

Department of Justice  
Office of Secretary

## **Submission to Review of Tasmanian *Electoral Act 2004***

Dear Madam /Sir

I wish to make brief comments on the advertised Interim Report, in relation to consultation issues 13, 14, 15 and 16.

I was shocked and appalled to witness the 2018 Tasmanian election. I believe most thinking people felt the same, certainly anyone I spoke to about it did so.

I consider that our democratic process was damaged in the 2018 election. The election was [REDACTED] financial interests in poker machines in Tasmania and possibly elsewhere.

Walking around my neighbourhood before the election, I was daily assaulted by the banner on our local pub, owned by Federal, proclaiming: "Labour and the Greens think you're stupid. What's next, don't let them tell you what to do." See image below. The State was awash with this election material.



Recent data from the Australian Electoral Office gives us information on the size and source of only a quarter of the donations to political parties nearly a year after the elections. The obnoxious signs in my neighbourhood and elsewhere, were not counted as political donations, despite this clearly being the case.

In order for us to have confidence in our democracy and our government we must make political donations more transparent and timely and impose caps.

I support:

- A fixed disclosure threshold of \$1,000, calculated cumulatively over a whole party group;
- on-line real-time disclosure to AEC of donations to political parties, candidates and associated entities;
- public funding of election campaigns, as provided in other states;
- a cap on expenditure for individual candidates and parties in House of Assembly elections; and
- corresponding regulation of political activities of third parties and associated entities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to these improvements to our political donations laws so that Tasmania can play our part in Australia still being ranked as one of only a relatively small number of countries in the world with full democracies.

Yours sincerely

Ann McCuaig

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