

To the Secretary
Select Committee on the House of Assembly Restoration Bill
Parliament House
Hobart TAS 7000

4 March 2019

Submission to: Ms Cassy O'Connor, Chair of the Select Committee,
From: Simon Boughey

Having worked as Senior Adviser to a Minister in the Tasmanian Parliament and from my own personal views, I fully believe the numbers in the House of Assembly in the Tasmanian Parliament should be increased from 25 to 35 members and agree to all changes suggested to be made, as indicated in Section 5 to 12 in the House of Assembly Restoration Bill 2018.

This would improve our democracy and government, through the Tasmanian Parliament as a whole and linked to the work done by the 15 members of the Legislative Council in managing the affairs of the State of Tasmania.

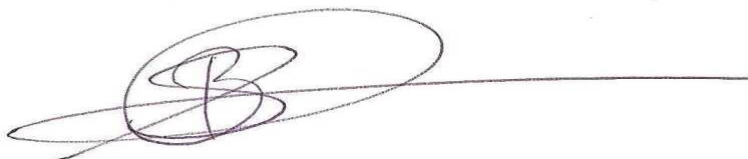
Both the Australian Capital Territory, with a population of 405,000 and the Northern Territory, with a population of 245,000, have a single house of Parliament consisting of 25 members and I think we deserve better representation than that with 520,000 people now living in Tasmania.

Personally, I believe we lost a key plank of our democracy when the Tasmanian Parliament went back to 25 in 1998 and the ratio of politicians to population was increased. There have been issues ever since, with adequate representation of Tasmanian voters and also the workload on Cabinet Ministers and the drop off of work by back benchers around Tasmania.

I do believe we need better representation as the population continues to grow out to 2050 to 650,000. One of key aspects and strengths of the Tasmanian community is that we can easily contact our Local Government Councillors, State and Federal Politicians, that is lacking in other States across the country. This is vital as elected members of Parliament always need to be accountable to their electorate and for people who voted for or against them but also can here the views of the people across Tasmania and its diverse communities.

These simple changes as suggested to the House of Assembly Restoration Bill 2018 will right the wrong of the past and give all Tasmanian's the democracy they deserve moving forward.

Yours sincerely

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