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To: [Policy](#)
Subject: Submission - proposed Expansion of Parliament Bill 2022
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The consultation version of the Expansion of Parliament Act 2022 provides, in the main, for amendments to the Constitution Act 1934 to restore the size of the House of Assembly to 35 members. I support increasing the number of members to 35.

The proposed means of achieving this is by increasing the number of elected members per electorate, or division, to seven, i.e. seven members from each of the five electorates. An alternative option to increase the number of electorates to seven with each returning five members is not proposed by the draft Bill. Advice provided to the Premier by the Electoral Commissioner indicates that five electorates returning seven members each would be simpler, quicker and cheaper to implement than the alternative of seven electorates with five members each.

The ease of implementation and lower cost of the proposed approach have merit, but they are not the only benefits. A simple return to the pre-1998 settings is likely to be more acceptable to the community as it does not introduce changes and complexities that would arouse suspicion as to the underlying motives. Tasmania doesn't need unnecessary and distracting angst about the number of electorates, locations of electoral boundaries and names of electorates. The proposed amendments provide an acknowledgement that the changes made in 1998 are not suitable for 2022 and beyond – a simple and palatable concept. I support the proposal for five electorates of seven members each.

Currently, the number of Ministers of the Crown is limited to 9, or 8 Ministers and a Secretary to Cabinet. The effect of the proposed amendments is to increase these limits to 11 and 10 respectively, greater than the pre-1998 limits of 10 and 9 respectively. Advice provided to the Premier by the Electoral Commissioner was that it may be appropriate to restore the limit on the number of Ministers of the Crown to 10.

It is likely that total ministerial workload has increased in breadth, complexity and pace since 1998. The ability to spread that load across a greater number of Ministers would reduce the risk of Ministers experiencing workloads beyond their individual capabilities and capacities. At a minimum, anticipated benefits arising from a higher number of Ministers would include reduced risk of physical and mental health deterioration and improved capacity to execute their roles. The proposal to increase the limit on the number of Ministers of the Crown to 11, or 10 Ministers and a Secretary to Cabinet, is reasonable, and probably wise.

I support the proposed Expansion of Parliament Bill 2022 published by the Department of Premier and Cabinet as a consultation version for public comment.

Ross Coad