

Submission to the Review of Tasmania's Local Government Legislation Framework

This submission is on Behalf of Hugh Hiscutt, Desmond Hiscutt and Ben Hiscutt from Howth. We have been involved with this review from its inception so will now formalise a response as is our right. Both Hugh Hiscutt and Desmond Hiscutt have extensive knowledge of the Local Government process having both served as either Wardens in Hugh's case of the Penguin Municipality and in Desmond's case as the Warden of Penguin and councillor of Central Coast Council. Both represented the Ward of West Devon as Legislative Councillors in the Tasmanian Parliament.

We are all of the opinion that the position of councillor should be a voluntary role as this would attract only people whose motive is service to their community. While conceding that the horse may have bolted on this a return to past practices should be on the table. We are all of a mind that the mayor should be appointed by the elected councillors and this would be a return to recent past practise that is referred to as 7D. We are all of the opinion that voting should be voluntary as it is at present.

We all have serious misgivings about measures to ensure a councillor is a fit and proper person as we don't have an inkling as to who could be the judge of this. We feel any Australian rate payer should be eligible but Ben differs from Hugh and Desmond with only Australian Citizens having the right to be on the roll. We are not in favour of the administration of the General Manager's Roll being outsourced to the Electoral Commission.

We are not in favour of limiting the power of the council through care taker provisions. A councillor should be able to cast their vote for the full period they are elected for. We believe the Mayor and councillors should be the final authority of Local Government and we do not believe that professional advise should guide all councillors' decisions. If advise is necessary this should be at the councillor's discretion.

This is a precise contribution to this debate and we all have the ability to expand these thoughts at the appropriate time. Therefore, we would all like to be present to the final hearings process and to be able to contribute.

Benjamin Hiscutt

Hugh Hiscutt

Desmond Hiscutt

23/09/2019