

(No. 19.)



1866.

SESSION II.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

GRANTS IN AID TO MUNICIPALITIES.

PETITIONS FROM BRIGHTON AND WESTBURY.

Presented by Mr. Innes, February 1 ; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
February 5, 1867.



*To the Honorable the President and Members of the Legislative Council,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ratepayers and Inhabitants of the Municipality of Brighton, in Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT the Ratepayers of this District were induced to adopt the Municipal System on the assurance of receiving liberal aid from the Government.

That the original Grant was, according to Mr. Abbott's plan, increased to £516.

That your Petitioners respectfully suggest that the reduction of the Grant as proposed by the Honorable the Treasurer would be a repudiation of "The Municipalities Act," and a breach of faith with the people.

That increased local burdens can only be levied by a tax on property, which is already taxed at 5 per cent. for the maintenance of Roads and Police, and must therefore become depreciated to an injurious and ruinous extent by any additional rate for Police.

That the present Valuation Roll of the District is excessive, being the estimate of valuers when the Country was in a highly prosperous state.

That, under a correct Valuation, the proposed sum of £185 in aid will be totally inadequate to maintain an efficient Police.

That this Municipality has peculiar claims on the Government, inasmuch as it is forced to lodge and escort Prisoners under sentence, numbering six times more than those sent by itself.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to take the foregoing premises into consideration, and allow the Grant in Aid to remain unaltered until a new Valuation be effected, and time allowed the Municipality to make a more economical arrangement.

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

[Here follow 49 Signatures.]

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

The humble Petition of the undersigned Ratepayers of the Municipality of Westbury.

SHOWETH :

THAT your Petitioners are of opinion that the proposition of the Government to withdraw the Grant in Aid from certain Municipalities, that at Westbury being one, whilst other Municipalities

are to receive the Grant, will be unfair and oppressive in operation, and will involve a considerable amount of additional taxation upon the Ratepayers of this Municipality.

That your Petitioners are further of opinion that, should the Grant in Aid be withdrawn, the Revenue derived from the Municipality under "The Licensing Act," "The Carriage Duties Act," "The Police Act, 1865," and other Acts relating to Municipalities should be paid to the Municipal Funds, instead of as now to the General Revenue.

And your Petitioners pray that your Honorable House will not entertain the proposition of the Government.

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

[Here follow 275 Signatures.]