



PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

JOINT MEETING

OF

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND HOUSE
OF ASSEMBLY

TO CHOOSE A SENATOR IN THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

TUESDAY, 27 MAY 2025

1. **JOINT SITTING.**— The Members of the Legislative Council and of the House of Assembly met in the House of Assembly Chamber at 11.15 o'clock in the forenoon pursuant to Resolutions of both Houses and Rules of Procedure adopted by both Houses. (See Appendix).

2. **CLERK OF THE JOINT SITTING.**— *Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Assembly, be the Clerk of the Joint Sitting. (The Premier)

3. **COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNMENT HOUSE.**— The Clerk read letters from Her Excellency the Governor addressed to the Honourable Mr President and Honourable Speaker concerning advice received from the President of the Senate relating to a vacancy having occurred as a result of the resignation of Senator *Anne Urquhart*.

4. **PRESIDING OFFICER.**— *Resolved*, That the Honourable *Michelle O'Byrne* MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly, be the Presiding Officer of the Joint Sitting. (The President)

5. **PERSON PROPOSED AS CANDIDATE TO HOLD THE VACANT SEAT IN THE SENATE.**— The Presiding Officer having called for nominations of candidates for the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator *Anne Urquhart*, *Josh Dolega* was duly proposed. (Mr *Winter*)

There being no other nomination the Presiding Officer put the Question — That *Josh Dolega* be chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator *Anne Urquhart*.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Presiding Officer thereupon declared that *Josh Dolega* had been duly chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant through the resignation of Senator *Anne Urquhart*.

Resolved, That Her Excellency the Governor is to be duly notified in writing by the Presiding Officer that *Josh Dolega* has been chosen to hold the vacant place in the Senate. (The Premier)

6. **ADJOURNMENT.**— The Joint Sitting adjourned at 11.19 o'clock am.

Laura Ross, Clerk of the Joint Sitting



— A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council having agreed to the following Resolution, now transmits the same to the House of Assembly, and requests its concurrence therein:—

That on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 at 11.15 o'clock in the forenoon the Legislative Council meet the House of Assembly in the House of Assembly Chamber for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold a place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart; and further, the Legislative Council proposes the following Rules for the Joint Sitting:—

1. PARLIAMENTARY USAGE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DEBATE –

That on any Debate arising, the same shall be conducted according to the Standing Rules and Orders of the House of Assembly. On all points of order, and on all questions arising during the proceedings for choosing a person to fill the vacant place in the Senate, the ruling of the Presiding Officer shall be absolute and final.

2. RULES OF PROCEDURE –

- (1) The Presiding Officer shall call for nominations of persons to fill the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart. Each nomination shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, who shall certify on the form of nomination that the person so nominated is willing to hold the seat if chosen and is not disqualified from so doing. The proposer shall also certify that the nominee is a member of the Labor Party. Nominations shall be handed to the Clerk, who upon being satisfied that they are in order, shall proceed with the preparation of the ballot paper. In the event that one or more nominees are certified to be members of the appropriate Party, those nominees only shall be taken to have been validly proposed to fill

the vacancy, and no names other than theirs shall be included on the ballot paper as candidates for the vacant seat.

- (2) If only one person be nominated for the vacant seat, the Presiding Officer shall propose the Question “That (name of proposed person) be chosen to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart and, should such Question be passed in the affirmative, shall so declare.
- (3) If more than one person be nominated for the vacant seat, a ballot shall be taken in the manner hereinafter provided to determine which of such persons shall be chosen to hold the vacant place. Each of such persons so duly nominated is hereinafter referred to as ‘a candidate’.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall announce the names of the candidates who have been nominated, and shall then direct that a ballot be proceeded with, after which no other person shall be nominated; and the Clerk shall turn a two-minute sand-glass, to be kept on the table for that purpose, and the division bells of the House of Assembly shall be rung, and the doors shall not be closed till after the lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the said sand-glass. The doors shall be locked as soon after the lapse of two minutes as the Presiding Officer shall think proper to direct, and, unless otherwise ordered, shall remain locked until it shall have been declared in the manner provided in Rule 2 that a candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place: provided that the Clerk and two Scrutineers may retire from the Chamber in order to prepare the ballot papers, and subsequently, to count the votes.
- (5) The Presiding Officer shall appoint a Member of each House to be a Scrutineer to assist the Clerk of the Joint Sitting (herein referred to as the ‘Clerk’) in ascertaining the number of votes cast for each candidate.
- (6) As soon as practicable after the Presiding Officer has announced that the ballot will be proceeded with each Member present shall be provided with a ballot paper initialled by the Clerk.
- (7) Each Member voting shall forthwith mark on the ballot-paper the order of his or her preference for all candidates, and any ballot paper not so marked shall be rejected as informal.
- (8) The Member shall then fold and place the ballot paper so marked in the ballot box.

- (9) If there are only two candidates, the Clerk shall report to the Presiding Officer the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that the candidate who has the larger number of votes has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (10) If there are more than two candidates, the method of counting the votes prescribed by Schedule 5 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, for cases in which only one Member is to be elected shall, so far as practicable, and not inconsistent with these rules, be observed.
- (11) As soon as it is ascertained that any candidate has obtained an absolute majority of the valid votes recorded by the Members voting, the Clerk shall so report to the Presiding Officer, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that such candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (12) If at any stage in the count, two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, and one of them has to be excluded, the Clerk shall forthwith report to the Presiding Officer the results of the count at that stage. The Members shall thereupon proceed to a special ballot to ascertain which of such candidates shall be excluded, but so that if there are more than two of such persons with an equality of votes only one shall be excluded.
- (13) In all cases not provided for in these Rules resort shall be had to the procedure laid down in the *Electoral Act 2004*, so far as the same may in the opinion of the Presiding Officer be applicable and not inconsistent with these Rules.





TASMANIA

A Message to the Legislative Council

MR PRESIDENT

The House of Assembly doth agree to the following Resolution communicated to it by the Legislative Council on 9 April 2025:-

Resolved, That on Tuesday, 27 May 2025 at 11.15 o'clock in the forenoon the Legislative Council meet the House of Assembly in the House of Assembly Chamber for the purpose of sitting and voting together to choose a person to hold a place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart; and further, the Legislative Council proposes the following Rules for the Joint Sitting:

1. PARLIAMENTARY USAGE TO BE FOLLOWED IN DEBATE –

That on any Debate arising, the same shall be conducted according to the Standing Rules and Orders of the House of Assembly. On all points of order, and on all questions arising during the proceedings for choosing a person to fill the vacant place in the Senate, the ruling of the Presiding Officer shall be absolute and final.

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- (1) The Presiding Officer shall call for nominations of persons to fill the seat rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart. Each nomination shall be in writing, signed by the proposer, who shall certify on the form of nomination that the person so nominated is willing to hold the seat if chosen and is not disqualified from so doing. The proposer shall also certify that the nominee is a member of the Labor Party. Nominations shall be handed to the Clerk, who upon being satisfied that they are in order, shall proceed with the preparation of the ballot paper. In the event that one or more nominees are certified to be members of the appropriate Party, those nominees only shall be taken to have been validly proposed to fill the vacancy, and no names other than theirs shall be included on the ballot paper as candidates for the vacant seat.

- (2) If only one person be nominated for the vacant seat, the Presiding Officer shall propose the Question “That (name of proposed person) be chosen to hold the place in the Senate rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Anne Urquhart and, should such Question be passed in the affirmative, shall so declare.
- (3) If more than one person be nominated for the vacant seat, a ballot shall be taken in the manner hereinafter provided to determine which of such persons shall be chosen to hold the vacant place. Each of such persons so duly nominated is hereinafter referred to as ‘a candidate’.
- (4) The Presiding Officer shall announce the names of the candidates who have been nominated, and shall then direct that a ballot be proceeded with, after which no other person shall be nominated; and the Clerk shall turn a two-minute sand-glass, to be kept on the table for that purpose, and the division bells of the House of Assembly shall be rung, and the doors shall not be closed till after the lapse of two minutes, as indicated by the said sand-glass. The doors shall be locked as soon after the lapse of two minutes as the Presiding Officer shall think proper to direct, and, unless otherwise ordered, shall remain locked until it shall have been declared in the manner provided in Rule 2 that a candidate has been chosen to hold the vacant place: provided that the Clerk and two Scrutineers may retire from the Chamber in order to prepare the ballot papers, and subsequently, to count the votes.
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- (8) The Member shall then fold and place the ballot paper so marked in the ballot box.
- (9) If there are only two candidates, the Clerk shall report to the Presiding Officer the number of valid votes cast for each candidate, and the Presiding Officer shall declare in the manner provided in Rule 2 that the candidate who has the larger number of votes has been chosen to hold the vacant place.
- (10) If there are more than two candidates, the method of counting the votes prescribed by Schedule 5 of the Electoral Act 2004, for cases in which only one Member is to be elected shall, so far as practicable, and not inconsistent with these rules, be observed.
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- (12) If at any stage in the count, two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, and one of them has to be excluded, the Clerk shall forthwith report to the Presiding Officer the results of the count at that stage. The Members shall thereupon proceed to a special ballot to ascertain which of such candidates shall be excluded, but so that if there are more than two of such persons with an equality of votes only one shall be excluded.
- (13) In all cases not provided for in these Rules resort shall be had to the procedure laid down in the Electoral Act 2004, so far as the same may in the opinion of the Presiding Officer be applicable and not inconsistent with these Rules.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. M. M.', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

SPEAKER

*House of Assembly
10 April 2025*