



## Huon Valley Residents & Ratepayers Association (Inc)

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### SUBMISSION TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL SELECT COMMITTEE

#### “PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS”

The essentials of good governance are the same at all levels of government: local, state and federal. The Tasmanian Good Governance Guide (2018) is based on the United Nations Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific’s publication *What is Good Governance* [www.unescap.org](http://www.unescap.org)

Of the ten principles given as defining good governance the five that are most applicable to the issue being considered by this committee are:

- act with the highest ethical standards
- foster trusting and respectful relationships
- follow a transparent and accountable decision making process
- make good decisions that promote the interests of the community
- have good judgement

Unfortunately political and other considerations often interfere with the implementation of these fundamental principles. The refusal to produce relevant documents for scrutiny is a prime example of this.

The Australian Senate Procedures “*Guide No. 12 - Orders for production of documents*”<sup>1</sup> commences by making it clear that ***“The power to require the production of information is one of the most significant powers available to a legislature to enable it to carry out its functions of scrutinising legislation and the performance of the executive arm of government.”***

I submit that all the procedures in this guide should be adopted by the Tasmanian Government and that, where required, appropriate legislation be enacted to ensure that the Legislative Council is able to enforce its orders.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Patrick Synge (President, HVRRA)

26<sup>th</sup> July 2019