

17th November 2025

Hon Meg Webb MLC
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

electoralmatters@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Chair & Committee Members

In light of the recent 2025 State election in a relatively short time following the 2024 election the current Hare-Clark Electoral System has been a considerable discussion point across the Tasmanian community.

The discussions range from the current system being complicated to understand for those who are not fully engaged with the electoral process. In addition, other comments relate to the process being time consuming for the voter in regard to completing the ballot to achieve an individuals desired preference distribution and importantly for the Electoral Commission in finalising results.

The Hare-Clark system has been used continuously for Tasmanian state elections for the House of Assembly since 1909 without significant changes or amendments to the way votes are transferred other than the introduction of the Robson Rotation.

The establishment of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters I believe is ideally placed to inquire into and report upon the benefits, any disadvantages, the relevance and appropriateness of the current electoral system to meet the expectations of a modern-day voting process.

With the House of Assembly elections now receiving public funding it is important to ensure the Tasmanian community has confidence in the integrity of our voting system in electing representatives to the House of Assembly.

Thank you for your consideration to this request to inquire into the Hare-Clark Electoral System for Tasmania.

Yours sincerely

Tania Rattray MLC