



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## Legislative Council Committee Inquiry

# MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Inquiry into The Tasmanian Electoral Commission – Final Report**

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The Legislative Council Sub-Committee inquiring into the Tasmanian Electoral Commission has today released a Final Report.

The Inquiry resulted in 27 findings and 17 recommendations covering the administration of the *Electoral Act 2004*, the resourcing available to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, any deficiencies within the *Electoral Act 2004* and any other matters incidental thereto.

Inquiry Chair, the Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC, said the 33 responses from organisations and individuals had been very pleasing and had provided considerable information to consider.

Key findings of the Inquiry were that the TEC generally performed well and remained within its budgetary limits, although its budget had suffered from a number of cuts in recent years. Whilst the Inquiry did not recommend that TEC funding be restored to previous levels, it did, however, recommend that the Government provide the TEC with sufficient resources to effectively perform its functions, as well as receive additional funding to research electronic voting.

The Inquiry recommends full disclosure of campaign donations, including in-kind donations. It found that Tasmania was one of only two States in Australia that does not provide public funding for candidates and parties and recommends that the Government investigate the issue further.

The Inquiry received a number of submissions and heard from witnesses calling for a restoration of numbers of seats in the House of Assembly. Whilst this topic fell outside of the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, it was nevertheless noted that it was an important issue to

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many Tasmanians.

Another key recommendation is that the Government investigate the issue of social media and 'robocalls' in political campaigns with the Australian Government to ensure consistency between relevant legislation.

Other recommendations included a review of Local Government General Manager's Rolls, as well as provision for Local Government candidates to stand for both Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Final Report is available on a dedicated [Inquiry page](#) of the parliament of Tasmania website at:

[http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminB\\_TasmanianElectoralCommission.htm](http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminB_TasmanianElectoralCommission.htm)

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**FURTHER INFORMATION: Chairperson Rosemary Armitage MLC**

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