



Strengthening Transparency: Continuously Improving Tasmania's Right to Information Framework

Tasmanian Government Response to the Independent
Review of Tasmania's Right to Information Framework

March 2026

OFFICIAL

Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this land, we acknowledge and pay our respects to all Aboriginal people, the traditional owners of this Country, and recognise their continuing connection to Land, Sea, Waterways and Sky. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and acknowledge and value their contribution and cultural knowledge.



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Foreword

Transparency plays a pivotal role in building public trust and supporting good governance. The Tasmanian Government recognises that openness is a shared responsibility that underpins accountability and helps ensure Tasmanians can feel confident in the decisions that shape their lives.

The Tasmanian Government has been committed to improving transparency since 2014, evidenced through the transparency agenda. We've delivered key reforms, such as publishing Ministerial diaries and information provided through right to information online, increasing routine disclosures, and reforming electoral donation laws.

Getting Back on Track, the Independent Review of Tasmania's Right to Information (RTI) Framework confirms Tasmania's RTI legislation is fundamentally sound while highlighting opportunities to improve processes and embed cultural change. It recognises the progress made through transparency agenda initiatives such as the whole-of-government RTI Uplift Project, new training modules developed with the University of Tasmania, and performance measures for senior leaders.

These findings reflect the government's commitment to making it easier for Tasmanians to access the information they need, and we will continue to build on this foundation using the practical suggestions provided through the Review.

The Government sincerely thanks Professor Tim McCormack and Associate Professor Rick Snell for their expertise, thoughtful analysis, and commitment to engaging widely with the Tasmanian community.

The Government has carefully considered all 43 recommendations in the Independent RTI Review. Our response sets out a program that strengthens leadership accountability, improves capability across the State Service, and commits to legislative changes that will modernise the RTI framework. This will ensure that government-held information is managed as a public asset and stewarded responsibly with the public interest being a core focus.

We acknowledge the need to drive change within a fiscally constrained environment. That is why this response prioritises practical actions that deliver real benefits for the Tasmanian community.



Executive Summary

In December 2024, the Tasmanian Government engaged Professor Tim McCormack and Adjunct Professor Rick Snell to undertake a review of Tasmania's Right to Information (RTI) Framework.

The Review involved consultation with more than 75 individuals and organisations, including government departments, local councils, major political parties, community members and frequent users of the RTI system. The Reviewers also considered previous reports and inquiries, including those undertaken by the Integrity Commission, the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings, and the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute.

The Review's Final Report makes 43 recommendations for structural and operational improvement, including short-term administrative enhancements and longer-term legislative reforms.

In response to the Review, the Tasmanian Government will deliver 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 implementation of review recommendations will be driven through the establishment of a cross-agency governance framework, including a RTI Improvement Steering Committee.

In line with the proposed short and longer-term/legislative timeframes set out in the Review's Final Report, the Government will prioritise implementation of operational recommendations, specifically administrative and cultural change that deliver ongoing positive impact and create the conditions for longer-term success. These include:

- Reinforcing transparency as a leadership responsibility, reflected in performance measures.
- Supporting and enhancing RTI delegated officer capability through targeted training and professional development.
- Promoting consistent practices and improved responsiveness and service delivery across agencies.

These measures build on progress already underway through the recent RTI Uplift Project, which focussed on improving the way people can seek and obtain information held by the Tasmanian Government. A focus on leadership, capability and access will lay the groundwork for longer term improvements and future legislative and structural changes.



About the Independent Review

The Review was established to assess whether Tasmania's Right to Information 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 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 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.

Findings and Recommendations

The Report makes 43 recommendations, grouped across key areas, which the Review has determined requires targeted improvement over suggested short and longer-term timeframes. These include:

- **Disclosures:** ensuring information is routinely published through consistent, searchable disclosure logs.
- **Culture:** embedding transparency within organisations, making senior executives accountable for openness, and promoting leadership that champions proactive disclosure.
- **Legislative reform:** modernising the Right to Information Act and related frameworks to address emerging challenges and ensure the legislative environment supports transparency and accountability.
- **Vexatious and problematic use of RTI:** proposing measures to manage problematic or vexatious use of RTI processes, balancing applicant rights with staff wellbeing and system integrity.
- **The Ombudsman:** reinforcing the Ombudsman's critical role by clarifying functions and improving guidance.

The Report emphasises the importance of continuous improvement, advocating phased implementation, regular review, and an enduring commitment to a culture of openness.



What We Are Doing Already

Since March 2014, the Government has committed to improve the openness and accountability of government decision-making through what has become known as the Government's Transparency Agenda. Key reforms delivered under the Transparency Agenda include:

- publishing Right to Information (RTI) responses online within 48 hours of release to applicants;
- increasing the number of routine disclosures of information;
- launching the Government Information Gateway on DPAC's website to make proactively disclosed government information easier to find;
- publicly reporting gifts, benefits and hospitality received and given by officers across all agencies at least quarterly on agency websites;
- implementing a public submissions publication policy requiring agencies to publish all submissions received in response to major policy and legislation reviews;
- reforming electoral donation disclosure requirements by lowering the disclosure threshold, introducing expenditure caps, and prohibiting certain foreign donations;
- delegating ministerial responsibilities under the *Right to Information Act 2009* to departmental officers;
- improving the integrity of parliamentary decision-making by expanding the disclosure of spouse interests and financial information through amendments to the *Parliamentary (Disclosures of Interest) Act 1996*, and requiring disclosures to be published on the Parliament's website;
- updating the Ministerial Code of Conduct and supporting the Parliament's adoption of a new Member' Code of Conduct;
- inviting public submissions on the publication of ministerial diaries and the level of detail expected by the community, supported by a discussion paper and a subsequent report on findings;
- progressing legislative reform arising from the Commission of Inquiry and other legislative programs that have synergies with information sharing;
- rolling out training on managing, disclosing and protecting government information for all new Tasmanian State Service employees and training for all Right to Information delegated officers.



The Right to Information Uplift Project

The flagship initiative of the Government's transparency agenda is the Right to Information (RTI) Uplift Project, which commenced in 2023. This project has delivered targeted reforms to strengthen RTI practice across the Tasmanian State Service and improve public access to information.

Three key initiatives have been implemented under this project:

1. Capability Development for RTI Delegated Officers

The Government has introduced a comprehensive online training module for RTI delegated officers, developed in partnership with the University of Tasmania. This module provides practical guidance on applying exemptions under the RTI Act and includes advice on maintaining wellbeing in a role that can be complex and demanding, an issue acknowledged by the Independent Reviewers.

The training has been rolled out across the Tasmanian State Service and is now being extended to other public authorities, including local councils and government business enterprises, to maximise benefits statewide.

2. Whole-of-Government Information Management Training

Additional training modules, also developed with the University of Tasmania, provide guidance on managing, protecting, and disclosing information. These modules inform State Service officers of their obligations under the RTI Act, the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004* (PIP Act), and the *Archives Act 1983*.

This training is incorporated into induction programs for new employees and is available to all existing staff to reinforce their role as custodians of public information.

3. Information Disclosure Policy and Procedures

The final deliverable of the RTI Uplift Project is a whole-of-government Information Disclosure Policy and supporting procedures. These provide consistent guidance for officers on managing the disclosure of information and have been implemented across the State Service.

The Independent Reviewers noted these initiatives as positive steps toward cultural and systemic change in their Final Report.



What We Will Do Next

Implementing the Review's supported recommendations will strengthen the Tasmanian State Service's ability to deliver high-quality services and enhance support for Government decision-making. The pace and scope of implementation will be guided by prioritisation and prevailing fiscal constraints.

The following measures will be delivered as initial implementation priorities.



Disclosure Logs

Disclosure Logs are a main gateway to accessing government information. Currently the Department of Premier and Cabinet administers a whole of government Information Gateway to enhance the Tasmanian's community access to information. This Information Gateway will be improved to ensure more government information is provided and that greater consistency is achieved amongst agencies through the provision of consistent and user-friendly templates and formats in plain English.

Greater information will be published on publicly available websites about how decisions are made under the RTI Act and how to interpret redactions in disclosure logs. The accessibility and searchability of documents uploaded on the disclosure logs will be improved by converting the documents into searchable PDFs (before uploading).

Requests that are not overly lengthy can be published in full where there are no privacy or commercial sensitivities contained within the request. Disclosure logs will be standardised across departments.

Implementation Governance

An RTI Improvement Steering Committee will be formed to coordinate priority work and provide advice regarding implementation progress through existing governance structures overseen by the Secretaries Board.

Ombudsman's Office

The Government will review its investment in the Right to Information operational framework and the Office of the Tasmanian Ombudsman as part of its budget process. There will be ongoing engagement with the Ombudsman to ensure that training and guidance is delivered to public authorities is supported and delivered.

Leadership

The accountability and stewardship responsibilities of Ministers and Heads of Agency will be reinforced through performance measures linked to promoting transparency and open government. The Secretaries Board will support whole of government efforts to identify and share best practices for improving access to information.

Legislative reforms

Review recommendations relate to approximately 40 separate legislative reforms ranging in complexity from minor to substantial amendments. The Government will undertake further analysis in relation to implementation of the recommendations and how these interact with recommendations of other reviews. The Government intends to progress many reforms in the short term. However, implementation of the more complex and inter-related reforms will require a longer period.



Broadly, the legislative recommendations have synergies with Commission of Inquiry recommendations, the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute Review of Privacy Laws in Tasmania and other government projects on information sharing. Consideration will be given to how these legislative recommendations can be best implemented in alignment with related work underway.

Supporting RTI Delegated Officers

The Government acknowledges the vital role RTI delegated officers play in safeguarding transparency and accountability. These professionals manage complex requests and provide essential support to principal officers in meeting statutory obligations under the RTI Act. The Tasmanian Government strongly endorses the Review's focus on building capability and ensuring officers have the tools, guidance, and wellbeing support needed to apply the Act with confidence and consistency.

Working Together

The Tasmanian Government recognises that strengthening the RTI framework is a shared priority.

In developing this response, agencies have worked collaboratively under the oversight of the Secretaries Board to assess recommendations and consider prioritisation, feasibility, and alignment with related work. Input and feedback from the Tasmanian Ombudsman and the Reviewers have informed Government's implementation considerations, reinforcing a commitment to shared approaches.

The Government is committed to ensuring that leadership accountability, consistent practices, and whole-of-government coordination underpin these improvements, reflecting our collective responsibility for managing information on behalf of the people of Tasmania.



Response To Review Recommendations

Glossary of Government Response Terms

The following terms are used to indicate the Government's position on each recommendation.

Supported: The Government agrees with the recommendation and intends to implement it within the suggested timeframe.

Support in Principle: The Government agrees with the intent or objectives of the recommendation but will determine the most appropriate method and timing for implementation. Operational details, feasibility, resourcing and/or sequencing require further consideration.

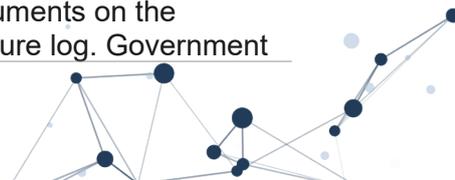
Noted: The Government acknowledges the recommendation but does not commit to implementing it at this time. Reasons may include legislative constraints, policy conflicts, resource implications, or alternative approaches being preferred. Further analysis or consultation may be required, or the recommendation may not align with current priorities.

Disclosures

No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
1	The Ombudsman should issue a guideline for the establishment and maintenance of Disclosure Logs that incorporates the Best Practice Guidelines from the Australian Information Commissioner and other Australian jurisdictions.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports in principle the development of a high-level Ombudsman guideline on disclosure logs, noting that disclosure logs are not mandated under the RTI Act and public authorities cannot be compelled to maintain them. Any guideline would therefore be advisory in nature and intended to assist agencies that choose to maintain disclosure logs, rather than impose mandatory requirements.
2	Expand number and types of routine disclosures made available via the Government Information Gateway.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports expanding routine disclosures where appropriate and remains committed to identifying new information sets where possible, particularly key service-related data. An ongoing consideration for implementation is the balancing of resources and practical considerations.
3	Public authorities should regularly update and check the currency of information being published on Disclosure Logs.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the principle of ensuring disclosure logs do not contain outdated or misleading material. Agencies will consider practical approaches, such as setting appropriate timeframes for removal of published items, to ensure relative currency of information disclosed.
4	The proposed 'Right to Information – Information Disclosure Policy' requires the recording of searches and the provision of those searches (with any redactions) to applicants.	Noted	NA	Government notes the recommendation and acknowledges the intent to improve transparency through recording searches undertaken for RTI applications. Further analysis is required to assess the practical benefits, potential impacts on RTI processes, and whether guidelines or alternative approaches



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
				would provide value without creating additional administrative complexity.
5	Right to Information webpages and Disclosure Logs should be consistent between government departments. A single portal, with searchable text administered by a single agency would be of significant benefit.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government acknowledges the intent of this recommendation and supports achieving greater consistency across agency RTI webpages and disclosure logs. In the short term this could be achieved through cross-agency collaboration. Further consideration is required regarding single portal or alternative approaches, as such initiatives will have considerable financial, resourcing, IT system and security implications.
6	Tasmania should adopt the design elements suggested by the Australian Information Commissioner for Information published in Disclosure Logs. More specifically, implementing an icon on department webpages that links to Disclosure Logs, ensuring all documents are searchable, including more context for each application for assessed disclosure.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports in principle the adoption of design elements to improve accessibility, transparency and usability of disclosure logs. Further work is required to assess IT system capability, technical feasibility and security considerations, address limitations with scanned documents, and evaluate the resourcing implications of providing additional context information.
7	Public authorities should consistently explain why information has been redacted (for example, what exemptions have been claimed) in their Disclosure logs.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government will publish detailed explanations on how assessments are made under the RTI Act that will aid in understanding why redactions have been made of documents on the disclosure log. Government will also continue to provide detailed reasons for decisions to applicants who have requested information.
8	If an exemption has a public interest test, public authorities should outline the key public interest factors supporting non-release of that information in their Disclosure Logs.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government will publish detailed explanations on how assessments are made under the RTI Act that will aid in understanding why redactions have been made to documents on the disclosure log. Government



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
				will also continue to provide detailed reasons for decisions to applicants who have requested information.
9	Public authorities' disclosure logs should include an explanation (in plain English) of what exemptions exist under the RTI Act.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government will publish detailed explanations on how assessments are made under the RTI Act that will aid in understanding why redactions have been made to documents on the disclosure log. Government will also continue to provide detailed reasons for decisions to applicants who have requested information.
10	The RTI Act be amended to add a section along the lines of section 11C of the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> (Cth).	Supported in principle	Long term	<p>Government supports in principle exploring legislative options to strengthen transparency through disclosure logs and will work through this potential reform with public authorities.</p> <p>Government notes that the Report indicates this requirement should not be compulsory for local government.</p>



Culture

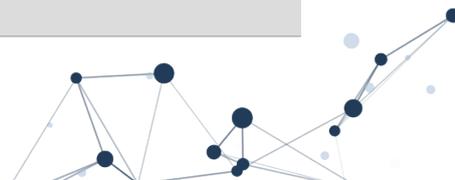
No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
11	Clear and public endorsement supporting the objectives of the RTI Act and the mainstreaming of transparency by the Premier and Secretary of Department of Premier and Cabinet (endorsed by the Secretaries Board).	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the recommendation and reaffirms that transparency and accountability are fundamental to public trust and good governance. The Government is committed to embedding openness as a core value across the State Service and strengthening the Right to Information framework to meet community expectations.
12	The Right to Information Key Performance Indicators in Performance Development Plans for Heads of Agency to be extended to all Senior Executive Service Staff.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports strengthened transparency through performance measures and has already embedded RTI-specific KPIs in Heads of Agency performance development frameworks. Heads of Agency play the most critical role in ensuring RTI compliance and transparency, and they are accordingly best placed to have RTI-specific KPIs.
13	RTI initiatives including RTI Act and PIP Act performance measures for Heads of Agencies and Senior Executive Service staff should be updated on agency websites every three months.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the intent to strengthen transparency through performance measures but notes that RTI-specific KPIs are most appropriately applied to Heads of Agency, where they are already embedded. While senior executives can influence culture and proactive disclosure within their remit, they generally do not control RTI decisions. Consideration will be given through the Secretaries Board can engage senior executives in fostering a stronger transparency culture across the State Service.
14	Programmed release of Cabinet Information after 10 years subject to relevant exemptions under the RTI Act.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Consistent with Australian Government practice, Government will explore mechanisms for release of Cabinet information after 20 years. Government supports in principle the programmed release of Cabinet information



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
				after an appropriate period, subject to RTI Act exemptions. Consideration is required on implementation, safeguards (where appropriate) and resourcing implications.
15	Adoption of a policy requiring all Cabinet submissions, agendas, and decision papers (and appendices) to be proactively released and published online within 30 business days of a final decision being taken by Cabinet, subject only to a number of reasonable exceptions which should be outlined in the policy.	Noted	NA	Cabinet confidentiality ensures Ministers can debate freely and frankly without fear of public reprisal. It is essential that material which comes before Cabinet is drafted to permit the careful deliberation by the Cabinet of policy options and associated advantages, disadvantages and impacts. The Government does not support changing this convention.
16	More resources, training (including in person), support and staff development for RTI delegated officers.	Supported	Ongoing	Government supports ongoing training and resources for RTI delegated officers, while noting current fiscal constraints. Training materials developed and released in 2025 for public authority professionals provide a strong foundation for training materials. Future efforts should build on these resources. The Ombudsman has a clear role under s 49 of the RTI Act to issue and maintain a manual and guidelines.
17	The adoption and roll out of the current training packages currently being prepared by the RTI Uplift Project Steering Committee.	Supported	Complete	Training packages have been developed and rolled out across the Tasmanian State Service to embed consistency and improve delegate confidence, with departments prioritising implementation for new staff and delegates. The training packages have also been provided to other public authorities, such as councils and government business enterprises, to ensure as many delegates can benefit from the training as possible.
18	The development of further training packages, especially with a focus on the <i>RTI Act</i> and the PIP Act for local government.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports in principle the development of targeted training materials for local government where appropriate, while noting that ongoing resourcing constraints require that training be delivered in the most efficient



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
				manner and led by the Ombudsman under s 49 of the RTI Act. Training materials released in 2025 were provided to the Local Government Association of Tasmania for adaptation for local government purposes.
19	The Terms of Reference for the RTI Uplift Project Steering Committee should be updated to include taking into account the findings of this Review.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	The RTI Uplift Project Steering Committee was wound down as the conclusion of the project. An RTI Improvement Steering Committee will be formed to ensure the most effective alignment within the existing broader governance arrangements of the Tasmanian State Service.
20	There should be local government and citizen representation on the RTI Uplift Project Steering Committee.	Noted	NA	Government will consider and provide opportunities for other public authorities and members of the public to have input into changes made in RTI.
21	The RTI Uplift Project should publish its minutes within a week of its meetings.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	The revised implementation committee will publish minutes within a week of its meetings.
22	The RTI Uplift Project should conduct applicant and RTI delegated officer surveys 12 months after the release of this report to ascertain what changes, if any, have occurred in RTI Act and PIP Act practice both within the Tasmanian State Service and at the local government level.	Supported in principle	Long term	Surveys will be conducted 3 years after the release of the report to ensure accurate evaluation of improvements.
23	A specialised unit of seconded experienced RTI delegated officers be established to help address surges in workloads, assist with the development of training and assist in various cross-government initiatives in information sharing and management. Our preference would be for this unit to be under the direction of the Ombudsman but	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government is considering ways to improve efficiency and staff capability by sharing resources for functions. To ensure the independence of decision making for both the delegates and the Ombudsman as the potential reviewer, any specialised RTI unit will not be under the direction of the Ombudsman.



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	alternately, the Unit could be incorporated into the RTI Uplift Project reporting to the RTI Uplift Project Steering Committee or reporting directly to a committee of the Secretaries Board.			



Intersection with other legislative frameworks

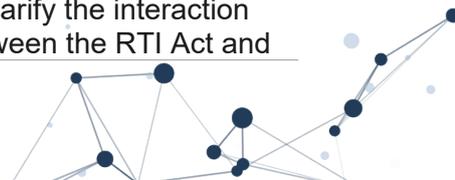
No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
24	Develop and publish whole-of-government guidance led by the appropriate authority (for example, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Office of the State Archivist) to clarify how public authorities should interpret and apply the RTI Act when it intersects with other legislative frameworks. In particular, there should be guidance on interactions with the PIP Act, <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002</i> as well as sector-specific legislation including the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and other relevant Acts. Guidance should address common areas of uncertainty, set out principles for resolving conflicts, and provide examples to ensure consistent and transparent practice across the public sector.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the development of guidance to clarify intersections between legislation. The Ombudsman intends to include guidance on this subject in future training materials
25	Strengthen capability and resourcing - specifically in relation to the intersection between the RTI Act and PIP Act - to meet demand: 25.1 Develop and deliver consistent, practical training and guidance on the interaction between the RTI Act and the PIP Act for all public authorities. 25.2 Provide targeted funding to agencies with high volumes of personal information requests (for example, Department of Health, Department for Education, Children and Young People, and Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management) to support timely processing and improve compliance with statutory obligations.	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports in principle strengthening capability and resourcing to address the RTI-PIP intersection, noting governance and budget constraints. Consistent training, led by the Ombudsman and building on 2025 initiatives, is supported. Targeted funding for high-volume agencies is acknowledged but must be considered through normal budget processes.
26	Improve the public experience of accessing personal information:	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports improving access to personal information through clearer guidance,



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	<p>26.1 Ensure all public authorities provide clear, consistent, and accessible public information on how to request personal information, including plain-language guidance, downloadable forms, contact details and an explanation of rights under the PIP Act.</p> <p>26.2 Require all agencies—particularly those dealing with sensitive matters or victim-survivors—to embed trauma-informed approaches in how they manage personal information requests. This includes respectful communication, appropriate support, and minimising re-traumatisation.</p>			streamlined processes, and potential legislative reform, while ensuring consistency across agencies. This includes embedding trauma-informed approaches under the State Service-wide Trauma-Informed Knowledge and Skills Framework, which is being implemented to foster a culture of understanding, support, and recovery, ensuring employees can respond effectively and compassionately in a range of circumstances.
27	<p>Undertake a review specifically targeted at identifying and resolving areas of inconsistency or overlap across the various legislative and regulatory frameworks relevant to the operation and oversight of the Tasmanian public sector. This includes, but is not limited to: <i>Right to Information Act 2009</i> (Tas); <i>Personal Information Protection Act 2004</i> (Tas); <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002</i> (Tas); <i>Health Complaints Act 1995</i> (Tas); <i>Archives Act 1983</i> (Tas); <i>Ombudsman Act 1978</i> (Tas); <i>Integrity Commission Act 2009</i> (Tas); <i>State Service Act 2000</i> (Tas); <i>Parliamentary Privilege Act 1858</i> (Tas); <i>Parliamentary (Disclosure of Interests) Act 1996</i> (Tas); <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (Tas); <i>Government Business Enterprises Act 1995</i> (Tas). This review should provide options to remedy any inconsistencies (including ensuring consistent definitions across different Acts), clarify the hierarchy of obligations where statutes intersect, and ensure that any sector-specific</p>	Noted	NA	Consideration of the interactions and inconsistencies between pieces of legislation and associated reform planning is already progressing through other initiatives, such as the Commission of Inquiry Response. This recommendation will be addressed through existing programs of work.



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	Acts align coherently with broader legislative frameworks.			
28	<p>Establish a new, dedicated and comprehensive framework for individuals seeking access to their own personal information held by public authorities. Access should be mandatory (not discretionary) and subject to limited appropriate exceptions. Any new process must be person-centred, and trauma informed. It should include clear provisions for redaction, third-party privacy, enforceable timeframes, and robust review rights. The PIP Act is the logical location for such a framework. However, this would require substantial reform of the Act, particularly in light of the recommendations for reforming the PIP Act made by the Tasmania Law Reform Institute in its recent Review of Privacy Laws in Tasmania. Critically, any new access pathway must be designed to complement, not compete with, the RTI Act, to ensure clarity and avoid duplication. The new information access scheme should be administered and overseen by the proposed new Information Commissioner (see Recommendation 42).</p>	Supported in principle	Long term/ legislative	Government supports in principle a person-centred, trauma-informed framework for accessing personal information, noting this requires complex legislative reform, alignment with RTI and PIP, and significant resourcing. Further work is needed to clarify scope and practical implementation.
29	<p>Unless and until Recommendation 28 is adopted and implemented, clarify the interaction between the RTI Act and the PIP Act to ensure personal information requests are handled under the PIP Act:</p> <p>29.1 Amend clause 6(1) of the PIP Act to replace the current two-stage process with a single, clear, and enforceable right of access to personal information. Access should be mandatory (not discretionary), subject only to limited and clearly defined exceptions.</p> <p>29.2 Embed key procedural protections in the PIP Act,</p>	Supported in principle	NA	<p>Further analysis is required to determine how best to implement these changes within the Tasmanian context, noting synergies with related privacy and Commission of Inquiry recommendations.</p> <p>Government does not support legislatively mandating annual reporting on personal information requests due to complexity and resourcing impacts.</p> <p>The Ombudsman intends to clarify the interaction between the RTI Act and</p>



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	<p>including statutory timeframes, internal and external review rights and the obligation to provide reasons for decisions. Mirroring safeguards in the RTI Act.</p> <p>29.3 Require all public authorities to report annually on the volume, timeliness, and outcomes, of personal information requests. This data should be collected centrally and published to ensure transparency and accountability, similar to existing RTI Act reporting obligations</p>			<p>the PIP Act in future training materials.</p>

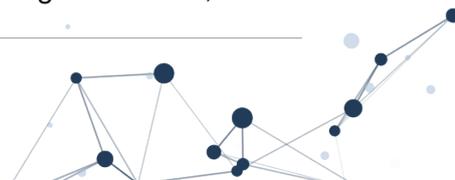


Vexatious and problematic use of RTI

No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
30	The Ombudsman to issue an extended and updated Guideline No.2 'Guideline in Relation to Refusal of an Application for Assessed Disclosure under the RTI Act, section 20'.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the Ombudsman issuing an updated Guideline No. 2 on refusals under section 20 of the RTI Act. Updating guidelines will assist agencies and applicants by addressing common misapplications, informed by consultation with affected authorities.
31	Section 20 renamed to Section 20 Problematic Use of the RTI Act.	Supported	Short term/ legislative	Government supports renaming the provision as suggested.
32	Section 20 amended to insert new subsection '(c) 'is an application which, in the opinion of the public authority or Minister, is unreasonable or constitutes a misuse use of this Act.'	Supported	Short term/ legislative	Government supports clarifying provisions to address problematic use of the RTI Act, noting the challenges for public authorities and Ministers in determining what is 'unreasonable' or a 'misuse' of the Act. This amendment should progress alongside the Ombudsman's updated section 20 guidance on refusal of assessed disclosure (refer Recommendation 30).

Ombudsman

No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
33	An increase in resources to equip the Ombudsman to carry out all their functions under the RTI Act including training, standard setting, quality control, public promotion of transparency in government in addition to performing external reviews.	Noted	NA	Government recognises the need for resourcing for the Ombudsman to enable delivery of functions under the RTI Act, including training, guidance, and external reviews. Any additional funding will be considered through the normal budget processes.
34	Immediate updating and quarterly ongoing updates including digitised annotations, to the Ombudsman's Right to Information Manual indicating how recent review decisions and Guidelines impact approaches to the	Supported in principle	Short term/ administrative	Government supports in principle more regular updates to the Ombudsman's RTI Manual to reflect review decisions and guidelines. Immediate updating is appropriate, but strict quarterly updates are not supported due to resourcing constraints;



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	interpretation and application of the RTI Act.			updates should occur as required.
35	A commitment by the Ombudsman to regularly releasing and updating of Guidelines.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the Ombudsman's commitment to regularly releasing and updating guidelines.
36	Delivery of regular training to all users in conjunction with the online training modules under development by the Right to Information Uplift Project.	Supported	Short term/ administrative	Government supports the delivery of regular training across public authorities. Government has introduced an online RTI training module for delegated officers, developed with the University of Tasmania, providing practical guidance for RTI delegated officers on applying exemptions.
37	Provide a de-identified list of all reviews on hand, listing public authorities, date received, and stage of the determination process reached by each review.	Noted	NA	Government acknowledges the intent to enhance transparency of the review process and notes that the Ombudsman currently provides detailed performance statistics in annual reports and data upon request.
38	Undertake a yearly audit on 3 – 5 agencies on processes for handling Right to Information requests.	Noted	NA	This would be resource-intensive and beyond the Ombudsman's current powers under the Act.
39	Facilitate quarterly forums/workshops for public authorities and Ministers subject to the RTI Act and their principal and delegated officers – where best practice and recent decisions are analysed. Attendance to be published (including level of most senior officer from each public authority)	Noted	NA	Government currently supports improved capability and consistency through a quarterly RTI delegates working group where best practice and recent decisions can be analysed. Government considers it is RTI delegates who benefit most from regular forums and participation in the forums should not be hindered by publishing attendance.
40	The Ombudsman to produce a quarterly online update of their RTI performance. There should be a live dashboard on the Ombudsman's website showing the number of reviews on hand and the date received of the 10	Noted	NA	A live dashboard would require significant automation and resourcing to be sustainable and is not a priority within existing resourcing constraints.



No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
	longest reviews on hand. The dashboard should also include findings, responses by agencies, of recent audits of agency RTI practices.			
41	The Government to provide the Ombudsman an extra \$500,000 yearly for the next three years.	Noted	NA	Any additional funding for the Ombudsman's office will be subject to the usual budget process.



Information Commissioner

No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
42	The creation of an Information Commissioner to oversee information management in the Tasmanian State Service including the RTI Act, the PIP Act), <i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002</i> (Tas), archives, records management, data protection, and information sharing within government and between government and citizens. The new office would complement and work with the State Archivist and Chief Information Officer.	Noted	NA	This would require significant legislative reform and careful consideration to avoid duplication with existing functions currently performed by the Ombudsman. Further, implementation of this recommendation would require substantial additional administrative resourcing which is not available at this time.

Legislative amendments

No	Recommendation	Government Response	Timeframe	Comment
43	Comprehensive amendments to the RTI Act consistent with the consideration of the proposed amendments addressed in Chapter 9.	Supported in principle	Short term/legislative and long term/legislative	Chapter 9 of the Report includes around 40 reforms of varying complexity. Many of these recommendations were provided to the Reviewers by the Government as part of its broader legislative analysis on information sharing. This work will continue to be progressed, achieving most of the recommendations in Chapter 9. Other proposals may be supported in principle; however, further analysis, consultation, and advice are required. At this stage, Government cannot indicate full support for all recommended amendments and will consider proposals on a case-by-case basis before committing to implementation.

