

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
HOBART, TASMANIA, 7000

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### **Electoral Amendment Bill 2024 (No. 25 of 2024)**

I am a strong supporter of free speech. However, this also comes with the responsibility to keep to the facts when discussing political issues. The spread of 'disinformation' (lies!!!) has become a major issue, particularly since the emergence of Donald Trump on the world stage. However, this is not a new phenomenon – it goes back to ancient Greece and Roman times.

In Tasmania, we had the disgraceful example of a Liberal Party operative passing off a fake website as the Jackie Lambie Network during the last state election campaign period.


Any amendment to Tasmania's Electoral Amendment Act must guard against such misrepresentations.

It is, of course, important to hold governments and members of parliament accountable. The question is, how do we do this without enabling the promulgation of disinformation and misinformation; including that by third-parties? We must have watertight legislation to ensure truth in political advertising **and statements**, and not only during the electoral period. This must also cover claims in the social media. (Very difficult to counteract once online.)

Regarding the use of photographs, this is fraught with dangers due to the ability to alter photographs to show individuals doing something or saying something that they did not. The advent of AI has made the manipulation of images particularly easy.

Please be very careful when amending this legislation, to avoid unintended consequences.

Yours sincerely,



Bob Holderness-Roddam