

Tasmanian Community Fund Amendment Bill 2025

Clause Notes

Clause 1: Provides that this Act may be cited as the Tasmanian Community Fund Amendment Act 2025.

Clause 2: Provides that the provisions commence the day the Act receives Royal Assent.

Clause 3: Provides that in this Act, the *Tasmanian Community Fund Act 2005* is referred to as the Principal Act.

Clause 4: Amends Section 6 (Tasmanian Community Fund Board) by inserting a new 'doubts removal' subsection which clarifies the Tasmanian Community Fund is subject to the requirements of the *Archives Act, 1983*, the *Audit Act 2008*, and the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*. The clause also clarifies that a grant provided by the Board is taken to be expenditure authorised by the Board for the purposes of the Public Accounts Committee Act.

Clause 5: Amends Section 7 of the Act (Functions of the Board) to provide that the Board may not provide a grant under subsection (1)(a) if the Board believes, on reasonable grounds, that the grant is, or may be, for a political purpose, and must act independently, apolitically, professionally, impartially and in the public interest in performing its functions and exercising its powers under the Act.

Clause 6: Inserts Section 7A (Grants Framework) and 7B (Strategic Plan):

Inserts Section 7A into the Act to ensure that the Tasmanian Community Fund develop a grants management framework that specifies the principles and practices that apply in respect of the provision of grants. This includes reference to relevant Treasurer's Instructions within the meaning of the *Financial Management Act 2016*, and national and international standards. The Board is to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, there is always a grants framework in effect under this section. The Board is to make the framework available publicly while in force, and that it is to be reviewed at least every four years.

Inserts Section 7B into the Act to ensure that the Tasmanian Community Fund develop a Strategic Plan to be reviewed at least every four years. While preparing the Strategic Plan, the Board is to release the draft publicly for input and consultation for a period of no less than 21 days with whoever it may need to. The Board is to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, there is always a strategic plan in effect under this section. The Board is to make the Strategic Plan available publicly while in force, and it is to be reviewed at least every four years.

Clause 7: Amends Section 11 (Annual report of Board) to include subsections 1(ba) and 1(bb)

Inserts subsection 1(ba) which provides an outline of the steps taken during the financial year to achieve objectives under the Strategic Plan should be included within the Annual Report.

Inserts subsection 1(bb) which provides an outline that if an audit is undertaken during the financial year the outcomes and key findings are to be included in the Annual Report.

Clause 8: Inserts Section 11A (Audit of grants process) to provide the Board is to engage an independent auditor at least every four years to audit the Board's compliance with its grants management framework. The Board is to make the audit outcomes and key findings available publicly, and at the time of providing the annual report to the Minister, is to provide a full copy of the audit report and a written statement from the Board of their steps taken to address any concerns.

Clause 9: The Act is repealed on the first anniversary of the day on which it commenced.