

Submission to

The Secretary, Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters inquiry into aspects of the administration, operation and conduct of the 23 March 2024 General Election

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Advantage from not charging land tax on principal residence properties

The State Government does not send land tax bills to the owners of principal residence land.

Yet it still charges local businesses and other property owners at rates, which increase far greater than the CPI. For example, on a bush block I own in the hills behind Margate, the land tax bill increased from \$2900 in 2022/23 to \$3755 in 2023/24.

When many people do not pay a cent, I can only consider this payment to be a forced donation to the political party in power.

If punitive bills like this were sent to principal residence properties prior to the March 2024 election, the Liberal party would not have retained power.

Urgent action is needed to start the process of making our elections fair, so that the political parties are accountable to voters, and the State taxation system can be seen to be fair and equitable.

Then we can show our democracy at work.

Poor provision of information by the State Government

Information should not be hidden but should be freely available so that voters can properly choose their candidates.

Four year terms

The current system gives the advantage to the ruling party and is not best for voters.

The last two election terms were only 3 years, a year less than necessary. My memory of the preceding four year term was of continual speculation about election being held for the last year.

Also the 2024 election should not have occurred after an extended parliamentary break.

Therefore elections should be programmed to occur at a set time every 3 years, say in mid-March so there is sufficient time to be at full speed for the new financial year.

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