



No. 71

TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2023

- 1 The House met at Ten o'clock a.m.
- 2 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.** - The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the traditional people of the land.
- 3 **PRAYERS AND REFLECTION.** – The Speaker read Prayers.
- 4 **PROCLAMATION UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE CONSTITUTION ACT.** – The Clerk of the House read the following Proclamation:-

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the sittings of the House of Assembly adjourn on Thursday 7 December 2023, and sittings of the Legislative Council are adjourned for 2023. And whereas it is desirable that the said Parliament should be called together for the despatch of business before the expiration of such adjournment: Now therefore I, THE HONOURABLE BARBARA BAKER, Companion of the Order of Australia, Governor in and over the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia, in pursuance of the power and authority vested in me by the Constitution Act 1934, do declare that the said Parliament shall meet for the despatch of business on Tuesday 12 December 2023, at 10:00a.m. in the House of Assembly of the said Parliament, and at 11.00a.m. in the Legislative Council of the said Parliament, situated in the City of Hobart, in Tasmania, and the Members of the said Parliament are hereby required to give their attendance at the same time and place accordingly.

GIVEN under my hand in Hobart in Tasmania on 5 December 2023.

B. Baker, Governor.

By Her Excellency's Command,

JEREMY ROCKLIFF, Premier.

- 5 **SUSPENSION OF SITTING.** – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the Speaker do now leave the Chair until 2.30 p.m. (The Attorney-General)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

It passed in the Negative.

- 6 **LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.** - *Ordered*, That Ms *White* have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (Ms *White*)

UNCORRECTED PROOF

**7** SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS. – A Motion being made - That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent a motion to establish a Select Committee in relation to Justice Geason from being brought on for debate forthwith. (Ms *White*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 13

NOES 9

*Mrs Alexander*

*Mr Barnett*

*Mr Bayley*

*Mr Behrakis*

*Ms Butler*

*Mr Ellis*

*Ms Finlay*

*Mr Ferguson*

*Ms Haddad*

*Mr Jaensch*

*Ms Johnston*

*Ms Ogilvie*

*Mr O'Byrne*

*Mr Street*

*Ms O'Byrne*

*Mr Young*

*Mr Tucker*

*Mr Wood* (Teller)

*Ms White*

*Mr Winter*

*Dr Woodruff*

*Dr Broad* (Teller)

PAIRS

*Ms Dow*

*Mr Rockliff*

The Speaker said – “This Motion requires a two-thirds majority to be agreed to, so the Question therefore passes in the Negative.”

**8** LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - *Ordered*, That *Mr Tucker* have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (*Mr Tucker*)

**9** SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS. – A Motion being made - That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the following motion being debated forthwith:

(1) A Motion relating to TQM Abattoir

And that following conclusion of debate on this motion, the House proceed to debate the following motions in order:

(2) That this House expresses its deep sadness at the death on 5 December 2023 of the Honourable Fran Mary Bladel, a former Minister of the Crown from 1989 to 1992 and 2000 to 2002, and a Member for the Division of Franklin from 1986 to 2002 and places on record its appreciation of her service to this State, and further, that this House respectfully tenders to her family its sincere sympathy in their bereavement; and

(3) Notice of Motion 224. (*Mr Tucker*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (The Treasurer)

## UNCORRECTED PROOF

That the Motion be Amended by inserting ‘to Questions seeking information then to’ after ‘following conclusion of debate on this motion the House proceed’.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put - That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

AYES 9

*Mr Barnett*  
*Mr Behrakis*  
*Mr Ellis*  
*Mr Ferguson*  
*Mr Jaensch*  
*Ms Ogilvie*  
*Mr Street*  
*Mr Young*  
*Mr Wood (Teller)*

NOES 13

*Mrs Alexander*  
*Mr Bayley*  
*Dr Broad*  
*Ms Butler*  
*Ms Finlay*  
*Ms Johnston*  
*Mr O’Byrne*  
*Ms O’Byrne*  
*Mr Tucker*  
*Ms White*  
*Mr Winter*  
*Dr Woodruff*  
*Ms Haddad (Teller)*

PAIRS

*Mr Rockliff*

*Ms Dow*

And it passed in the Negative.

And the Main Question being again proposed, the House resumed the Debate.

Amendment proposed (*Mrs Alexander*)

That the Motion be Amended by leaving out all words after ‘motion relating to TQM Abattoir’.

And the Question being put - That the Amendment be agreed to.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

And the Question being put – That the Motion as Amended be agreed to.

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

*Resolved*, That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent the following motion being debated forthwith: A motion relating to TQM Abattoir.

**10** TASMANIAN QUALITY MEATS ABATTOIR. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the House:—

- (1) Joins Tasmanian farmers and the community in condemning in the strongest possible terms the cruelty to animals revealed in the images released from inside Tasmanian slaughterhouses.
- (2) Notes that this is a serious breach of animal welfare standards which indicates issues in the regulation of abattoirs.
- (3) Calls on the Minister to take immediate action to address any regulatory failures and to report to the House in the first sitting week of 2024 on:

**UNCORRECTED PROOF**

- (a) An urgent audit of animal welfare standards in all licensed slaughterhouses, together with a clear strategy for ongoing regular auditing including unannounced monitoring audits together with industry education,
  - (b) Evidence of the installation by the 2024 resumption of Parliament of 24-hour video surveillance of stun and slaughter rooms in all licensed abattoir premises and a commitment to any required legislative changes as early as possible in 2024 to make this compulsory;
  - (c) Any other action which the Minister considers necessary to ensure Tasmania's animal welfare standards meet or exceed the highest standards applying across Australia.
- (4) Calls on the Government to report to the House when Parliament resumes on adequate funding and resourcing of these initiatives.
- (5) Requests that the Independent Federal Regulator take into account the following matters before making a decision about TQM's export license:
- (a) The strong and urgent action mandated by farmers, the community and all sides of this Parliament to address the acknowledged regulatory failures exposed by this case;
  - (b) While TQM is a repeat offender on animal welfare issues, its record has not been helped by the equally obvious failures by regulators;
  - (c) TQM has been a major contributor to the red meat industry, including providing a lifeline to pork producers after the closure of the Devonport City Abattoir and investing heavily, along with government, in sheep, lamb and calf processing at Cressy;
  - (d) The Cressy facility employs 200 Tasmanians and provides an essential service to the sheep, lamb and dairy industries;
  - (e) TQM is heavily reliant on export markets and could not survive a significant suspension of its export licence; and
  - (f) There is no alternative sheep and lamb processing capacity available in Tasmania to Tasmanian farmers: Suspension of the TQM export licence could result in market failure and will not assist animal welfare or farmer wellbeing.
- (6) That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the regulator by the Minister before making a final decision. (Mr *Tucker*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

**11**      **SUSPENSION OF SITTING.** - At One o'clock the Speaker left the Chair. At half-past Two o'clock the Speaker resumed the Chair.

**12**      **TASMANIAN QUALITY MEATS ABATTOIR.** – And the Question being again proposed;

The House resumed the Debate.

Amendment proposed (Dr *Woodruff*)

- (1) In paragraph (1), inserting the following words “and animal rights activists” after the words “Tasmanian Farmers”; and
- (2) Leaving out paragraph (5).

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put; That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

AYES 3

*Ms Johnston*  
*Dr Woodruff*  
*Mr Bayley (Teller)*

NOES 19

*Mrs Alexander*  
*Mr Barnett*  
*Dr Broad*  
*Ms Butler*  
*Mr Ellis*  
*Mr Ferguson*  
*Ms Finlay*  
*Ms Haddad*  
*Mr Jaensch*  
*Mr O'Byrne*  
*Ms O'Byrne*  
*Ms Ogilvie*  
*Mr Street*  
*Mr Tucker*  
*Ms White*  
*Mr Winter*  
*Mr Wood*  
*Mr Young*  
*Mr Behrakis (Teller)*

So it passed in the Negative.

And the Main Question being put;

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**13** PAPERS. – The Attorney-General laid upon the Table of the House the following Paper:

Undertaking of Gregory Peter Geason, dated 8 December 2023.

**14** LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

AYES 11

*Mrs Alexander*  
*Mr Barnett*  
*Mr Ellis*  
*Mr Ferguson*  
*Mr Jaensch*  
*Ms Ogilvie*  
*Mr Street*  
*Mr Tucker*  
*Mr Wood*  
*Mr Young*  
*Mr Behrakis* (Teller)

NOES 11

*Mr Bayley*  
*Ms Butler*  
*Ms Finlay*  
*Ms Haddad*  
*Ms Johnston*  
*Mr O'Byrne*  
*Ms O'Byrne*  
*Ms White*  
*Mr Winter*  
*Dr Woodruff*  
*Dr Broad* (Teller)

PAIRS

*Mr Rockliff*

*Ms Dow*

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The numbers being equal, I cast my vote with the Ayes”.

And so it was resolved in the Affirmative.

**15** ADJOURNMENT. - A Motion being made and the Question being proposed— That the House, at its rising, adjourn till Tuesday, 5 March next. (The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management)

A Debate arose thereupon.

Amendment proposed (Mr Winter)

By leaving out ‘Tuesday 5 March’ and insert instead ‘Tuesday 13 February’

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put – That the Amendment be agreed to;

The House divided.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

AYES 11

*Mr Bayley*  
*Dr Broad*  
*Ms Butler*  
*Ms Haddad*  
*Ms Johnston*  
*Mr O'Byrne*  
*Ms O'Byrne*  
*Ms White*  
*Mr Winter*  
*Dr Woodruff*  
*Ms Finlay (Teller)*

NOES 11

*Mrs Alexander*  
*Mr Barnett*  
*Mr Behrakis*  
*Mr Ellis*  
*Mr Ferguson*  
*Mr Jaensch*  
*Ms Ogilvie*  
*Mr Street*  
*Mr Tucker*  
*Mr Young*  
*Mr Wood (Teller)*

PAIRS

*Ms Dow*

*Mr Rockliff*

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The numbers being equal, I cast my vote with the Noes”.

So it passed in the Negative.

And the Main Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 11

*Mrs Alexander*  
*Mr Barnett*  
*Mr Behrakis*  
*Mr Ellis*  
*Mr Ferguson*  
*Mr Jaensch*  
*Ms Ogilvie*  
*Mr Street*  
*Mr Tucker*  
*Mr Young*  
*Mr Wood (Teller)*

NOES 11

*Mr Bayley*  
*Dr Broad*  
*Ms Butler*  
*Ms Haddad*  
*Ms Johnston*  
*Mr O'Byrne*  
*Ms O'Byrne*  
*Ms White*  
*Mr Winter*  
*Dr Woodruff*  
*Ms Finlay (Teller)*

PAIRS

*Mr Rockliff*

*Ms Dow*

SPEAKER GIVES CASTING VOTE. – The Speaker said: “The numbers being equal, I cast my vote with the Ayes”.

And so it was resolved in the Affirmative.

UNCORRECTED PROOF

**16** SITTING TIMES. - *Ordered*, That for this day's sitting the House not stand adjourned at Six o'clock and that the House continue to sit past Six o'clock. (The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management)

**17** SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS. – A Motion being made and the Question being proposed - That so much of Standing Orders be suspended as would prevent Notice of Motion 229 from being debated forthwith in accordance with Notice of Motion 228. (Ms *White*)

A Debate arose thereupon.

The House divided.

AYES 13

Mrs *Alexander*  
Mr *Bayley*  
Dr *Broad*  
Ms *Finlay*  
Ms *Haddad*  
Ms *Johnston*  
Mr *O'Byrne*  
Ms *O'Byrne*  
Mr *Tucker*  
Ms *White*  
Mr *Winter*  
Dr *Woodruff*  
Ms *Butler* (Teller)

NOES 9

Mr *Barnett*  
Mr *Behrakis*  
Mr *Ellis*  
Mr *Ferguson*  
Mr *Jaensch*  
Ms *Ogilvie*  
Mr *Street*  
Mr *Young*  
Mr *Wood* (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms *Dow*

Mr *Rockliff*

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**18** SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE. - A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—

That:—

- (1) The House notes that the Premier Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP and the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ms Jenny Gale may not have provided all relevant information to the Commission of Inquiry Scrutiny Committee hearing on 5 December 2023 in relation to the issuing of section 18 notices by the Commission of Inquiry and other matters.
- (2) The House determines that these matters require further scrutiny in the interest of properly understanding whether information was withheld from the committee or whether the committee was misled.
- (3) A Select Committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers and records, to inquire into and report upon:—
  - (a) whether the Premier, Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP, and the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Ms Jenny Gale provided all relevant information to the Commission of Inquiry Scrutiny Committee at its hearing on 5 December 2023 in relation to the issuing of section 18 notices by the Commission of Inquiry and other matters; and
  - (b) whether information was withheld from the Committee or whether the Committee was misled.



UNCORRECTED PROOF

- (4) The Committee shall consist of the following Members:—  
Mr Wood - (Chair);  
Ms Johnston – (Deputy Chair);  
Ms Dow;  
Ms White; and  
Dr Woodruff.
- (5) The Committee report by 5 March 2024.
- (6) If the House is not sitting when the Committee completes its report, such report may be presented to the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker and in that event, the report shall be deemed to have been presented to the House and ordered to be printed. (Ms White)

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

**19** LEAVE TO MAKE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE. - A Motion being made and the Question being proposed—That the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management have leave to make a Motion without Notice. (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management)

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put;

The House divided.

AYES 9

Mr Barnett  
Mr Ellis  
Mr Ferguson  
Mr Jaensch  
Ms Ogilvie  
Mr Street  
Mr Young  
Mr Wood  
Mr Behrakis (Teller)

NOES 13

Mrs Alexander  
Mr Bayley  
Dr Broad  
Ms Finlay  
Ms Haddad  
Ms Johnston  
Mr O'Byrne  
Ms O'Byrne  
Mr Tucker  
Ms White  
Mr Winter  
Dr Woodruff  
Ms Butler (Teller)

PAIRS

Ms Dow

Mr Rockliff

So it passed in the Negative.

**20** ADJOURNMENT. – A Motion being made - That the House do now adjourn (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management)

The Speaker proposed – That the House do now adjourn and called for issues to be raised;

**21** PAPERS. – The Treasurer laid upon the Table of the House the following Papers:

- (1) Answer to Question on Notice HA Nos. 96 and 97.
- (2) Answer to Question on Notice HA No. 91 of 2023.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF**

- (3) Answer to Question on Notice HA No. 92 of 2023.
- (4) Answer to Question on Notice HA No. 93 of 2023.
- (5) Answer to Question on Notice HA No. 11 of 2023.
- (6) Official Gift Register – Rockliff Government 1 November 2022 – 31 October 2023
- (7) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:- Northern Suburbs Community Recreation Hub. (No. 29)
- (8) Additional information provided to the Commission of Inquiry Scrutiny Committee by:-
  - Premier;
  - The Minister for Education, Children and Youth; and
  - The Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management.
- (9) Report of the Government Businesses Scrutiny Committee 2023.

**22** PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE: REPORT BROUGHT UP. – Ms *Butler* brought up the following Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:-

New Bridgewater Police Station. (No. 32)

Ordered, That the said Report be received and printed. (Ms *Butler*)

The House adjourned at sixteen minutes past Seven o'clock.

LAURA ROSS, *Clerk of the House.*

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MEMBERS. – All present during the day except Ms *Dow* and Mr *Rockliff*.