

(No. 71.)



1862.

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TASMANIA.

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F I N G A L.

LETTER FROM JUSTICES OF THE PEACE RELATIVE TO THE  
ABOLITION OF THE OFFICE OF POLICE MAGISTRATE.

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Presented by Mr. Dobson, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
21 August, 1862.



*Fingal, 8th August, 1862.*

SIR,

As the Officer charged with the Law Department of the Administration, we, the undersigned Justices of the Peace within the District of Fingal, beg leave to express our surprise and concern at the threatened change in the Police management of the Districts of the Colony, by the removal of all Police Magistrates.

We believe the circumstances of this particular District to be such, that the withdrawal of this Officer would be attended with great injury both to persons and property throughout its length and breadth.

Unfit as it is at present, from its extent and scattered inhabitants, for the establishment of a Rural Municipality, the duties of the experienced Stipendiary Magistrate must devolve upon us, whose avocations will not admit of the time and attention necessary for fulfilling those duties efficiently, and for acquiring that knowledge of the Law required to enable us to undertake them with safety; and, although we are, and always have been, willing to lend our aid to the Police Magistrate, yet our own circumstances, and the necessities of the District, require that we should not undertake the responsibility of their permanent discharge.

We therefore beg that you will be pleased to submit our sentiments and remonstrances to the consideration of the Executive Council, and solicit your influence with the Members of the Government to avert from this District so serious an evil as the removal of our present efficient and respected Police Magistrate, under whose management, though the population has considerably increased, crime has most sensibly diminished.

We have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

F. Groom, *J.P.*  
Michael Steel, *J.P.*  
Thomas Ransom, *J.P.*  
Robert Clerk, *J.P.*  
R. Hepburn, *J.P.*

Jas. Hepburn, *J.P.*  
C. A. Parker, *J.P.*  
Simeon Lord, *J.P.*  
James Grant, junr., *J.P.*

*To the Attorney-General.*