



Parliament of Tasmania

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PARLIAMENT

**REPORT NO. 2
ON PARLIAMENTARY STANDING
COMMITTEES**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr Aird (Chair)	Mr Groom
Mrs Sue Smith	Mr Lennon
Mr Wilson	Mr Patmore

Joint Secretaries: **Mrs Sue McLeod**
Mr Peter Bennison

INTRODUCTION

With the passage of legislation to reduce the number of members in the House of Assembly from 35 to 25 and in the Legislative Council from 19 to 15, it has become increasingly important that the maximum number of members of the Parliament of Tasmania are able to participate in the committee system.

BACKGROUND

The three statutory standing committees historically have been seen as committees dealing with important tasks in the parliamentary process. It is not uncommon for more experienced Members of Parliament to be selected by their respective houses to occupy positions on those committees.

The parliamentary standing committees have a role of scrutinizing decisions made by the executive, that is, the capital program in the case of the Public Works Committee, financial program in the case of the Public Accounts Committee and Municipal and Marine by-laws, Orders, Proclamations and Statutory Rules in the case of the Subordinate Legislation Committee. It is therefore really only the executive members in the Parliament that should be excluded.

The Legislative Council Member for Monmouth has already foreshadowed a bill to remove this statutory bar and requested Parliamentary Counsel to prepare the required draft.

ISSUES

It is evident that amendments would be required to the following sections of the relevant Acts:

- **Public Works Committee Act 1914**

Section 3 – Constitution of Committee

Subsection (3) leave out –

“,the President, and Chairman of Committees of the Legislative Council, and the Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the House of Assembly,”

- **Public Accounts Committee Act 1970**

Section 2 – Constitution of Committee

Subsection (4) leave out paragraphs (b), (c) and (d)

- **Subordinate Legislation Committee Act 1969**

Section 3 – Constitution of Committee

Subsection (4) leave out paragraphs (b), (c) and (d)

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) It is recommended that the statutory bar on the President, Speaker and Chair of Committees of each house be lifted so that each of the houses have those members available when and if it is appropriate to appoint those office bearers to the committees.

- (2) It is further recommended that the Committee recommends to the Government that the attached Draft Bill be considered by the Parliament to enable the statute bar on the President, Speaker and Chair of Committees in both houses of Parliament be removed to allow those members to participate in Parliamentary Standing Committees.