

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS (SALE REFORMS) BILL 2025

This Public Bill originated in the House of Assembly, and, having this day passed, is now ready for presentation to the Legislative Council for its concurrence.


LAURA ROSS, Clerk of the House
9 September 2025

(Brought in by the Treasurer, the Honourable Eric Abetz)

A BILL FOR

Amendments: clauses 6(3), 8(3), 10(3), 14(3), 16(3), 18(3), 20(4), 22(3), 24(3)
An Act to amend the *Electricity Companies Act 1997*, the *Electricity Reform Act 2012*, the *Government Business Enterprises Act 1995*, the *Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003*, the *Irrigation Company Act 2011*, the *Metro Tasmania Act 1997*, the *Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009*, the *Rail Company Act 2009*, the *Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005* and the *TT-Line Arrangements Act 1993*

The Legislative Council has this day
Agreed to this Bill with Amendment

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Clerk of the Council
and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and 
House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows: **5 NOV 2025**

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025*.

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9 September 2025

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A BILL FOR

Amendments: clauses 6(3), 8(3), 10(3), 14(3), 16(3), 18(3), 20(4), 22(3), 24(3)
An Act to amend the *Electricity Companies Act 1997*, the *Electricity Reform Act 2012*, the *Government Business Enterprises Act 1995*, the *Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003*, the *Irrigation Company Act 2011*, the *Metro Tasmania Act 1997*, the *Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009*, the *Rail Company Act 2009*, the *Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005* and the *TT-Line Arrangements Act 1993*

Be it enacted by Her Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025*.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 2 – Electricity Companies Act 1997 Amended

s. 4

**PART 2 – ELECTRICITY COMPANIES ACT 1997
AMENDED**

4. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Electricity Companies Act 1997** is referred to as the Principal Act.

5. Section 20 amended (Limitations on members of company)

Section 20(4) of the Principal Act is amended by omitting “*Referendum Procedures Act 1994*” and substituting “*Referendum Procedures Act 2004*”.

6. Section 20A inserted

After section 20 of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted in Part 3:

20A. Parliamentary approval required in certain circumstances

- (1) If an Act intends to amend or repeal section 20(1), that amendment or repeal must be approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament before a referendum is held in accordance with section 20(4) in respect of the amendment or repeal.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, an amendment to, or repeal of, section 20(1)

*No. 69 of 1997

CLAUSE 6

First amendment

Page 5, proposed new section 20A, subsection (1), after “section 20(1),”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, same subsection, after “must be”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, subsection (2).

Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 3 – Electricity Reform Act 2012 Amended

s. 7

**PART 3 – ELECTRICITY REFORM ACT 2012
AMENDED**

7. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Electricity Reform Act 2012** is referred to as the Principal Act.

8. Section 23 amended (Sale of retail business of Aurora Energy or subsidiary)

Section 23 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (1) the following subsections:

- (1A) The Treasurer may only sell all, or part, of the retail business under subsection (1) if the proposed sale is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.
- (1B) For the purposes of subsection (1A), the sale of all, or part, of the retail business is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –
 - (a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the sale; or
 - (b) at the end of 5 sitting-days after notice of the sale was laid before the House, no notice of a motion

*No. 52 of 2012

CLAUSE 8

First amendment

Page 7, proposed new subsection (1A), after “under subsection (1) if”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new subsection, after “proposed sale is”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, proposed new subsection (1B).

Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 4 – Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003 Amended

s. 9

**PART 4 – GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES
(SALE) ACT 2003 AMENDED**

9. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Government Business Enterprises (Sale) Act 2003** is referred to as the Principal Act.

10. Section 7A inserted

After section 7 of the Principal Act, the following section is inserted in Part 2:

7A. Parliamentary approval required before sale

- (1) A Government Business Enterprise may only be sold under this Act if the proposed sale of the Government Business Enterprise is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, the sale of a Government Business Enterprise is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –
 - (a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the sale; or
 - (b) at the end of 5 sitting-days after notice of the sale was laid before

*No. 39 of 2003

CLAUSE 10

First amendment

Page 9, proposed new section 7A, subsection (1), after “this Act if”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, same subsection, after
“Enterprise is”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, subsection (2).

Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 6 – Irrigation Company Act 2011 Amended

s. 14

(3) If an Act intends to amend or repeal subsection (1), that Act is of no effect unless the proposed amendment or repeal has first been approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a proposed amendment to, or repeal of, subsection (1) is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –

(a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the proposed amendment or repeal; or

(b) at the end of 5 sitting-days after notice of the proposed amendment or repeal was laid before the House, no notice of a motion to disapprove the proposed amendment or repeal is before the House; or

(c) if notice of a motion to disapprove the proposed amendment or repeal is before the House at the end of the period referred to in paragraph (b), when the first of the following occurs:

(i) the notice is withdrawn;

(ii) the motion is negatived;

CLAUSE 14

First amendment

Page 13, proposed new section 11A, subsection (3), after “effect unless”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, same subsection, after “first been”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, subsection (4).

Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 7 – Metro Tasmania Act 1997 Amended

s. 15

PART 7 – METRO TASMANIA ACT 1997 AMENDED

15. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Metro Tasmania Act 1997** is referred to as the Principal Act.

16. Section 19A amended (Limitations on members of Company)

Section 19A of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (2) the following subsections:

- (3) If an Act intends to amend or repeal subsection (1), that Act is of no effect unless the proposed amendment or repeal has first been approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a proposed amendment to, or repeal of, subsection (1) is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –
 - (a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the proposed amendment or repeal; or
 - (b) at the end of 5 sitting-days after notice of the proposed

*No. 78 of 1997

CLAUSE 16

First amendment

Page 15, proposed new subsection (3), after “effect unless”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new subsection, after “first been”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, proposed new subsection (4).

Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 8 – Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009 Amended

s. 17

**PART 8 – RACING (TASRACING PTY LTD) ACT 2009
AMENDED**

17. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Racing (Tasracing Pty Ltd) Act 2009** is referred to as the Principal Act.

18. Section 28 amended (Limitations on members of Company)

Section 28 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (1) the following subsections:

(1A) If an Act intends to amend or repeal subsection (1), that Act is of no effect unless the proposed amendment or repeal has first been approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.

(1B) For the purposes of subsection (1A), a proposed amendment to, or repeal of, subsection (1) is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –

(a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the proposed amendment or repeal; or

*No. 30 of 2009

CLAUSE 18

First amendment

Page 17, proposed new subsection (1A), after “effect unless”.
Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new subsection, after “first been”.
Leave out “approved”.
Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, proposed new subsection (1B).
Leave out that subsection.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 9 – Rail Company Act 2009 Amended

s. 19

PART 9 – RAIL COMPANY ACT 2009 AMENDED

19. Principal Act

In this Part, the *Rail Company Act 2009** is referred to as the Principal Act.

20. Section 33 amended (Sale of Company)

Section 33 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) by omitting from subsection (4) “both Houses of Parliament” and substituting “at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament”;
- (b) by inserting in subsection (6) “at least two-thirds of the members of” after “by”;
- (c) by omitting from subsection (6)(a) “the House passes” and substituting “at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass”.

*No. 46 of 2009

CLAUSE 20

First amendment

Page 19, paragraph (a), after “both Houses of Parliament”.

Insert “have approved a proposal for”.

Second amendment

Same page, same paragraph, after “each House of Parliament”.

Insert “have passed a motion that approves”.

Third amendment

Same page, paragraph (b).

Leave out that paragraph.

Insert instead the following paragraph.

(b) by omitting subsection (6).

Fourth amendment

Same page, paragraph (c).

Leave out that paragraph.

Government Business (Sale Reforms) Act 2025
Act No. of 2025

Part 10 – TT-Line Arrangements Act 1993 Amended

s. 22

(3) If an Act intends to amend or repeal subsection (1), that Act is of no effect unless the proposed amendment or repeal has first been approved by at least two-thirds of the members of each House of Parliament.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), a proposed amendment to, or repeal of, subsection (1) is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of a House of Parliament if –

(a) at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass a motion approving the proposed amendment or repeal; or

(b) at the end of 5 sitting-days after notice of the proposed amendment or repeal was laid before the House, no notice of a motion to disapprove the proposed amendment or repeal is before the House; or

(c) if notice of a motion to disapprove the proposed amendment or repeal is before the House at the end of the period referred to in paragraph (b), when the first of the following occurs:

(i) the notice is withdrawn;

(ii) the motion is negatived;

CLAUSE 22

First amendment

Page 21, proposed new section 9A, subsection (3), after “effect unless”.

Insert “a motion that approves”.

Second amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, same subsection, after “first been”.

Leave out “approved”.

Insert instead “passed”.

Third amendment

Same page, same proposed new section, subsection (4).

Leave out that subsection.

**PART 11 – TASMANIAN PORTS CORPORATION ACT
2005 AMENDED**

23. Principal Act

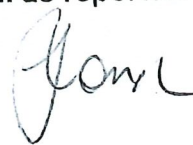
In this Part, the *Tasmanian Ports Corporation Act 2005** is referred to as the Principal Act.

24. Section 11 amended (Limitation on sale of shares)

Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended as follows:

- (a) by inserting in subsection (1) “at least two-thirds of the members of” after “approved by”;
- (b) by inserting in subsection (2) “at least two-thirds of the members of” after “by”;
- (c) by omitting from subsection (2)(a) “the House passes” and substituting “at least two-thirds of the members of the House pass”.

I certify that the Bill as printed and amended in writing is in accordance with the Bill as reported.



Chair of Committees

*No. 41 of 2005

CLAUSE 24

First amendment

Page 23, before paragraph (a).

Insert the following paragraph.

- (X) by inserting in subsection (1) “a motion approving” after “them unless”;

Second amendment

Same page, paragraph (b).

Leave out that paragraph.

Insert instead the following paragraph.

- (b) by omitting subsection (2).

Third amendment

Same page, paragraph (c).

Leave out that paragraph.