

## Inquiry into the operations of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission

This inquiry is into the operations of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission. However, the issues with which I have concern are not with the Electoral Act 2004, but rather with the Constitution Act 1934 which underpins the Electoral Act.

The Constitution Act 1934 states that

### *Section 22*

*(2)Each member of the Assembly is to be elected, as provided by this Act in accordance with the Electoral Act 2004 to represent an Assembly Division*

*(3)For the purpose of returning members to serve in the Assembly, the State is to be divided into 5 divisions, each of which is to return 5 members.*

Some of the issues relating to the management and costs of election and associated election funds are directly caused by the multi-member electorates. Members of the same political party are campaigning against each other, causing unnecessary competition for funds and confusion in the party. The additional costs of travel and poster advertising, particularly in the larger electorates, cause differential election costs between, for example, Lyons and Denison.

While the present inquiry is into the Electoral Act 2004, I would urge that one of the recommendations of the report be an inquiry into the Constitution Act 1934. In particular I would recommend an enquiry into Section 22 (3) which requires the returning of 5 members for each Division.

Single member electorates would make for greater clarity in representation of the electorate and reduce the costs for each member: they would be representing fewer electors in a smaller geographic area.



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