

JLN Agreement - RTI Process to be reviewed and strengthened

The RTI legislation (including public interest disclosure laws) and resourcing of the Tasmanian Ombudsman will be reviewed with an eye to increasing transparency and accountability of public administration across the State.

Terms of Reference

Independent Review of Tasmania's Right to Information (RTI) framework, including Office of the Ombudsman

SCOPE

An independent review of the Tasmania's RTI framework will examine and report on the adequacy, effectiveness and implementation of the *Right to Information Act 2009*, including but not limited to:

- 1) any findings and recommendations arising from previous reports and review processes;
- 2) any administrative and/or cultural challenges experienced in meeting the objects of the Act;
- 3) the intersection with any other relevant legislative frameworks (including, but not limited to, the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* and the *Personal Information Protection Act 2004*);
- 4) the performance, resourcing and efficacy of the Office of Ombudsman in undertaking its functions and duties under the *Right to Information Act 2009*; and
- 5) any other identified barriers to, or constraints on, the effective capacity of the RTI framework in Tasmania.

Further, the Independent Reviewers will:

- Undertake a transparent and broad consultation process, engaging with all interested and relevant parties, including the general public, the Tasmanian State Service, Parliamentarians and others;
- Identify and recommend reforms that encapsulate interjurisdictional best practice in terms of 'right to information' or 'freedom of information' models; and
- Deliver reform options (administrative and legislative) including recommended phases for implementation.

COOPERATION WITH THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

The review shall have all reasonable cooperation of all Tasmanian Government Agencies and public authorities, in accessing all material relevant to these Terms of Reference (in accordance with all statutory requirements and limitations).

DURATION AND REPORTING

A Final Review Report is to be provided to the Premier, the Hon Jeremy Rockliff MP, and the Independent Members for Bass and Braddon, Rebekah Pentland MP and Miriam Beswick MP, by 30 June 2025. The Report will be made publicly available within 14 days of formal receipt and the Government will provide its response within three months of the completion of the Review.