Independent RTI Review Response
Action Plan

Tasmanian Government

Background

An Independent Review was established to assess whether Tasmania's Right to Information (RTI) framework remains fit for purpose and to identify structural, legislative, and administrative changes that will modernise the public information landscape to ensure continued delivery of a transparent, efficient, and effective RTI regime for all Tasmanians.

The appointed Reviewers undertook broad consultation with the Tasmanian community and government. The Reviewers also reviewed recommendations and findings made through other reviews and inquiries in making their recommendations. The Final Report, titled Getting Back on Track was released in September 2025.

It highlights several areas of strength across the Tasmanian Government. It acknowledges the professionalism and dedication of RTI delegates, the commitment to public service values, and successful examples of proactive disclosure and improvement already evident in RTI processes, including the recently delivered RTI Uplift Project.

It also provides suggestions for improvement, combining practical administrative improvements with longer-term legislative and cultural initiatives. Its recommendations are designed to further enhance the government's culture of openness and transparency, improve agency and delegated officer capability, and increase public trust through efficient and accessible information practices.

The Tasmanian Government released a Response to the Review, which committed to delivering a staged agenda that begins with further strengthening leadership accountability, building agency capability, and embedding a consistent pro-disclosure culture across the State Service to allow for enduring legislative reform. The response indicated which recommendations were committed to, and what actions were intended to be taken.

Since the Response was released, a cross-agency RTI Improvement Steering Committee has been established to further plan and oversee the response.

This Action Plan provides details of what action has been taken so far, what action will be taken, and when it will be taken to improve RTI in Tasmania, encompassing the recommendations of the RTI Review that were accepted by Government.

The Tasmanian Ombudsman had four recommendations, and the progress towards these actions can be found in its action plan.

Our Vision

Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Culture	Transparency is embedded within public authorities, with senior executives championing openness, proactive and responsive disclosure, and the objectives of the *Right to Information Act 2009*.
Focus Area 2 – Monitoring and Accountability	Government leaders will take accountability for delivering implementation of committed to recommendations through the RTI Improvement Steering Committee. We will report on progress of implementation.
Focus Area 3 – Accessible Disclosure	We will standardise disclosure logs, improve accessibility, and continue to identify opportunities for proactive disclosure.
Focus Area 4 – Capability and Support	We will continue to support the delivery of whole-of-government training and resources to strengthen right to information decision-making and support employees managing complex requests.
Focus Area 5 – Legislative Reform	We will update the *Right to Information Act 2009* and related frameworks, through staged reforms that enhance clarity and efficiency.

Actions

Focus Area 1 – Leadership and Culture

Transparency is embedded within public authorities, with senior executives championing openness, proactive and responsive disclosure, and the objectives of the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Completed

Action	Outcome	What has been delivered?	Rec(s)
Principal officers, who hold responsibility for the exercise of functions and powers under the *Right to Information Act 2009*, are measured for their agency's RTI performance against specific indicators.	RTI performance is treated as a priority within Tasmanian State Service agencies.	Head of Agency performance agreements were updated in December 2024 to assess performance against: • Compliance with statutory timeframes for acceptance of applications. • Ensuring information responsive to RTI requests is delivered to the RTI delegate within agreed timeframes. • Releasing decisions within statutory timeframes. • Increasing active and routine disclosures	12, 13
Clear and public endorsement supporting the objectives of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, and the mainstreaming of transparency by the Premier and Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet	The Tasmanian State Service has a clear and unambiguous mandate to advance the objects of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and prioritise information transparency.	The Premier and the Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet (as Chair of the Secretaries Board) have signed and released a Statement of Commitment which acknowledges the necessity of transparency and commits to achieving it through key actions.	11
Programmed release of Cabinet information	Final Cabinet decision summaries are now published online monthly. Cabinet Minutes, Cabinet Briefs, Final Bill Briefings, and Government Appointments summaries are now available.	From October 2026, summaries of final Cabinet decisions have been disclosed monthly on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.	14, 15

	Some exemptions to release will apply, including matters of national security, matters covered by legal privilege, commercially sensitive information, personal information of individuals, and negotiations between governments.		

Focus Area 2 – Monitoring and Accountability

Government leaders will take accountability for delivering implementation of committed to recommendations through the RTI Improvement Steering Committee. We will report on progress of implementation.

Completed

Action	Outcome	What has been delivered?	Rec(s)
A Steering Committee has been established with Terms of Reference that make the Committee responsible for overseeing the response to the Independent Review.	A group of appropriately senior State Servants will be accountable for providing subject matter expertise to assist with delivery of committed to recommendations, as well as being accountable for delivery.	A group of senior executives from across Government has been established to provide advice and take accountability for the delivery of committed to recommendations. That Committee's Terms of Reference require them to oversee the implementation of the response.	19
The RTI Improvement Steering Committee's meeting minutes will be published online within a week of its meetings.	The Committee's minutes will be publicly available within a short time frame from meetings to allow for maximum scrutiny.	Minutes are available on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website within 5 workings days of publication.	21

Ongoing

Action	Outcome	Deliverable(s)	Lead	Timeframe	Rec(s)
Surveys will be conducted with RTI users and any other interested parties in 2029	The Government will evaluate whether the actions taken through the response to the RTI Review have been effective in improving the experience of accessing government-held information by seeking views directly from those with that experience.	2029 survey delivered to RTI users	DPFEM	Delivery by June 2029	22

Focus Area 3 – Accessible Disclosure

We will standardise disclosure logs, improve accessibility, and continue to identify opportunities for proactive disclosure.

Completed

Action	Outcome	What has been delivered?	Rec(s)
Continuing to expand the amount of information routinely disclosed across the Tasmanian Government.	Increasing amounts of Government information are proactively disclosed, without the need for someone to request it. Information that the public is frequently interested in is released routinely where legally possible.	The Department of Premier and Cabinet facilitates twice yearly routine disclosures across Government in April and October. Agencies are now routinely increasing the types of information they actively release – examples include monthly ministerial diaries, contemporaneous legal fees for Ministers or Members of Parliament or Cabinet information disclosure. The request that goes out to government now includes an explicit request for agencies to identify new information to be disclosed. Not all government information can be disclosed due to legal restrictions that protect personal privacy, the commercial interests of organisations, and the interests of the State. However, the Government commits to de-identifying and disclosing information that is of interest to the public where possible.	2
More information and explanations have been provided on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website to help people understand how and why decisions are made under the	People understand why requested information has not been released, and what redactions on disclosures mean. People understand that not all government-held information can be	The Department of Premier and Cabinet website has been updated to include easy to understand explanations about how the RTI process works, who	7, 8, 9

Right to Information Act 2009.	released and appreciate the complexity of decision-making under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and other legislation which impacts information disclosure.	makes decisions, and how those decisions are made.	

Ongoing

Action	Outcome	Deliverable(s)	Lead	Timeframe	Rec(s)
Disclosure logs will be reviewed and updated to ensure information disclosed is current, consistent and helpful and that The design of Government disclosure logs will be standardised and improved, utilising new technological solutions where possible	Disclosure logs on Departments' websites will be consistent and provide helpful information.	• Options paper on the design of Government disclosure logs • Consistent departmental websites	DPAC/NRE Tas	Delivery by June 2028	3, 5. 6

Focus Area 4 – Capability and Support

We will continue to support the delivery of whole-of-government training and resources to strengthen right to information decision-making and support employees managing complex requests.

Completed

Action	Outcome	What has been delivered?	Rec(s)
Training packages developed through the Right to Information Uplift Project have been adopted by all Departments and most public authorities	Officers across government have access to training on information management. RTI delegates have access to training on how to apply the *Right to Information Act 2009*	In October 2025, training packages developed through the Right to Information Uplift Project were shared with all interested public authorities to be accessed through that authority's learning management system. Where public authorities do not have their own learning management system, they are being provided access to another public authority's system for training relevant staff.	17

Ongoing

Action	Outcome	Deliverable(s)	Lead	Timeframe	Rec(s)
Departments will embed trauma-informed approaches to the management of RTI applications and align, where appropriate, to the State Service-wide Trauma-Informed Knowledge and Skills Framework	A culture of understanding, support, and recovery will be fostered, ensuring employees can respond effectively and compassionately in a range of circumstances, including right to information. Agencies that respond to requests from victim-survivors will improve the trauma-informed information on their websites. Policies and procedures will be updated with trauma-informed language.	Public facing documents and websites will be updated with trauma informed language Relevant staff will receive trauma informed practice training	DECYP	Delivery by June 2027	26

Focus Area 5 – Legislative Reform

We will amend the *Right to Information Act 2009* and related frameworks, through staged reforms that enhance clarity and efficiency.

Ongoing

Action	Outcome	Deliverable(s)	Lead	Timeframe	Rec(s)
The *Right to Information Act 2009* and other associated pieces of legislation will be amended.	The *Right to Information Act 2009* will be amended to implement a range of reforms to improve the operation of the Act, including to legislate a publication scheme of information in accessed documents, modernise the refusal of repeat or vexatious applications and improve the interaction between the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* and the *Right to Information Act 2009*.	Bill to amend *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*	DoJ	Delivery by June 2028	10, 29(1)-(2), 31, 32, 43[1]

[1] Opportunities for improvement identified in recommendations 27 and 28 are being considered through the Commission of Inquiry response and are not included in this Action Plan.