

The Secretary,  
Select Committee on the House of Assembly Restoration Bill  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS. 7000

It is imperative that the House of Assembly be returned to, at least, a 35 member house. The Tasmanian parliament is a very small one. Even if the numbers were restored to 35, it would still be 10 seats short of the average size of state parliaments in our population range.

Population should not be a major factor in determining the size of the Parliament. Under Australia's Federal system all State Governments have the same powers and responsibilities and the same functions to fulfil regardless of population.

In the Victorian Parliament there are 22 Ministers. The Tasmanian Parliament has only 8 Ministers which leads to Ministers having unacceptably heavy loads. This, in turn, opens the way for poor governance.

Under the Hare Clarke system no party is ever likely to have a large majority. The current size of the Parliament not only brings about a too small Ministry it also means that there is a too small back bench.

Noela Foxcroft

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