



## Submission to the review of the Tasmanian Electoral Act 2004

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the current review into the *Tasmanian Electoral Act, 2004*.

At present, Tasmania has the weakest laws relating to donations to party funds for election funding. Figures show that only 16.4% of the over \$21 million donated to all political parties between 2009 and 2015 have been disclosed.

Both major parties currently “benefit” from this legitimised form of obfuscation. This is an undemocratic state of affairs, which needs urgent rectification to ensure public faith in the political system.

This Association considers that all donations above \$1,000 should be publicly disclosed. Further, the disclosures should be made at the time of elections and not, as at present, once a year when the appropriate disclosures could be considered in the light of any political campaign.

The Association agrees with public sentiment that any donation and spending about \$1,500 should be reported publically on a regular basis (say, every 30 days) in the twelve month period leading up to an election.

Third party donations to electoral spending by the major parties should be strictly limited and/or publicly disclosed, ensuring consistency between print and on-line media.

Finally, the *Tasmanian Electoral Act* should be re-drawn to allow newspapers to provide election coverage on polling day.

Yours sincerely,

**Phillip Hoysted.**  
President. SHPA (Inc.)  
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