

Margate TAS 7054  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Tasmanian Electoral Act 2004 Review

Submission by Marcus Higgs, Electorate of Franklin

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft report, which I'm pleased to say is comprehensive and comparative between the States and Territories.

The information presented in Tables 1 and 2, while demonstrating the complexity of differences between the States and Territories, indisputably demonstrate why the Tasmanian Electoral Act 2004 is deficient and requiring reform. The political composition of our current parliament almost certainly would have been significantly different had strong electoral regulations, befitting modern democratic Australia, had been in place at the last election.

I recommend that the final Report contain the following:

The Tasmanian Greens support –

- Public funding of election campaigns at comparable levels of other States and indexed;
- An indexed donation cap of \$3,000 aggregate per donor, per parliamentary term;
- Banning donations from all corporate donors. At a minimum, donations from property developers, tobacco, liquor, gaming industries, and all defined foreign individuals, organizations, companies and governments;
- A fixed disclosure threshold of \$1,000 indexed, to be calculated cumulatively over a whole party group;
- Online, continuous real-time disclosure to the Australian Electoral Commission of donations to political parties, candidates and associated entities;
- A cap on expenditure for individual candidates and parties in House of Assembly elections;
- Corresponding regulation of the political activities of third parties and associated entities;

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Higgs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Marcus Higgs