



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY
Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA (Chair), Dr Marisa Paterson (Deputy Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act

Submission Number: 021a

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Tasmanian Election Update - Recommendation

At the time of this committee hearing closing for Submissions ,the Tasmanian Election was held on the Saturday 1st May 2021. What was interesting was the seat of Clark which has now elected an independent for the first time since the number of seats in the house of assembly was reduced from 35 members to 25 in 1998.

I note that the ballot paper for Clark included two independents, both had their own column. How? According to the Tasmanian Candidate Information Booklet² :

Group candidate(s)

A valid nomination for one or more candidates to appear in a group not under a heading of a registered party requires:

- » at least 100 nominators (electors within the division); and
- » the details, signature and a statement of consent of each candidate

So for an independent to get their own column they need 100 elector signatures from the electorate. Independents having their own distinct column played a factor here and should be afforded to independents here in the ACT. Though the high amount of signatures required is an issue. As I have stated in my submission this should be reduced for all Independents. Also in the Information booklet, candidates only need 10 signatures for the up-grouped column.

Tasmania—Electoral Act 2004
BALLOT PAPER
House of Assembly Division of **CLARK**
Election of 5 Members

81

Number the boxes from 1 to 24 in order of your choice
Your vote will not count unless you number at least 5 boxes

TASMANIAN GREENS	GROUP B	AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY	FEDERATION PARTY TASMANIA	ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY	SHOOTERS, FISHERS, FARMERS TAS	GROUP G	LIBERAL PARTY	UNGROUPED
<input type="checkbox"/> BAYLEY Vica	<input type="checkbox"/> JOHNSTON Kristie	<input type="checkbox"/> HADDAD Ella	<input type="checkbox"/> STRINGER Justin	<input type="checkbox"/> WESTCOTT Tim	<input type="checkbox"/> LARGE Andrew	<input type="checkbox"/> HICKEY Sue	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHER Elsa	<input type="checkbox"/> ERWIN Jax
<input type="checkbox"/> VOLF Nathan		<input type="checkbox"/> CARNES Deb			<input type="checkbox"/> BENNETT Lorraine		<input type="checkbox"/> OGILVIE Madeleine	<input type="checkbox"/> DUTTA Mike
<input type="checkbox"/> TAYLOR Bec		<input type="checkbox"/> DAVIS Simon					<input type="checkbox"/> BEHRAKIS Simon	<input type="checkbox"/> GERSHWIN Lisa
<input type="checkbox"/> SMITH Tim		<input type="checkbox"/> MITCHELL Sam					<input type="checkbox"/> COATS Will	
<input type="checkbox"/> O'CONNOR Cassy		<input type="checkbox"/> CLARK Chris					<input type="checkbox"/> LENNON Harvey	

Recommendation :Non party candidates can have their own column under their name or Independent. The number of required signatures determined by Elections ACT.

Martin Miller 25th May 2021