

MEDIA RELEASE — 2014 HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Independent report on damaged ballot papers

On the evening of 15 March 2014 a large number of postal ballot papers for the House of Assembly division of Denison were damaged during the operation of a letter opening machine. This incident was the subject of a media release the following day and was extensively reported over the ensuing fortnight.

The incident had the potential for grave consequences, although, ultimately, it could not have affected the final outcome of the Denison poll.

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC) decided that the matter was sufficiently serious to require an independent, external review.

This review was undertaken by Dr Kevin Bonham, and Dr Bonham's report is now available on the TEC's website (and is an attachment to this media release).

The TEC thank Dr Bonham for his detailed report. We unreservedly accept Dr Bonham's findings and recommendations and are working to implement them.

The measures we are taking include:

- having postal ballot papers pre-folded by our printers to ensure that the numbering boxes are distant from the fold
- providing training videos on the correct operation of letter-opening machines
- reviewing the models of letter-opening machines authorised for future use
- strengthening mandatory quality control procedures

The TEC again offer our apologies to Denison voters and candidates, and most especially to those postal voters whose ballot papers were damaged.

ENDS — 4:00 PM Tuesday 10 June 2014

For further information — Julian Type ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

**YOUR VOTE IS
BIGGER
THAN YOU THINK.**

www.tec.tas.gov.au