

From: Anne L-B
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To: Have Your Say (DoJ)
Subject: Submission to review the Tasmanian electoral Act

Submission to review the Tasmanian Electoral Act

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20 July 2018

To whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Tasmania's Electoral Act is certainly long overdue for review and revision, however due to limited time my comments will be short and directed to one aspect only: political donations.

To ensure fair and free elections in our democracy no individual or corporate entity should be able to potentially influence the outcome of an election by donating large and frequent sums of money to political parties.

It was widely accepted that considerable sums of money were gifted to the Liberal Party at the recent Tasmanian state election by the gambling industry and its lobbyists. The resulting advertising campaign that saturated media outlets, and the state's roadsides with posters designed to persuade voters to place their vote with a Liberal candidate

An electoral review must consider placing a cap on political donations far lower than it is at present, and making all donations publicly available as soon as they are lodged.

Having scrutineered at this year's elections, on the Monday following polling day, it is also clear that Civics is a subject that must be taught in schools. The number of spoiled votes was staggering – many of which were invalid due to uncertainty about how to vote in the Hare Clark system. And I am not advocating for one second that this should be replaced for another system since Hare Clark offers the best and fairest electoral process, provides the fairest representation, and doesn't completely exclude smaller parties or independents from being elected.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Anne Layton-Bennett

