2026 (No. 63)

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

Inquiry into the Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (62 of 2025) Interim Report

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Legislative Council

Hon. Meg *Webb* (Chair)
Hon. Mike *Gaffney*
Hon. Cassy *O'Connor*
Hon. Bec *Thomas*

House of Assembly

Vica *Bayley* (Deputy Chair)
Ella *Haddad*
Kristie *Johnston*
Michael *Ferguson*

Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (62 of 2025)

1.1 On 18 August 2026 the House of Assembly made the following referral to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (the Committee):

> *"The Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (No. 62) be referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters for inquiry and report thereon."*[1]

1.2 The Electoral Amendment Bill 2024 (No. 25 of 2024) had previously been referred to this Committee in the Fifty-First Parliament. This referral occurred on 23 October 2024, and the Committee commenced its inquiry shortly thereafter. This inquiry accepted eleven submissions and held two days of hearings before the prorogation of the Parliament of Tasmania on 11 June 2025, leading all committee activity to cease. At this time, the 2024 Bill also lapsed.

1.3 With the re-establishment of the Committee in the Fifty-Second Parliament, the Committee was endorsed by the Houses to receive all evidence, submissions and related correspondence and papers from its earlier iteration, including those related to the Inquiry into the 2024 Bill.

1.4 The Committee considered the above referral of the Electoral Amendment Bill 2025 (No. 62) at its meetings of 25 and 26 August 2026. The Committee incorporated into its Inquiry all evidence received in the Fifty-First Parliament.

1.5 The Committee also considered correspondence from the Leader of the Greens, Dr Rosalie *Woodruff* MP and Hon Cassy *O'Connor* MLC, in relation to the Bill's referral.[2] This letter requested the Committee, as part of its Inquiry, consider proposed amendments to the Bill in relation to truth in political advertising.

1.6 Given the above correspondence, and evidence previously received on the matter, the Committee resolved to accept the request and incorporate an examination of truth in political advertising into the existing Inquiry.

1.7 The Committee therefore submits this interim report to Parliament, advising of its intention to open submissions for further inquiry into truth in political advertising and its interaction, if any, with section 196 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

Hon. Meg Webb MLC
CHAIR
22 September 2026

[1] Tasmanian House of Assembly, Votes and Proceedings, 18 August 2026, p. 8.
[2] Letter from Leader of the Greens, Dr Rosalie *Woodruff* MP and Hon. Cassy *O'Connor* MLC to Committee Chair, Hon Meg *Webb* MLC, dated 18 August 2026 available here: - https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/110978/18082026_Tasmanian-Greens_Redacted.pdf