

(No. 48.)



1867.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**ELECTORAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL.**

PETITION AGAINST ITS PASSING.

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Presented by Mr. Kennerley, September 24; and ordered by the Council to be printed, September 26, 1867.



*To the Honorable the Legislative Council of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Citizens and Electors of the Electoral Districts of Hobart and Hobart Town.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners have learned with surprise and alarm that a Bill has been introduced by the Government into your Honorable House to amend the Electoral Act, by dividing the Electoral District of Hobart Town, at present returning Five Members to the House of Assembly, into Five Electoral Districts, each returning One Member to the House of Assembly.

That your Petitioners regard such a subdivision of the Capital of the Colony as unprecedented in any other community enjoying Representative Institutions ; as destructive of the political privileges, electoral rights, and proper Parliamentary influence of the Citizens and Electors of Hobart Town ; as uncalled for by any section of the community ; and as an attempt to increase the power and influence, in political affairs and the representation of the Country, of capital and property at the expense of the people at large.

That your Petitioners believe that this amendment of the Electoral Law would tend to foster and promote bribery and corruption at Parliamentary elections, and to counteract in a great measure the protection afforded by the ballot to the humbler class of Electors.

That your Petitioners believe that on these grounds the said Bill is opposed to the spirit and intention of the Constitutional and Electoral Acts, and therefore ought not to be passed into law.

Your Petitioners therefore pray your Honorable House not to pass the Bill now before Parliament, intituled " A Bill to further amend the Electoral Act."

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 311 Signatures.]