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My Submission to:

Legislative Council Sessional Committee Government Administration B - Tasmanian Electoral Commission

I believe that for the sake of Tasmania's democracy and the public's confidence in our electoral system, there should significant changes to the Electoral Act 2004 to:

Create a framework for the disclosure of political donations in real time;

It is not acceptable that in the 21st century, Tasmanians go to the polls not knowing who has donated to which political party or candidate, and how much was donated. Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria remain the only Australian States that do not have comprehensive state based donations disclosure legislation.

A system of real-time (or continuous) disclosure in Tasmania, administered by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, would enhance transparency and accountability in our democracy. Online disclosure could make this system relatively straightforward.

Place a cap on expenditure for House of Assembly elections, and a cap on the amount of money that can be donated to political parties, MPs and candidates;

The Federal legislated disclosure threshold is \$10 000. Due to CPI increases it is currently \$12,400. Any donations below this amount can remain anonymous. Individuals and organisations can also get third party groups to make multiple small donations. A donation cap should not be greater than \$1000.

Without a cap on expenditure our democracy is essentially for sale to the highest bidder. Expenditure caps assist in levelling the playing field for all parties and candidates. A cap per registered political party and per candidate should be considered.