

Members of the Joint Select Committee  
Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct  
Parliament House  
Hobart  
TAS 7000

Dr. Torsten Hartmann  
6 Wills Road  
Abels Bay  
TAS 7112

Abels Bay, 30/07/08

Dear committee members,

**RE: Inadequate Existing Mechanisms for Ethical and Accountable Government in Tasmania. Recommendations for Independent Investigative Body**

My family and I moved to Tasmania four years ago. I was aware that we were moving to a part of Australia famous nationally and internationally for the conflict between pro-logging groups and those people trying to preserve the unique beauty of this state. We were not prepared for the unethical way in which government has dealt with many matters in the short time since our arrival here. Because of our own experiences over such a short period of time I ask your committee to establish an independent body which has the power to address questions of corruption and ethical misconduct in Tasmania.

In particular an independent anti-corruption body should be established. This anti-corruption body needs to be funded securely and independently and this funding needs to be CPI indexed. It must report directly to parliament, not to the government where its reports can be buried. As the two major parties are deeply involved in unethical behaviour in Tasmania, at least one member of the anti-corruption body should be an appointment from outside Tasmania and outside the established party systems. The powers of this body should include an investigative capacity which enables it to carry out retrospective investigations. No amnesty should be extended to unethical behaviour which occurred in the past. Protection for whistleblowers and for people raising allegations must be guaranteed.

I am not only interested in politics on a state level but also in politics on a local government level. Local government, too, must be accountable and must act ethically. I ask your committee to clearly spell out that any new mechanisms resulting from this current investigation do indeed apply to government on state and on local levels.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Torsten Hartmann