

Submission to the Legislative Council Sessional Committee
Government Administration B – Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Dear Committee Members,

I believe that Tasmania would benefit from the following changes to the Electoral Act 2004 and the Constitution Act 1934.

- 1) Full disclosure of donations to political parties and candidates should be made public as soon as these occur. A complete database of these donations should be retained for the public to access freely at any time, in both electronic and hard-copy forms.
- 2) The maximum donation that any individual or company can make to a candidate or party should be set at \$1000, with increases in this cap tied to the CPI. When multiple candidates exist for a political party, this cap should apply to the total amount donated to the party. Company directors should not be allowed to exceed this cap by donating both as an individual and through their company, i.e. the total donation by the director as an individual and by the directed company should not exceed \$1000.
- 3) Donations by individuals not eligible to vote in the election, or by overseas companies or governments, should not be permitted. Australian companies that benefit financially from activities that are harmful to society, specifically arms manufacturers, the tobacco industry, and gambling operators, should also be banned from making any donations to candidates or parties.
- 4) The House of Assembly should be restored to its former size of 35 members, comprising 7 members from each of 5 electorates.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Hingston
2/327 Nelson Rd
Mt Nelson 7007
Tas.