Tasmanian Electoral Commission

MEDIA RELEASE – ROBSON ROTATION DISCUSSION PAPER

Period for comment is closing soon…

During April, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission released for public comment a discussion paper on Robson rotation. The paper considers a range of options for Robson rotation for Tasmanian elections to further reduce any advantage that can be gained from the position of candidate names on a ballot paper.

The period for providing written comments and suggestions concerning the discussion paper closes next Monday, 30 June 2008.

Robson rotation was introduced for Tasmanian parliamentary elections in 1979. Under Robson rotation, candidates share favoured (top and bottom) positions on the ballot paper. The number of different orders of names within a column (referred to as rotations) is currently the same as the number of candidates. So, for House of Assembly ballot papers, a column containing five names will have five rotations.

The issue of increasing the number of rotations required has been raised with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) on a number of occasions. With the availability of modern electronic printing facilities, it is now practicable to print ballot papers with a larger number of rotations.

The paper is available from the TEC Office at level 2, 70 Collins Street Hobart and on the website www.electoral.tas.gov.au.

ENDS — 12:00 pm Monday 23 June 2008

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