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The Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Ethical Conduct
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000
E-Mail: shane.donnelly@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee,

I am writing to you because I believe that Tasmania needs some kind of body to investigate and oversight government processes in this State.

In particular, I am concerned that the existing Tasmanian mechanisms designed to ensure ethical and accountable government are inadequate. The examples of failures such as that relating to the pulp mill are many.

I would suggest that we need to establish an independent commission, similar to that which exists in NSW, Queensland and Western Australia, to address questions of corruption and ethical misconduct in Tasmania with investigative as well as educative powers.

I believe that a Commission should have, as well as an over sighting role, a very strong educative role since many elected members at all levels in Tasmania seem to be severely lacking in any understanding of concepts relating to conflicts of interest, accountability, transparency or genuine consultation.

I would suggest that it is very important to ensure that local government bodies are also subject to any investigations that are set up since they currently seem to be able to do whatever they wish with no public comeback.

I have only recently become aware of the possibility of making submissions to your committee and I would be pleased to make a more detailed submission if it would be helpful to you.

Yours sincerely,

W Peter Meadley

31 July 2008

PS A hard copy of this letter will be forwarded to you.