



# LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SESSION OF 2025 – 2026

(FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT)

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

UNCORRECTED PROOF

No. 35

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2026

**1 COUNCIL MEETS.**— The Council met at 11.00 o'clock a.m.

**2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL PEOPLE.**— The President said:

“We meet today on Tasmanian Aboriginal land. We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people and elders, past and present. We recognise them as the first inhabitants and the continuing custodians of this land.”

**3 PRAYERS AND REFLECTION.**— The President read Prayers.

**4 E-PETITION: GOVERNMENT RESPONSE.**— Ms *Ratray* laid upon the table of the Council the Government’s Response to the Honourable Member for Murchison’s (Ms Forrest’s) E-Petition supporting legislative reform to remove the 12-month limitation period in section 9A of the *Family Violence Act 2004*.

**5 LAND ACQUISITION RELATED TO MARINUS LINK AND NORTH WEST TRANSMISSION DEVELOPMENTS PROJECTS.**— Mr *Gaffney* asked the Honourable the Minister for Energy and Renewables — The March 2026 newsletter from TasNetworks states: "Of the 142 private landholders where a new easement is required, TasNetworks has achieved voluntary agreements with 97 per cent. The statutory easement acquisition process will be used for remaining landholders." Additionally, TasNetworks’ [Land Access, Land and Easement Acquisition and Compensation Process](#) fact sheet states, "TasNetworks' position is that it will only exercise statutory powers as a last resort. This option will only be considered where all alternative options have been exhausted and it is necessary to allow the timely progress of transmission projects." The same fact sheet asserts, "TasNetworks will make all attempts to negotiate a voluntary acquisition of land or easement with a landholder prior to proceeding to statutory acquisition."

Considering that planning permits granted for the North West Transmission Developments (NWTd) and Marinus Link projects are both currently under appeal, and therefore the future of these proposed developments is subject to a degree of uncertainty at the present time:

- (1) At exactly which point in the NWTd project timeline does TasNetworks intend to use its powers under the *Land Acquisition Act*?
- (2) Is the Government in a position to ensure that TasNetworks will continue to negotiate in good faith with remaining landholders to attempt to achieve a voluntary agreement?
- (3) Will the Government ensure that the *Land Acquisition Act* will not be used to acquire land or easements until such time as all necessary permits in relation to the NWTd and Marinus Link have been granted, and all appeals have been resolved, and it is certain that 'Project Marinus' will continue as intended?

The Minister answered:

TasNetworks is the proponent of the North West Transmission Developments and has provided the following response.

TasNetworks has engaged with landowners along the proposed route for the North West Transmission Developments over many years, with a clear and consistent preference to secure the land access required for the project through voluntary agreement wherever possible.

The project involves approximately 260 private landowners along the proposed route. Of the 142 private landholders where a new or amended easement is required, TasNetworks has reached voluntary agreements with 137.

This reflects a substantial and sustained engagement effort, and demonstrates that statutory acquisition has not been TasNetworks' preferred or primary pathway.

TasNetworks has worked carefully with landowners to understand their individual circumstances, property operations and concerns.

Where possible, this has resulted in practical changes to reduce impacts, including adjustments to alignment and tower placement, a reduction in the number of towers from 399 existing structures to 295 proposed structures, reductions in the width of existing easements where possible, funding for landholders to obtain independent valuation and legal advice, confirmation that eligible landowners will receive compensation under the Land Acquisition Act 1993, and the introduction of the Strategic Benefit Payment.

In December 2025, following a request from TasNetworks, the Minister for Energy and Renewables provided authorisation to TasNetworks under the Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995 to rely on statutory powers under the Land Acquisition Act 1993 to progress easement access for the North West Transmission Developments.

That authorisation was granted in relation to 50 private landholders who, at that time, had not signed voluntary agreements. Importantly, the authorisation was not a direction to immediately proceed to compulsory acquisition.

It was granted on the basis that TasNetworks would continue to exercise all reasonable endeavours to secure easement access through voluntary agreement, and would only proceed to the issue of a Notice of Acquisition where agreement could not be reached.

TasNetworks continued to negotiate following the granting of that authorisation. By the end of March 2026, the number of outstanding landholders had reduced from 50 to five. Four of these are private landholders.

TasNetworks advised Government that, despite numerous efforts to reach voluntary agreements, it had assessed that these landholders would continue to refuse to enter into voluntary agreements.

The fifth parcel involved a title where ownership records had not been updated since the 1800s. TasNetworks has not been able to locate an owner with whom agreement could be reached advised, despite efforts including engagement with the Public Trustee.

On this basis, TasNetworks resolved to rely on the statutory acquisition process for the five remaining parcels. Notices of Acquisition were gazetted on 6 May 2026, following the TasNetworks Board's financial close decision for the North West Transmission Developments project on 5 May 2026.

TasNetworks will complete the statutory processes, including settlement of compensation, in accordance with the requirements of the Land Acquisition Act 1993. TasNetworks will continue to engage respectfully with affected landholders through that process.

It is important to distinguish between securing the easements required for the project and commencing construction. Construction of the North West Transmission Developments will not commence until all regulatory and approval processes are finalised, including resolution of any appeals.

**6 CHEMICAL USE IN SCHOOLS.**— Ms *Thomas* asked the Honourable the Minister for Education — Noting the public interest in the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides on school grounds and the practice in other Australian jurisdictions to make such information readily accessible, can the Minister please outline the Department for Education, Children and Young People's approach to transparency on this issue, specifically:

- (1) Why does the Department for Education, Children and Young People not make publicly available information identifying the herbicides, pesticides and fungicides used on school grounds in Tasmania, noting that comparable information is publicly accessible in other Australian jurisdictions?
- (2) Why are the documents titled "*Chemical Spraying on Ovals and Grounds – Infosheet*" and "*Chemical and Hazardous Substances*" not available on the Department's public website, and why is the latter currently restricted to the departmental intranet?
- (3) What is the rationale for treating these documents as internal operational guidance rather than information suitable for public access, given the clear community interest in chemical use on school grounds?
- (4) Why are members of the public required to make a Right to Information request to obtain this information?
- (5) Has the Department considered proactively publishing information on the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides on school grounds, or a public summary outlining chemical use and associated safety standards? If so, what was the outcome of that consideration?
- (6) If the Department has not considered or progressed proactive publication of on the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides on school grounds, why has Tasmania adopted a different approach to transparency in this area compared to other Australian jurisdictions?

The Minister answered:

- (1) I am advised that the Department for Education, Children and Young People (the Department) manages information about the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides through a site-based approach.

The use of these substances varies between schools depending on local environmental conditions, the size and nature of school grounds, and the types of activities being undertaken.

As a result, information about chemical use is maintained locally through established mechanisms such as chemical registers, rather than as a single, centralised dataset.

I understand that in accordance with departmental procedures, information about spraying of large areas at a school site must be made available to the immediate community and staff at the school site.

I am also advised that across Australia, there is no consistent approach to publishing school level chemical usage data. Publicly accessible information typically focuses on notification of spraying, policy frameworks, and access to information on request.

- (2) I am advised that these items are operational in nature and are intended to guide staff and contractors in the safe management and use of chemicals within school workplaces and to meet their obligations under Work Health and Safety legislation.

Operational guidance is generally maintained on the Department's intranet where it supports day-to-day staff practice, is technical or procedural in nature, and requires regular updating.

- (3) As noted, in my response to the previous question, the documents referred to provide operational guidance for staff responsible for managing chemicals in workplaces.

As there is community interest in this topic area, I have asked the Department to look at how it can strengthen public-facing information including publishing a high-level summary of chemical use and safety controls.

- (4) Where information about operational matters such as the use of herbicides, pesticides and fungicides on school grounds is not publicly published or released through routine channels, it can be requested through the Right to Information process.

This process ensures that information is identified, assessed and released in a structured manner, including consideration of any legal requirements or exemptions under the Act.

Consistent with guidance from Ombudsman Tasmania, formal RTI applications are intended as a mechanism of last resort and, as already noted, I have asked the department to look at how it can

strengthen public-facing information in this area including publishing a high-level summary of chemical use and safety controls.

- (5) At present, the Department publicly publishes policy-level information outlining Work Health and Safety requirements, risk management expectations, and legislative compliance obligations.

Operational information about chemical use is currently managed through internal systems.

I again note that I have asked the Department to look at how it can strengthen public-facing information including publishing a high-level summary of chemical use and safety controls.

- (6) Approaches to publishing operational information can differ between jurisdictions, reflecting variations in policy frameworks, system design, and operational practices.

The Department's approach emphasises managing information at the site level where it is used, supporting staff to apply Work Health and Safety requirements in context, and publicly publishing policy-level information to provide overall transparency.

**7 PAPERS.**— The Deputy Clerk of the Council laid upon the Table the following Papers:—

- (1) *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. xx, Fisheries (General and Fees) Regulations 2026.
- (2) *Radiation Protection Act 2005*: Statutory Rules 2026, No. 25, Radiation Protection Regulations 2026.

**8 LEAVE TO TABLE PAPER.**— *Ms Rattray* by leave laid upon the Table correspondence from Spirit of Tasmania to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, dated 26 May 2026, regarding fuel cost variance and passenger surcharges.

**9 MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE.**— *Ordered*, That *Ms Rattray* have leave to move a Motion without Notice.

**10 LEAVE OF ABSENCE.**— *Ordered*, That the Honourable Member for Prosser (*Mr Vincent*), be granted leave of absence from the service of the Council for this day's sitting. (*Ms Rattray*)

**11 BILL NO. 7.**— The Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Amendment Bill 2026 was read the Third time and passed.

**12 BILL NO. 7.**— A Message to the House of Assembly:—

HONOURABLE SPEAKER,

The Legislative Council has this day agreed, without Amendment, to a Bill intituled, 'A Bill for an Act to amend the *Education and Care Services National Law (Application) Act 2011*'.

*Legislative Council, 28 May 2026*

*C.M. FARRELL, President*

**13 BILL NO. 10.**— The Order of the Day was read for resuming the Debate on the Question, That the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026 be now read the Second time.

The Question was again proposed, and the Council resumed the Debate.

**14 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.

**15 QUESTION TIME.**— The President called for Questions without Notice. There was one Question asked.

**16 BILL NO. 10.**— The Council resumed the Debate on the Question, That the Local Government Amendment (Targeted Reform) Bill 2026 be now read the Second time.

*Ordered*, That the Debate be adjourned. (Ms Rattray)

**17 BILL NO. 1.**— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly has agreed to the Amendments made by the Legislative Council to the Bill, intituled —

‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Building Act 2016*’.

*House of Assembly, 28 May 2026*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA *Speaker*

**18 BILL NO. 59 OF 2025.**— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Residential Tenancy Act 1997*’,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

*House of Assembly, 28 May 2026*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

*Ordered*, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. (Ms Rattray)

**19 BILL NO. 12.**— A Message from the House of Assembly:—

MR PRESIDENT,

The House of Assembly hath passed a Bill, intituled — ‘A Bill for an Act to amend the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*, the *Retirement Villages Act 2004* and the *Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020* and regulations made under that Act’,

to which the House desires the concurrence of the Legislative Council.

*House of Assembly, 28 May 2026*

JACQUIE PETRUSMA, *Speaker*

The Bill was read the First time.

*Ordered*, That the Second reading of the Bill be made an Order of the Day for Tuesday next. (Ms Rattray)

**20 ADJOURNMENT.**— *Resolved*, That the Council will, at its rising adjourn until 9.30 o'clock a.m. on Friday, 19 June 2026. (Ms Rattray)

A Motion was made (Ms Rattray) and the Question was proposed, That the Council do now adjourn.

A Debate arose thereupon.

And the Question being put,

It was resolved in the Affirmative.

The Council adjourned at 5.24 o'clock p.m.

C.L. VICKERS, *Clerk of the Council.*

*Briefing:*

- *Public Health Amendment (Prohibited Tobacco and Other Products) Bill 2026*