The Hon Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier
Attorney General
Treasurer
Minister for Justice
Level 10, 15 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

17 April 2025

Dear Deputy Premier,

Government Business Governance Reforms Bill 2025

The Public Trustee Board welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the first tranche of legislative reforms.

After reviewing the consultation draft, including the accompanying fact sheet and notes on clauses, the Board wishes to confirm its support for the Government Business Governance reforms Bill 2025. Feedback relating to each key reform is included in Appendix 1.

The Public Trustee looks forward to continuing to work constructively with Government throughout the reform process to ensure the Public Trustee continues to meet its core purpose and deliver the best services to the Tasmanian community.

Yours sincerely,

T. Taylor.

Therese Taylor
Chairperson of the Board
Public Trustee

Appendix 1

Reform	Reform Description	Public Trustee View	Public Trustee Feedback
Subject to Ministerial direction	A consistent mechanism that will require all Government businesses (both GBEs and SOCs) to comply with any lawful directions from Shareholding Ministers and a requirement for reporting of compliance with directions. A requirement for directions to be made transparent, including the requirement for directions to be tabled in Parliament and listed in the annual report of the Government business. Continuous disclosure obligations for SOCs and expanded continuous disclosure expectations for GBEs to include delivery of directions.	Supported	The Public Trustee is of the view consultation prior to any Direction is an essential component in the process. It affords the Board with the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Minister including important information pertinent to any direction and will ultimately result in achieving the best outcome when resolving disputes or issues.
Statement of corporate intent	The approval process and expectations in relation to the annual Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI), including the requirement that it be made public on the website of the Government business.	Supported	No further feedback.
Half yearly progress reports	A requirement for all Government businesses to publicly release a half-year progress report.	Supported	The Public Trustee currently prepares half-yearly reporting including performance against its KPI's. It is suggested that existing reporting be utilised wherever possible, to avoid placing any unnecessary reporting obligations on organisations.
Director term limits	A limit of two terms for directors and chairs of Government businesses unless approved due to exceptional circumstances. Any additional terms approved beyond the limit will need to be made transparent, including a requirement to table a notice in Parliament.	Supported	The Public Trustee suggests greater clarity would be beneficial including defining what period constitutes a term and whether a term resets e.g. when during a term a director takes up the position of Chairperson. Updated guidelines would be sufficient to provide this.

Shareholder Minister roles cannot be undertaken by the same person	A requirement that the two Shareholding Minister roles cannot be undertaken by the same person, with an exception allowed for the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation.	Supported	No further feedback
Sponsorship	A requirement for all Government businesses to establish and publicly release a sponsorship framework that complies with Treasurer's Instructions and any regulations issued.	Supported	The Public Trustee does not currently have any sponsorships that are considered material. It suggests the inclusion of a 'materiality' threshold along with a requirement to only report when the threshold is exceeded would be beneficial removing any unnecessary reporting obligations placed on smaller organisations.