



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Media Release**

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## **The size of Tasmania's Parliament needs to change**

Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest has called for the Tasmanian Government to increase the number of members in the Lower House as too much power and influence is being allowed to rest with the unelected bureaucracy.

Ms Forrest said due to the almost constant changes in ministerial responsibility and the reduction in the number of Members of Parliament, some senior bureaucrats were adopting counterproductive attitudes.

“It would appear that the bureaucracy has power and influence above that of some Ministers with the inordinate delays or lack of response to requests that are occurring,” Ms Forrest said.

“The residents of less populated areas of Tasmania often inform me that they believe their voices are not heard and fully understood or considered by Government.

“Elected representatives take up these issues by writing to Ministers, raising the matters in Parliament and meeting with them in person to discuss these matters.

“The challenge for the elected representative is to actually engage the responsible Minister to discuss these matters of concern to these smaller communities.

“This is highlighted through the difficulties experienced in making an appointment, obtaining a response to correspondence or answers to questions.

“The size of the parliament has adversely impacted on the capacity of Ministers to be fully across their portfolio areas, especially in cases where some Ministers have a number of portfolio responsibilities.

“Failure to address this will see unelected bureaucrats rather than elected Members of Parliament governing the people of Tasmania.”

**ENDS**

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