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Submission on

Tasmania: Electoral Act Review Interim Report December 2018

I support proposals to bring Tasmania into line with other Australian States and Territories in regard to disclosure of gifts (political donations) and timeframes for reporting donations.

Term of Reference 2: Whether state-based disclosure rules should be introduced, and, if so, what they should include?

Definition of Gifts (political donations)

I support tightening up the definition of 'gifts' (political donations) to include in-kind contributions such as professional services, sponsorships, tickets and subscriptions.

Timing and Thresholds for Disclosure of Political Donations

Timeframes for reporting (during an election period)

I recommend that Tasmania follow the Queensland practice of reporting of donations within seven days of receipt of the donation, or if for some reason this is impractical in Tasmania, within 21 days, as mandated in Victoria and soon to be implemented in NSW.

Thresholds for Disclosure and Aggregation of Gifts and Donations

I recommend adoption of the Queensland, NSW, ACT and Victorian threshold of \$1,000

Disclosure of Electoral Expenditure

I recommend adopting the Queensland practice of requiring total donations, loans and electoral expenditure to be declared within 15 weeks of a polling day.

Anonymous donations

I recommend that these be prohibited.

Term of Reference 3: The level of regulation of third parties, including Unions, during election campaigns.

Disclosure and Registration

Tasmania needs to adopt some form of disclosure and registration regime for third party campaigners and donors.

Disclosure by Third Party Campaigners

Tasmania needs to mandate disclosure by donors of donations (including in-kind) provided for electoral expenditure. I recommend that the disclosure threshold be \$1,000, in line with that of most other Australian States and Territories.

Prohibited Donations

I recommend that the following be prohibited: -

- Foreign donations
- Donations from property developers, tobacco businesses, firearms businesses, liquor and gambling businesses or their close associates

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