

David O'BYRNE

Independent for Franklin

The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP

Via email: Jeremy.rockliff@parliament.tas.gov.au

9 April 2024

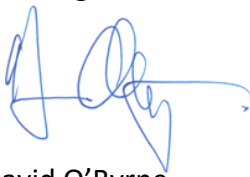
Dear Premier,

Firstly, congratulations on your strong personal vote at the state election and secondly, thank you for the manner in which you are engaging with me on the important matter of forming a new Parliament. The discussions have been cordial and respectful. In the absence of any other party seeking to form a government, my discussions around commissioning a government are exclusively with you.

As a newly elected Independent Member, I have made it clear that I will work other members of the House of Assembly to ensure the Parliament is able to function and that we do our best by the people of Tasmania, that we make best endeavours to ensure there is a working Parliamentary majority for the Government, particularly as it relates to confidence and supply.

Whilst there are a number of matters to work through in terms of how we not only make progress on the policy matters I feel strongly about, but also how we manage where we differ, I believe our discussions provide me with enough confidence to commit to you personally as Premier a guarantee around supply and confidence. This agreement will necessarily be formalised in an exchange of letters that outlines the working parts of the understandings I have as an Independent Member and you have as the Premier of the day, and as such, this exchange of letters should be made public.

Kind regards,



David O'Byrne
Independent Member for Franklin



TASMANIA
PREMIER OF TASMANIA

13 April, 2024

David O'Byrne MP
Independent Member for Franklin
By Email: david.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr O'Byrne

Thank you for writing to me on 9 April 2024 following the general election. Like you, I am grateful for our engagement to date, which has focused on ensuring stability for the Government and that the Parliament is workable and efficient. We both know this benefits all Tasmanians.

Thank you, too, for your support, which has given Her Excellency the Governor confidence in commissioning me as Premier.

I look forward to working through the details of how best we work together for the coming term and subsequently exchanging letters outlining our respective positions. I agree that these letters should be released publicly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

David O'BYRNE

Independent for Franklin

The Hon. Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier
Via email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

16 April 2024

Dear Premier,

Following our discussions last week I am writing to confirm my position concerning confidence and supply.

As a newly elected independent I will uphold the commitments I made to the people of Franklin and Tasmania to ensure that the Parliament and the State Government are guided by good policy and the overarching objective of improving the quality of life for all Tasmanians, particularly those who are the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. That means ensuring the safety of children and those responsible for harm being held to account, improving health and education outcomes, making housing more accessible and affordable, upgrading public transport and promoting economic growth. And I will continue to be guided by the ideals and values of the labour movement which are central to my policy outlook and priorities.

Since returning to Parliament in 2018 I have expressed my lack of confidence in successive State Liberal Governments. But in circumstances where the Tasmanian Labor Party has chosen not to seek to form Government, I have an obligation to work with you and other members of the House to help create a stable and workable Parliament, notwithstanding that your Party has only 14 seats in the new Parliament.

I have noted and acknowledge your post-election public comments that you have listened to the message delivered by the Tasmanian people, and I have appreciated the forthrightness and good faith you have shown in our recent discussions on the make-up of the new Parliament.

On this basis, I am prepared to offer you a commitment of confidence and supply, subject to the processes and conditions set out below.

You will have my support on any motions of no-confidence before the House except where the issues raised involve corruption, gross incompetence or serious misbehaviour by you or your Ministers, or reprehensible failures of policy and governance. Where I have concerns that would cause me to lose confidence in your Government, I will raise them with you in the first instance and give you an opportunity to resolve them before pursuing or supporting any no-confidence motion.

I will carefully consider the merit of any arguments put in favour of any censure motion but will not support frivolous or opportunistic proposals.

I will support all money bills necessary to ensure supply for the Government.

I will consider any Government legislation on its merits and vote according to my values and commitments given to the people of Franklin and Tasmania.

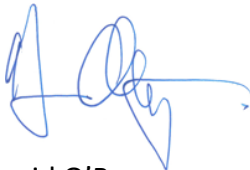
I will have regular meetings with you as Premier and your Ministers, and access to departmental staff for briefings and updates.

I will have access to the staff of OPC to assist in drafting any private member's bill or amendments. This access will be a set minimum numbers of hours of drafting assistance from OPC each Parliamentary year, with drafting by them to be done on a strictly confidential basis.

You will urgently and positively consider written proposals from me to reform question time practices with the removal of Dorothy Dix questions and to reform estimates hearings and processes for Government Business Enterprises.

I give these undertakings and seek these commitments in the spirit of co-operation and genuine goodwill. My undertakings are to you for the duration of your term as Premier. If you cease to be Premier then my undertakings are withdrawn with immediate effect.

Kind regards,



David O'Byrne
Independent Member for Franklin



TASMANIA
PREMIER OF TASMANIA

24 April, 2024

David O'Byrne MP
Independent Member for Franklin
By Email: david.obyrne@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Mr O'Byrne

I am writing in response to your letter of 16 April confirming areas of support for the Government I lead. Thank you for your frank, open, and productive approach to our discussions. You make clear the importance of a stable Government and effective Parliament for Tasmania and Tasmanians, and it's evident that you have the best interests of your constituents firmly at heart.

Your letter offers me support if the House seeks a want of confidence in my Government, with clear caveats. Thank you for this assurance and your further commitment to open communication if there are matters that concern you. There is no room for belligerence in this Parliament, and I give you an equal commitment that if I feel an issue may arise to proactively discuss it with you.

I appreciate the rights you reserve to consider the merit of censure or other motions but take comfort in your commitment to call out and not support disingenuous attempts to use the mechanisms of the House to cause needless disruption.

You also offer support for all money bills the Government brings before the House. The first is the annual supplementary appropriation bills and a supply bill, which the Government will table very early in our sitting schedule. Thank you for this guarantee.

I look forward to regular meetings with you and openly offer meetings with my Ministry as required. In order for the Assembly to be as productive as possible, factual departmental briefings will need to be a more regular feature. I have spoken with the Heads of Agencies and made my intentions clear that, with requests coming through the appropriate channels, briefings for Members will become more frequent. This relates to the ongoing legislation briefings, topical matters, and issues important to individual Members.

My team is working with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel on a model of equitable access for all Members of the Assembly to draft amendments and Private Members' Bills, including an assessment of interstate models. We will seek to find an arrangement that gives a level of unfettered access, with any additional requirements beyond that allocation needing further approval. To be clear, I have no intent on making the process difficult or obstructive. However, I am conscious of having a system that works for everyone and allows OPC to manage its workload. I undertake to work closely with you on this matter.

Earlier this week, when I released the 2024 sitting schedule, I announced that I would recommend to the Assembly to remove Government questions during Question Time. This aligns directly with your request, and I undertake to work constructively with you on the structure of Budget Estimates and the scrutiny of Government Business Enterprises and State-Owned Companies.

I am confident that our working relationship and mutual respect will help our agreement work well for the people of Tasmania. I always recognise the individual core values of all Assembly members and know that the broad mix of views encourages good debate that delivers the best results.

I look forward to continuing to work together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Rockliff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J' and 'R'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier