

LAST BEST CHANCE FOR ELECTORAL REFORM

Dear Tasmanian Parliament

Tasmanians deserve to know who is funding the political parties and candidates that they vote for.

With the possibility of an early state election interrupting parliamentary business, both houses of the Tasmanian Parliament should work together this sitting to pass meaningful, long-awaited electoral reforms before it is too late.

Australia Institute research ahead of the last Tasmanian state election found 87% of Tasmanians want truth in political advertising laws and 73% want a ban on the gambling industry making political donations.

The Bills currently before Parliament do not go far enough to create a transparent, effective system for the regulation of political donations and influence.

They must be strengthened, by:

- Requiring truth in political advertising;
- Significantly lowering the proposed donation threshold from \$5,000 and guaranteeing real-time disclosure of political donations;
- Fixing the proposed public funding model for campaigns so that it does not favour incumbent MPs over new entrants;
- Broadening the definition of “gift” to capture all payments that might influence politicians;
- Requiring third-party campaigners to disclose relevant donations regardless of when they were made during the electoral cycle;
- Parliament inquiring into a ban on donations from developers and the fossil fuel, tobacco and gambling industries.

Signed —

