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Independent Member for Clark

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Submission on Reforming Tasmania's Lobbying Oversight System

I generally support the recommendations of the Draft Framework Report, with the following observations.

Recommendation 6

This recommendation expands the definition of "public representative" to include "a person employed as a Ministerial adviser".

This category is deficient and ambiguous on a number of fronts. If the intention is to capture Ministerial staff in the definition – a notion I support – "employed as a Ministerial adviser", taken literally, is too narrow. For the avoidance of doubt, this definition should include all Ministerial staff.

My experience and observation is that staff employed in any role in a Minister's office could be the target of lobbyists. For example, a media or communications officer, or an electorate officer. Quite often Ministers will seek advice from all their staff, and so they should as front line or front office staff provide a good measure of community opinion.

I recommend the definition should be replaced by "all persons employed by a Minister".

Following on, I do not understand why employees in all political offices are not included in the definition of "public representative". Lobbyists will certainly target opposition and cross-bench members, and their staff, in their lobbying efforts. Cross benchers who hold the balance of power would certainly be the target of energetic lobbying, so why exclude their staff? Similarly, the opposition, being the alternative government, is the recipient of persistent lobbying.

My recommendation above can be substituted by a catch-all definition, "all persons employed by a Member of Parliament in the House of Assembly or the Legislative Council".

Yours sincerely



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