



Government Media Statement



14 April, 2004

JUDY JACKSON
Attorney General

Reform of the Electoral Act

The State Government is progressing a review of the Electoral Act.

Attorney General Judy Jackson said today a draft Bill had been prepared and would be available for distribution in the near future.

“We are looking for a comprehensive involvement of the State’s parliamentarians into the review process, by inviting them into the next stage of the review.

“The Government has suggested forming a working group including all three parties in the lower House and representatives from the Upper House to progress the discussions to the next stage.”

Ms Jackson said the draft Bill proposed a number of changes including establishing an electoral commission and modernising electoral procedures.

“The Tasmanian Electoral Office has been working for some time on the preparation of a new Electoral Act.

“The office issued public discussion papers in 1999 and 2000 to encourage input from interested people or groups, and the draft Bill is the outcome of that process.

“We have gone to great lengths to make the process as inclusive as possible up to this point, where we now have concrete proposals to consider.

“Our focus in the next stage will be to directly involve the whole Parliament in developing the draft Bill into a final document.”

Ms Jackson said the Government was proposing that the working group should consider and assist in the final preparation of this Bill.

“Nominations have been sought from the Leader of the Upper House, Leader of the Liberal party and the Leader of the Greens to form the working group to examine the Working Draft of the Bill.

“I envisage that this group will examine all aspects of the Bill to consider any changes which might be required.”

Ms Jackson said the Working Draft of the Bill would be distributed once nominations were finalised.

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