

**Ombudsman
Tasmania**

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2026

STATEMENT FROM THE TASMANIAN OMBUDSMAN DR GRANT DAVIES

Tasmanian Ombudsman Dr Grant Davies has today [released his response](#) to the [Getting Back on Track](#) report from the independent review into the effectiveness of Tasmania's Right to Information (RTI) framework.

Commissioned by Premier Jeremy Rockliff in 2024 and released in September 2025, the final report makes 43 recommendations, including short-term administrative enhancements and longer-term legislative reforms.

"The RTI scheme in Tasmania is crucial to strengthening transparency and accountability in public administration," Dr Davies said. "As the oversight body for the scheme, my office is committed to ensuring it operates effectively and is supportive of positive change to improve the system.

"I welcome the release of the independent review report as an opportunity to engage with reform of Tasmania's RTI system. I acknowledge the effort put into the independent review, the engagement with stakeholders across the sector and the system improvement focus evident throughout the process."

The review makes 19 recommendations that relate directly to the Ombudsman's functions and Dr Davies responded to each – supporting 10, partially supporting five and not supporting four.

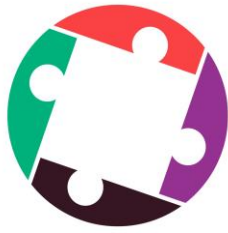
"Many of the findings and recommendations in the report align with work already underway in my office, including publicly stated priorities and proposed legislative reforms," Dr Davies said.

Dr Davies said the Office of the Ombudsman Tasmania had focused its limited resources on clearing a backlog of RTI external review applications, which had been an issue for some time. The [Ombudsman Tasmania Annual Report 2024-25](#) showed open cases at their lowest end of financial year level since the 2015-16 reporting year.

"As this office has expressed repeatedly over the years, the negative impact of the backlog and reduced guidance for delegates is significant and I sincerely apologise to those impacted," Dr Davies said.

"However, the sustained efforts and hard work of my RTI team have achieved significant progress on eliminating the backlog of external reviews and to provide excellent ad hoc guidance to delegates and applicants when a broadscale training program or updates to formal guidance materials were not feasible."

Dr Davies said additional funding not only to his office, but across the sector, would assist in improving transparency and accountability.



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“Many public authorities are under-resourced in relation to their RTI functions and have to make hard choices regarding how to operate most effectively when resources are constrained,” he said.

“More consistent and ongoing funding to my office and across the sector would help address many of the issues highlighted in the independent review report.

“Investment in RTI would yield corresponding gains in improved transparency and accountability which is so vital for an effective democratic system.

“I remain committed to ensuring that the RTI system operates effectively and look forward to working with the Tasmanian Government and public authorities on reforms that strengthen openness, integrity and public confidence in administrative decision-making.”

***Issued by Paula Catchpole on behalf of the Office of the Ombudsman Tasmania.
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