



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2019

(SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

No. 25

TUESDAY, 13 AUGUST 2019

1 COUNCIL MEETS.— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock in the forenoon and the Deputy President read Prayers.

2 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.— *Ordered*, That Mrs *Hiscutt* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

3 LEAVE OF ABSENCE.— *Ordered*, That the President, Mr *Farrell* and the Honourable Member for McIntyre, Ms *Rattray*, be granted leave of absence from the service of the Council for today's Sitting. (Mrs *Hiscutt*)

4 SPECIAL INTEREST MATTERS.— The Deputy President advised the Chamber of three Members who had indicated their desire to speak and of the order in which they were to speak as follows —

- (1) Mr *Finch* – Bees, Pollination and Education;
- (2) Ms *Armitage* - Newstead College in Launceston; and
- (3) Mr *Gaffney* - Voluntary Assisted Dying.

At the conclusion of Special Interest Matters the Council proceeded to Orders of the Day.

5 REPORT OF AUDITOR-GENERAL NO.2 2018-19.— A Motion was made (Ms *Armitage*) and the Question was proposed, That the Report of the Auditor-General No. 2 of 2018-19, Administration of two grant programs by the Department of State Growth, be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

6 PILL TESTING AT FESTIVALS.— A Motion was made (Ms *Forrest*) and the Question was proposed, That in order to minimise the harms associated with drug use at Tasmanian festivals and events, this House—

- (1) Acknowledges that pill testing is a health related matter;
- (2) Acknowledges that pill testing is an evidence based health service that reduces the risk of illicit drug harm at music festivals and events;
- (3) Acknowledges that pill testing services do not endorse or provide advice on the safety of illicit drug use and there is no research or evidence to support the view that pill testing increases drug use;
- (4) Acknowledges the successful results of the two trials in the ACT that demonstrated the effectiveness of pill testing services to change a person's illicit drug behaviour;

- (5) Acknowledges that pill testing is supported by national bodies including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Ambulance Union State Council, the Public Health Association of Australia, Family Drug Support Australia, and the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation and at the local level, by Tasmanian community organisations including the Youth Network of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Community Legal Centres Tasmania;
- (6) Notes that despite there being strong support for the introduction of pill testing services across the Tasmanian community, the Government continues to be resistant to reviewing the evidence and/or exploring how a trial would provide health benefits to Tasmanians, particularly our youth;
- (7) Recognises a need for the Department of Health to prepare information and education materials outlining the community and individual health benefits of drug analysis services, to educate and inform the broader Tasmanian community; and
- (8) Calls on the Government to commence the necessary steps to explore how a trial of pill testing could occur during the 2019-20 summer festival season.

A Debate arose thereupon.

7 SITTING SUSPENDED.— It being 1.00 o'clock p.m. the Sitting of the Council was suspended.

The Council resumed the Sitting at 2.30 o'clock p.m.

8 QUESTION TIME.— The Deputy President called for Questions without Notice. There were no Questions asked.

9 PILL TESTING AT FESTIVALS.— The Council resumed Debate on the Question That, in order to minimise the harms associated with drug use at Tasmanian festivals and events, this House—

- (1) Acknowledges that pill testing is a health related matter;
- (2) Acknowledges that pill testing is an evidence based health service that reduces the risk of illicit drug harm at music festivals and events;
- (3) Acknowledges that pill testing services do not endorse or provide advice on the safety of illicit drug use and there is no research or evidence to support the view that pill testing increases drug use;
- (4) Acknowledges the successful results of the two trials in the ACT that demonstrated the effectiveness of pill testing services to change a person's illicit drug behaviour;
- (5) Acknowledges that pill testing is supported by national bodies including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, the National Australian Pharmacy Students' Association, the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, the Ambulance Union State Council, the Public Health Association of Australia, Family Drug Support Australia, and the Australian Drug Law Reform Foundation and at the local level, by Tasmanian community organisations including the Youth Network of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and Community Legal Centres Tasmania;
- (6) Notes that despite there being strong support for the introduction of pill testing services across the Tasmanian community, the Government continues to be resistant to reviewing the

evidence and/or exploring how a trial would provide health benefits to Tasmanians, particularly our youth;

- (7) Recognises a need for the Department of Health to prepare information and education materials outlining the community and individual health benefits of drug analysis services, to educate and inform the broader Tasmanian community; and
- (8) Calls on the Government to commence the necessary steps to explore how a trial of pill testing could occur during the 2019-20 summer festival season.

And the Question being put,

The Council divided.

AYES 4

NOES 8

Mr *Finch*

Ms *Forrest*

Mr *Gaffney*

Ms *Webb* (Teller)

Ms *Armitage*

Mr *Armstrong*

Mr *Dean*

Mrs *Hiscutt*

Ms *Howlett* (Teller)

Ms *Lovell*

Ms *Siejka*

Mr *Willie*

So it passed in the Negative.

10 APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION.— A Motion was made (Mr *Armstrong*) and the Question was proposed, That a Select Committee be appointed, with power to send for persons and papers, with leave to sit during any adjournment of the Council, and with leave to adjourn from place to place, to inquire into and report upon the scope, causes, strategic planning processes and future initiatives to address traffic congestion in the Greater Hobart area.

And that —

Ms *Howlett*;

Ms *Siejka*;

Mr *Valentine*;

Ms *Webb* and

The Mover be of the Committee.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

11 REPORT OF GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE ‘A’ ON ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES.— A Motion was made (Mr *Valentine*) and the Question was proposed, That the Legislative Council Government Administration Committee ‘A’ Report on Acute Health Services be considered and noted.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

12 ADJOURNMENT.— A Motion was made (*Mrs Hiscutt*) and the Question was proposed, That the Council will at its rising adjourn until 11.00 o'clock am on Wednesday, 14 August 2019.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

Resolved, That the Council do now adjourn. (*Mrs Hiscutt*)

The Council adjourned at 5.53 o'clock p.m.

D.T. PEARCE, *Clerk of the Council*.