



Australian
Institute of
Architects

TAS

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13 December 2024

Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Hon. Guy Barnett MP
Deputy Premier and Treasurer
Shareholder Policy and Markets Branch
Department of Treasury and Finance
GPO Box 147
Hobart TAS 7001

By email to: governmentbusinesses@treasury.tas.gov.au

Re: Government Business Governance Reform

Dear Premier and Deputy Premier,

On behalf of the members of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the *Government Business Governance Reform Draft Plan* (the Plan). We would also like to thank you for the invitation for Jennifer to attend the roundtable in Launceston on Tuesday 5 November, and for the invitation to be part of the Industry Reference Group.

The Tasmanian Chapter is committed to helping create a positive future for our state that benefits all Tasmanians. The Institute advocates for the built environment, and works to shape policies, foster collaboration, and promote design excellence that benefits society as a whole. Architects play a central role in the building and construction industry. They focus on city making and making strategic decisions for projects and the broader community in all aspects of projects they work on. They also coordinate the many consultant groups that contribute to complex projects, so have the skills to bring together all perspectives into a coordinated approach to problem-solving, creating innovative and sustainable solutions. The value of this skill-set cannot be overlooked; it creates efficiencies, recognises and maximises opportunities and delivers innovation and solutions. It ensures cities and their infrastructure will support development into the future.

The Institute's policy team has reviewed the Plan and provides the following comments in relation to section 5: 'Reviewing the Government business portfolio,' if the Government is considering whether public ownership of business remains appropriate, or whether there should be any businesses should be divested.

If Tasmanian Government Businesses are moved into private ownership, this would have the potential to remove or reduce positive obligations placed upon Tasmanian Government Businesses to maximise the fiscal, private sector business, local employment and social outcomes for Tasmania. These could include bypassing:

- a) [Buying For Government](#) guidelines and tools in relation to government purchasing processes. This includes pre-qualification processes and even mandating use of Tasmanian Government procurement contracts.
- b) [Tasmania's Buy Local Policy](#)

There is also the potential to reduce service obligations as in the high profile often cited instances of Telstra and QANTAS where the partial privatisation results in more wholly commercial based decisions. However, it is well understood that in many sectors, where there are geographic factors or a small market, market failure has the potential to be created and fully private interests withdraw. In these cases, governments need to maintain a presence in ownership to ensure communities are adequately serviced. Once an entity is fully divested or privatised, it is largely out of government control in this regard.

Thank you for including the Institute in this important discussion. A well designed and coordinated plan for Tasmania is vital to maximise opportunity and ensure we have considered and efficient infrastructure that services Tasmanians well into the future.

We look forward to continuing to work together to create a positive future for our state. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any of the points raised further.

Kind regards,



Daniel Lane
President, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects



Jennifer Nichols
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 14,600 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to www.architecture.com.au.