

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL 2025 (No. 49)

Second Reading

[11.56 a.m.]

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

That the bill now be read the second time.

This bill is to amend the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*, to increase the Public Accounts Committee's membership from six to eight, stipulate that at least one member of any political party that has three or more members in the House of Assembly is to be a member of the committee and increase the quorum requirement from four to six.

The Public Accounts Committee plays a very important role in the oversight of Tasmania's Public Sector finances. The committee completes important inquiries every year, hearing evidence, considering submissions and making findings and recommendations on topics of great importance to our state. However, the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*, has not been substantively amended since 1997.

Recent changes, such as the expansion of the House of Assembly from 25 to 35 members in 2024, mean now is the right time to update the Act. The proposed amendment will ensure the Public Accounts Committee's membership reflects a diversity of views from across both Houses of parliament, enhancing the committee's ability to undertake its important work scrutinising government expenditure.

The bill proposes to amend the *Public Accounts Committee Act 1970*, to increase the number of committee members from six to eight, to ensure greater representation from both Houses of parliament, and the bill would increase the number of members from both the House of Assembly and the Legislative Council from three to four.

The bill will also provide that the committee membership for the House of Assembly must include any political party that has three or more members. Based on the parliament's current composition, this will mean at least one member from the Liberal Party, one member from the Labor Party and one from the Greens.

The bill also proposes to increase the number of members who constitute a quorum of the committee from four to six. This is proportionate to the increase in the number of committee members and will ensure the committee does not meet without the majority of members present.

The Public Accounts Committee plays again an important role in the management of Tasmania's public sector finances. This bill delivers our commitment to ensuring the number of committee members is increased to ensure diversity of views from across both Houses of parliament.

I commend the bill to the House.