

## DRAFT SECOND READING SPEECH

### *Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2019-20) Bill 2020*

*\*check Hansard for delivery\**

Madam Speaker, Supplementary Appropriation Bills are a well-established part of annual budgetary processes. They reflect the continuously changing financial environment that is faced by the Government and the important decisions that the Government is required to make to implement its policies and support the Tasmanian community.

As all Members are well aware, in the current Budget year we have been faced with a number of challenges. We are currently responding to the COVID-19 pandemic while also seeking to support the Tasmanian community and our vital business sector. We have faced bushfires that have required the allocation of resources to also ensure that the damage they can cause to our environment, property and community is minimised. And, demand in our hospitals has remained at high levels.

All of these challenges require the allocation of funding that was not foreseen at the time of the preparation of the 2019-20 Budget last year.

The Appropriation (Supplementary Appropriation for 2019-20) Bill 2020, therefore, seeks approval to appropriate additional funding in the 2019-20 Budget year of \$404.9 million. Of this funding amount:

- \$225 million is required to meet additional expenditure that was included in the 2019-20 Revised Estimates Report. This includes \$118 million to meet demand in the Tasmanian Health Service, \$24 million to meet costs associated with new public sector wage agreements, \$16.3 million in increased infrastructure expenditure and \$10 million to meet bushfire fighting costs;
- \$1.4 million is required to implement initiatives that I detailed in my recent State of the State Address, including funding of \$500 000 for Tourism Tasmania, \$300 000 for emergency housing brokerage and \$370 000 for bushfire related initiatives; and
- \$18.5 million is required to implement initiatives in the Economic Stimulus Package. As members would recall, key elements of this Package to be delivered this year include \$12 million in maintenance works, \$1 million to organisations that will support vulnerable people and \$1 million for accommodation support for front line workers and those who need emergency accommodation.

Madam Speaker

In addition to these priority funding areas, the Bill also includes a further \$10 million, over and above the \$10 million included in the 2019-20 Revised Estimates Report, for bushfire costs. This amount reflects the most recent estimate of costs for the full year.

Finally, the Bill also includes a provision of \$150 million to Finance-General to meet potential costs associated with further action required to be taken by the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This amount is in addition to any funding available through the Treasurer's Reserve.

Madam Speaker

The Secretary of Treasury has provided briefings to the Leader of the Opposition, Leader of the Greens and the Member for Clark to provide further background information in relation to this Bill.

The Government is committed to allocating the resources required to support the Tasmanian community now and providing capacity to deliver further support should it be required. In recent years the Tasmanian economy and the Budget position has gone from strength to strength and this now provides a strong foundation on which we can face the current challenges.

I commend the Bill to the House.