

(No. 87.)



1883.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

LOCAL OPTION :

PETITIONS IN FAVOUR OF.

1. From 5000 Residents of Northern Tasmania—presented by Mr. Grubb.
 2. From 214 residents of Leven—presented by Mr. Braddon.
 3. From 207 residents of Penguin and Ashwater—presented by Mr. Braddon.
 4. From 358 residents of West Devon—presented by Mr. Braddon.
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Ordered by the House to be printed, August 9, 1883.



*To the Honorable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania,
in Parliament assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Residents of Northern Tasmania.

SHOWETH :

THAT licensed Public-houses for the sale of intoxicating drinks are far in excess of public requirements, and produce results which are detrimental to the best interests of society, by causing social disorder, pauperism, and crime.

That it has been demonstrated in the clearest manner, in many places, that the absence of the Public-house is attended by almost entire freedom from pauperism and crime, thereby reducing to a minimum public expenditure on paupers and police.

That the value of the neighbouring property is very frequently depreciated by the licensing of houses for the sale of intoxicants.

That your Petitioners respectfully submit that, inasmuch as houses for the sale of strong drink are allowed by law to be licensed avowedly to meet a public want, it is but reasonable and just to assume that the inhabitants themselves are the best judges of their own wants in that respect; and that therefore, in accordance with the principle now known as "Local Option," it should be left to them to decide whether such houses shall be licensed or not.

That in Canada, the most important of the British Colonies, a Local Option Law is in force, and has been adopted by many Districts in that Dominion; and that the principle of Local Option has been twice affirmed by the British House of Commons, and has also been partially embodied in legislation in the neighbouring Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand.

That your Petitioners are of opinion that the time has arrived when the principle of Local Option should be applied in this Colony in dealing with all applications for licences for new houses, for houses formerly licensed but which have been closed, and for all houses now licensed, excepting those possessing certain accommodation to be defined by legislative enactment.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray your Honorable House to take into favourable consideration any Bill which shall be brought before Parliament for the purpose of giving effect to the principle of Local Option in relation to the licensing of Public-houses.

And your Petitioners will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow the Signatures.]