to provide stable and equitable per student funding, and clarify and influence international student policy settings, for quotas and migration policy settings, to promote the financial sustainability of UTAS.
<p><u>Tasmanian Government's Proposed Hobart Arts Entertainment and Sports Precinct Planning Process - Final Report</u></p> <p>27 May 2025 (No.15 of 2025)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More recent negotiations between the Tasmanian Government and the Australian Football League (AFL) to secure the 19th licence for a Tasmanian AFL football team ultimately resulted in the Club Funding and Development Agreement (the Agreement) being signed on 3 May 2023. This Agreement was not considered formally by Cabinet prior to being signed by Premier Rockliff. The AFL had made it unequivocally clear that the licence for the Tasmanian club is conditional on the stadium being completed at Macquarie Point, with a fixed roof and minimum capacity of 23,000. The AFL has stressed that comparable requirements applied to the establishment of previous expansion clubs like the Greater Western Sydney Giants and Gold Coast Suns, with stadium

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
	<p>infrastructure seen as fundamental to both financial viability and long-term success of the clubs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFL CEO Andrew Dillon informed the Committee that no alternative sites would be considered, and that the stadium must meet the AFL Venue Guidelines, including broadcast, lighting, gender-neutral change rooms, premium corporate seating, modern connectivity, and compliance with safety and accessibility standards. The stadium must also be multi-purpose, capable of hosting cricket, rugby, soccer, concerts and cultural events, with a concert capacity of 30,000. According to the AFL, the Macquarie Point site was the only acceptable site for the proposed stadium. • Whilst the initiative represents a historic milestone for Tasmanian football, it has also become a focal point of political, financial and community scrutiny and public concern regarding the cost to the State to deliver the stadium and the location of Macquarie Point as a condition. • Despite its strategic appeal to the AFL and government, Macquarie Point's location had triggered strong opposition from neighbouring stakeholders. • The financial underpinnings of the project had also come under scrutiny. The Tasmanian Government stated it has capped its capital contribution at \$375 million, while the total Proposed Hobart Arts Entertainment and Sports Precinct Planning Process estimated cost of the stadium has risen to \$715 million. However, the Macquarie Point Development Corporation's own submissions forecasted costs could increase to \$775 million, excluding key components such as Wi-Fi infrastructure, CCTV, scoreboard systems, fit-outs and the required re-location of the heritage listed Goods Shed on the site. These omissions, along with evidence regarding mega-project overruns, had raised credible concerns that the final cost could significantly exceed the then current estimates. • Additional risks are embedded in the Agreement, including a provision whereby the State must pay the AFL an extra \$4.5 million if the stadium was less than 50% complete by October 2027. Further, if the venue was not operational by the 2029 season, another \$4.5 million must be paid and if matches are moved to alternate venues resulting in reduced revenue, the State must cover the shortfall. • The operational cost of the Tasmanian club was estimated at \$50 million per year, which was expected to be funded with \$12 million from the State, \$20 million from the AFL, and \$18 million from club revenue. According to the Agreement, after 12 years, if the AFL deemed Government support inadequate, it may relocate or dissolve the team. • The Committee made 32 findings and 3 recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ any high cost and/or high-risk Government initiatives should follow rigorous governance processes, including the formal consideration by Cabinet, and consideration of supporting documents, prior to any final decision being made ○ should any private partnership and/or investment arrangement, be entered into to support the stadium operations, any arrangement be appropriately transparent, follow all relevant Treasury Procurement Instructions and have timely parliamentary oversight, and

Title and Tabling Date	Detail of Inquiry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the recent decision to not proceed with a private partnership and/or investment arrangement, to support the stadium build, the Government must ensure all borrowings required to construct and deliver the facility are reported transparently and visibly in the State budget papers, follow all relevant Treasury Procurement Instructions and have regular parliamentary oversight.

Inquiries in Progress

The Committee had six (6) inquiries that were still in progress at the end of the reporting period:

Inquiry	Terms of Reference
TT-Line's Spirits Project	<p>In June 2024, the Committee resolved to inquire into matters related to the delivery of the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels and associated infrastructure and the decision by TT-Line to vary the terms of the contract for the new Spirit of Tasmania vessels, including its adherence to caretaker conventions.</p> <p>Pursuant to a resolution passed by the House of Assembly on 20 November 2024, in accordance with section 6(1) of the Act, the Committee has amended the Inquiry's Terms of Reference to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the adherence of TT-Line, TasPorts and the Tasmanian Government to the most recently announced delivery schedule and budget options to minimise delays and reduce additional expenses for taxpayers opportunities to support the Tasmanian tourism industry and Tasmanian Producers until the new ships are in service, and to maximise the benefits once they are the appropriateness of the project's oversight and governance arrangements, and any other matters incidental thereto.
Inquiry into Establishment of Parliamentary Budget Office	<p>In July 2024, the Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts resolved to initiate an inquiry into the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) for the State. The terms of reference include to inquire into and report on:</p> <p>The establishment of a Tasmanian Parliamentary Budget Office including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> benefits, opportunities and challenges most appropriate model resourcing required role of the Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and key legislative provisions needed to establish a Tasmanian Parliamentary Budget Office.

Inquiry	Terms of Reference
Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.3 of 2020-21 - Expressions of interest for tourism opportunities	In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a review of the Minister for Trade and Investment and the Minister for Parks responses to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within <u>Report No.3 of 2020-21 - Expressions of interest for tourism opportunities.</u>
Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.4 of 2020-21 - Information and communications technology strategy, critical systems and investment	In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a review of the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Department of Premier and Cabinet responses to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within <u>Report No.4 of 2020-21 - Information and communications technology strategy, critical systems and investment.</u>
Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.1 of 2022-23 - Improving outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students	In line with section 6(2) of the Act, the Committee resolved to undertake a review of the Minister for Education responses to the Auditor General's recommendations contained within <u>Report No.1 of 2022-23 - Improving outcomes for Tasmanian senior secondary students.</u>
Wilkinsons Point	The Committee resolved to have a targeted inquiry into Premier Rockliff's media release of 23 February 2025 announcing the Government has agreed to sell the Crown Land at Wilkinson's Point to the LK Group at a value determined by the Valuer-General and will be partnering with private enterprise to develop the area.

Briefings with Stakeholders

The Committee received briefings throughout the year from the following persons:

Date	Parties	Commentary
07 Aug 2024	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General) Mr Jonathan Wassel (Deputy Auditor-General) Mr Stephen Morrison (AAG – FAS), and Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG – PAS)	Briefed the Committee on several matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission of Inquiry Audit Report of the Auditor-General (No. 4 of 2023-24) – Auditor-General's Report on the Financial Statements of State Entities, Volume 2, Audit of State entities and audited subsidiaries of State entities 31 December 2022 and 30 June 2023
21 Aug 2024	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General)	Briefed the Committee on UTAS Financial Position
11 Sep 2024	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General) Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG – PAS)	Briefed the Committee on the following performance audits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private works undertaken by councils (No 3 of 2023-24) Access to oral health services (No 5 of 2023-24), and Management of major office accommodation (No 6 of 2023-24)
27 Nov 2024	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General) Mr Stephen Morrison (AAG – FAS), and Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG – PAS)	Briefed the Committee on the Tasmanian Audit Office's draft Annual Plan of Works for 2025-26
20 Dec 2024	Mr Paul Kirkwood (Project Director) Ms Kym Sayers (A/CEO)	Briefed the Committee on the progress of the Devonport Berth E3 site works

Date	Parties	Commentary
	Mr Patrick Burke (Programme Manager - TasPorts)	
	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General)	Briefed the Committee on several matters.
17 Feb 2025	Mr Jason Yat-Sen Li MP (Labor member for Strathfield) – Chair Mr Clayton Barr MP (Labor member for Cessnock) Ms Jenny Leong MP (Greens member for Newtown)	NSW Parliamentary Accounts Committee members briefed the Committee on NSW Parliamentary Budget Office
18 Feb 2025	<u>Commonwealth PBO</u> Ms Sam Reinhardt (Parliamentary Budget Officer) Mr Gareth (Gus) Tunks (Assistant PBO) Ms Karen Whitham (First Assistant PBO) Ms Chrysanthé Psychogios (Assistant PBO)	Commonwealth Parliamentary Budget Office briefed the Committee
	Hon Julian Hill MP (ALP member for Bruce) – former Chair	Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit briefed the Committee on the Commonwealth Parliamentary Budget Office
	Professor Stephen Bartos (Ex-NSW Parliamentary Budget Officer)	Briefed the Committee on NSW Parliamentary Budget Office
19 Feb 2025	Ms Caroline Williams (Executive Officer) Dr Krystie Gatt Rapa (Lead Analyst Public Accounts and Audit)	Staff members of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Staff briefed the Committee on Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office
	Mr Xavier Rimmer (Parliamentary Budget Officer)	Victorian Parliamentary Budget Officer briefed the Committee
20 Feb 2025	Ms Ellen Sandell MLA (Greens member for Melbourne) Ms Domenica Settle (Director of Parliament and Policy)	The Greens representatives briefed the Committee on the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office
24 Feb 2025	Mr Jonathan Wassel (Deputy Auditor-General)	Briefed the Committee on several matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the TAO Executive Committee’s recommended position on performance audit topics and scope to be included in the 2025-26 annual plan of works Wilkinson’s Point review of the <i>Audit Act 2008</i>, and an update on the budget preparation for 2025-26.
12 May 2025	Danny O’Brien MP (Victorian Leader of The Nationals)	The Nationals representative briefed the Committee on the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office.

Date	Parties	Commentary
	David Limbrick MLC (Victorian Leader of the Libertarian Party)	The Libertarian Party representative briefed the Committee on the Victorian Parliamentary Budget Office.
04 Jun 2025	Mr Martin Thompson (Auditor-General) Mr Jonathan Wassel (Deputy Auditor-General) Ms Janine McGuinness (AAG – PAS), and Ms Alex Cullen (Manager, PAS)	Briefed the Committee on several matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Annual Plan of Work 2025-26 Wilkinsons Point

Public Hearings Held

The Committed held 25 public hearings over 15 days throughout the year:

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
09 Aug 2024	Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.2 of 2015-16 – Capital Works Programming and Management	Hon Michael Ferguson MP (Treasurer) <u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary) Hon Jo Palmer MLC (Minister for Education) <u>Department for Education, Children and Young People</u> Mr Tim Bullard (Secretary) Mr Kane Salter (Deputy Secretary, Business Operations and Support) Mr Todd Williams (Director, Facility Services) Hon Guy Barnett MP (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing) <u>Department of Health</u> Mr Dale Webster (Acting Secretary) Mr Andrew Hargrave (Deputy Secretary, Infrastructure) Mr Shane Gregory (Associate Secretary)
09 Aug 2024	Follow-up of Auditor-General Report No.4 of 2019-20 – Rostering of Specialists in Tasmania’s Major Hospitals	Hon Guy Barnett MP (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Wellbeing) <u>Department of Health</u> Mr Dale Webster (Acting Secretary) Dr Kate Burbury (Executive Director, Medical Services and Research)
09 Aug 2024	Tasmanian Government’s Proposed Hobart Arts Entertainment and Sports Precinct Planning Process	Hon Michael Ferguson MP (Deputy Premier/Treasurer) <u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary)
12 Aug 2024	TT-Line’s Spirits Project	Hon Michael Ferguson MP (Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure) <u>Department of Treasury and Finance</u> Mr Gary Swain (Secretary) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary)

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
		<u>TasPorts</u> Mr Anthony Donald (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Stephen Bradford (Chairperson)
16 Aug 2024	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>Tasmanian Labor</u> Ms Rebecca White (Labor Member for Lyons) Dr Shane Broad (Labor Member for Braddon)
22 Aug 2024	University of Tasmania Financial Position	Professor Rufus Black (Vice Chancellor and President of UTAS) Ms Alicia Leis (Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the University Council's Audit and Risk Committee) Mr Craig Barling (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Services and Operations) Mr Ben Rose (Chief Financial Officer) Ms Jane Beaumont (General Counsel)
09 Sep 2024	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>TT-Line Pty Ltd</u> Dr Damian Bugg AM KC (Acting Chairperson) Ms Kim Sayers (Chief Financial Officer) Mr Richard Hall (General Manager Marine Operations) Mr Steven Maycock (General Counsel/Company Secretary) Mr William Harper (Senior Project Manager)
18 Sep 2024	University of Tasmania Financial Position	Hon Jo Palmer MLC (Minister for Education) <u>Department of Education</u> Mr Kane Salter (Deputy Secretary, Business Operations and Support) Ms Alice Blake (Deputy Director, Strategic Policy and Projects) Ms Jess Brewer (Program Manager - Legislative Review)
02 Oct 2024	University of Tasmania Financial Position	Professor Rufus Black (Vice Chancellor and President of UTAS) Ms Alicia Leis (Deputy Chancellor and Chair of the University Council's Audit and Risk Committee) Mr Craig Barling (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Services and Operations) Mr Ben Rose (Chief Financial Officer) Ms Jane Beaumont (General Counsel)
08 Oct 2024	TT-Line's Spirits Project	Mr Michael Grainger (Ex-Chair, TT-Line Pty Ltd) <u>TT-Line Pty Ltd</u> Mr Bernard Dwyer (Chief Executive Officer)
18 Nov 2024	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>SeaRoad Holdings Pty Ltd</u> Mr Chas Kelly (Executive Chairman) Captain Stuart Michael (General Manager Marine) Mr Patrick Guarino (Chief Operating Officer) Hon Kerry Vincent MLC (Minister for Infrastructure) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary) Mr Ben Moloney (Director Project Review and Assurance) Mr Peter Gemell (Strategic Infrastructure Development and Procurement Adviser)
29 Nov 2024	TT-Line's Spirits Project	Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP (Premier) <u>Department of Premier and Cabinet</u> Ms Kathrine Morgan-Wicks (Secretary)

Date	Inquiry	Witnesses Examined
14 Mar 2025	TT-Line's Spirits Project	Hon Eric Abetz MP (Minister for Transport) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary)
26 Mar 2025	Tasmanian Government's Proposed Hobart Arts Entertainment and Sports Precinct Planning Process	<u>Macquarie Point Development Corporation</u> Mr Kim Evans (Chair) Ms Anne Beach (Chief Executive Officer) <u>Lateral Economics</u> Dr Nicholas Gruen (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Gene Tunny (Senior Associate)
26 Mar 2025	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation (TASCORP)</u> Mr Heath Baker (Chair) Mr Tony Ferrall (Chief Executive Officer)
27 Mar 2025	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>TT-Line Pty Ltd</u> Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Ms Kym Sayers (Acting Chief Executive Officer) Mr Paul Kirkwood (Project Manager) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Ben Moloney (Director Project Review and Assurance) Mr Peter Gemell (Strategic Infrastructure Development and Procurement Adviser)
09 May 2025	TT-Line's Spirits Project	Hon Eric Abetz MP (Minister for Transport) <u>Department of State Growth</u> Mr Craig Limkin (Secretary) Mr Ben Moloney (Director Project Review and Assurance) <u>TT-Line Pty Ltd</u> Mr Ken Kanofski (Chair) Ms Kym Sayers (Acting Chief Executive Officer) Mr Paul Kirkwood (Project Manager)
12 May 2025	TT-Line's Spirits Project	<u>Latrobe Mersey River Caravan Park (Sub.No.1)</u> Mr Gavin Imlach (Proprietor/Manager) <u>TasFarmers (Sub.No.5)</u> Mr Nathan Calman (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Neil Murray Grose (Chief Operating Officer) <u>Tourism Industry Council Tasmania (Sub.No.3)</u> Ms Amy Hills (Chief Executive Officer) Mr Dan Leesong (Board Director and Outgoing Chair)

Meetings Held

Committee meetings and public hearings were scheduled and conducted throughout the reporting year: a record total of 37 meetings held in Parliament House and other jurisdictions. A list of full Committee meetings and attendance over the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 is provided below:

Date	Legislative Council			House of Assembly		
	Hon Ruth Forrest MLC (Ind. Member for Murchison) Chair	Hon Bec Thomas MLC (Ind. Member for Elwick)	Hon Luke Edmunds MLC (ALP Member for Pembroke)	Mr Simon Behrakis MP (Lib Member for Clark)	Mr Mark Shelton MP (Lib Member for Lyons)	Mr Josh Willie MP (ALP Member for Clark) Deputy Chair
18 Jul 2024			Apology		Apology	
19 Jul 2024			Apology		Apology	
07 Aug 2024						
09 Aug 2024						
12 Aug 2024						
16 Aug 2024					WebEx	
21 Aug 2024						
22 Aug 2024						
09 Sep 2024					WebEx	
11 Sep 2024						
18 Sep 2024						
02 Oct 2024					WebEx	
08 Oct 2024					WebEx	Apology
18 Nov 2024			Apology AM	Apology PM	WebEx	
20 Nov 2024						
22 Nov 2024					WebEx	
25 Nov 2024			WebEx	WebEx		
27 Nov 2024						
29 Nov 2024		WebEx	WebEx		WebEx	
20 Dec 2024		WebEx	Apology			
07 Feb 2025		Apology			Apology	
17 Feb 2025		Apology				
18 Feb 2025		Apology				
19 Feb 2025		Apology				
20 Feb 2025		Apology				
25 Feb 2025		WebEx	Apology		WebEx	
12 Mar 2025		Apology				
14 Mar 2025		WebEx			WebEx	
19 Mar 2025		Apology			WebEx	Apology
25 Mar 2025		WebEx			Apology	
27 Mar 2025		WebEx			Apology	
07 Apr 2025		WebEx			Apology	
09 Apr 2025		WebEx			Apology	
09 May 2025			Apology		Apology	
12 May 2025			Apology		Apology	
28 May 2025		WebEx				
04 Jun 2025						
Attendance	37	30/37	29.5/36	36.5/37	26/37	35/37
	100%	81%	82%	99%	70%	95%

Notes:

1. Attendance at Committee meetings is either in person or remotely through the Parliament's secure web meeting host (WebEx).
2. Both Hon Bec Thomas MLC and Mr Mark Shelton MP required personal leave during the period.

3. As a result of the Legislative Council election for the division of Pembroke, Hon Luke Edmunds MLC term with the Committee came to an end on midnight, 23 May 2025. He was returned as the Member for Pembroke on 30 May 2025 and was renominated as a member of the Committee on 4 June 2025.
4. As a result of the 5 June 2025 ‘no-confidence’ motion in the House of Assembly against Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP (Premier, Minister for Tourism and Minister for Trade and Major Investments) and the resulting prorogation of Parliament for an early election to be held on 19 July 2025, by convention all Committee activity ceased for the remainder of the period.

Committee Secretariat

The Committee acknowledges the assistance during the period by the following officers:

Position	Officer
Committee Secretary	Simon Scott ⁵
Assistant Committee Secretary	Alison Scott

The Committee also acknowledges the assistance of the Parliamentary Research Office during the period.

⁵ During the period, Mr Scott was substituted on these occasions when he was unavailable:

- Ms Julie Thompson and Ms Jenny Mannering (Committee Secretaries) on 18-19 July 2024, and
- Mr Craig Muir (Clerk Assistant and Usher of the Black Rod) on 8 October 2024.

Liaison with External Bodies

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees

The Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) was established in 1989 and provides a unique forum for the exchange of information and opinions relating to Public Accounts Committees, providing committees with the opportunity to share experiences, best practice and matters of mutual interest. Its aim is to improve the quality and performance of Public Accounts Committees, particularly in Australasia.

An ACPAC conference is nominally held every two years, and in the intervening year a mid-term meeting is held to develop an agenda for the next ACPAC conference. The Tasmanian Parliamentary Standing Committee of Public Accounts is a full member of ACPAC and is committed to supporting its role and function.

The Chair and Secretary of the Committee will be hosting the mid-term meeting virtually on 15 August 2025 with a view of hosting the 18th Biennial Conference in Hobart, Tasmania on 21 - 22 April 2026.

Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees

The Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees (CAPAC) was founded in June 2015 with the aim of ensuring that ‘all Commonwealth Parliaments and the citizens they serve benefit from strong and independent Public Accounts or equivalent committees to sustain and promote the highest principles of public finance.’

Tasmania was ratified as a member of CAPAC at the CAPAC Conference held in Malé, Maldives (30 – 31 August 2022).

The Chair and Secretary attended the CAPAC Conference virtually held in the Parliament of Malta on 29 November 2024. The Conference was comprised of three sessions and participants discussed:

- the general challenges and needs of PACs
- the relationship between PACs and Auditor-Generals, and
- the potential for PACs to incorporate sustainable development goals.

The Chair was also elected a Member of the CAPAC Executive Committee on 28 April 2025. The Chair and the Secretary will assist that committee with implementing the new CAPAC strategy and associated outcomes into the future.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) is one of the oldest established organisations in the Commonwealth. Founded in 1911, it is a membership association which brings together Members, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, who are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by the pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy. The Association is made up of

over 180 legislatures (or Branches) divided up between nine geographic regions of the Commonwealth.

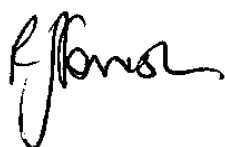
The Chair, Mr Josh Willie MP and the Secretary attended the CPA UK Asia Pacific PAC Regional Workshop in Nadi, Fiji from 19-21 May 2025 (co-hosted by the Parliament of Fiji). The delegates presented and contributed to the following sessions:

Hon Ruth Forrest MLC	Mr Josh Willie MP	Mr Simon Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Role and Functions of PAC• Leveraging Technology for Enhanced PAC Oversight• PAC Hearing Simulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective Questioning Skills and Techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering Effective Briefings• Effective Report Writing and Recommendation Tracking• PAC Hearing Simulation

Other sessions included:

- Using Audit Reports for Effective PAC Enquiries (All)
- Cross-party Collaboration and Building Consensus (Members)
- Managing PAC Work Programmes and Relations with Government (Officials)
- Using Parliamentary Resources Effectively to Prepare and Conduct an Inquiry (Members)
- Working with Members and Witnesses (Officials)
- Elevating Oversight – Collaborative Inquiry and Strategic Analysis (Members)
- Handling Sensitive Information in a PAC Context (All)
- Strengthening PAC Reports and Ensuring Impact (Members), and
- Assessing PAC Effectiveness, Measuring Impact and Enhancing Performance (All).

The Committee acknowledges the financial assistance provided by CPA Tasmania to assist with the delegation's travel and accommodation.



Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
Chair
Independent Member for Murchison

24 September 2025