

# Tasmanian Electoral Commission

## Annual Report 2023–24





# Tasmanian Electoral Commission

Annual Report 2023-24

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Nineteenth Annual Report 2023–24

To The Honourable Craig Farrell,  
President of the Legislative Council  
and  
The Honourable Michelle O'Byrne,  
Speaker of the House of Assembly

We have the honour to submit the nineteenth annual report of the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for presentation to the Parliament pursuant to the provisions of section 13 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

The report covers the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Mike Blake  
CHAIRPERSON



Andrew Hawkey  
ELECTORAL  
COMMISSIONER



Karen Frost  
MEMBER

17 October 2024

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# Chairperson's introduction



I started my Chair's introduction to the Tasmanian Electoral Commission's 2022-23 annual report with the observation that "Australia's electoral landscape is increasingly complex and likely to become even more so. Tasmania is not immune from these developments with the current financial year being no exception in particular following the Parliament's decision to introduce, at relatively short notice, compulsory local government elections".

The 2023-24 financial year saw still more challenges faced, details of which are outlined in the 'significant events' pages of this annual report.

Of greater relevance to readers is the positive, and creative, way the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and our staff have responded to these developments, in particular preparing for legislative changes and the need for growth in all aspects of our operations. Our objective includes having in place by mid-2025 an organisational structure strongly placed to give electors continued confidence that we will run elections, and perform our electoral functions, effectively.

My thanks to the Commissioner and his Deputy for their proactive responses to changes required and to all Commission staff for their participation in, and contributions to, proposed changes and delivery of our electoral responsibilities.

Last year I noted that the 2022-23 annual report would be the last during Commission Member Karen Frost's term. This turned out to be premature. Thank you Karen for your ongoing and very practical insights on the activities of the Commission which I continue to value.



## **Mike Blake**

Chairperson  
Tasmanian Electoral Commission

# Electoral Commissioner's review

In addition to further electoral challenges, the year 2023–24 brought an understanding of a different future ahead for the Tasmanian Electoral Commission (TEC).

In the first half of the year, the Parliament passed the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*, which establishes a funding and disclosure scheme for parliamentary political participants. Aspects of the legislation were proclaimed in June 2024, which will enable the Commission to recruit staff and develop systems and processes at the beginning of the next financial year, in preparation for the commencement of the new scheme on 1 July 2025.

The TEC commissioned an independent review of staffing resources in late 2023, with the support of the Department of Justice, in response to a drastically changing electoral environment. The review identified significant organisational risks and critical single-point dependencies across the current structure, which will be exacerbated by the introduction of the Tasmanian funding and disclosure scheme. The review recommended establishing a three-directorate model and increasing the permanent staffing size of the office from 16 to 34.

The review's findings and recommendations received in-principle support from the Department of Justice, and further discussions with the Minister for Justice regarding the restructure have been ongoing. The expansion is expected to take around 18 months, with the first tranche due to commence early next financial year.

Advance preparations for the possibility of an early State election also progressed during the first half of the year. For the first time, the TEC identified and trained a small number of experienced returning officers from New South Wales, as a contingency resource in the event of a snap election. With an early election announced in February, some of these individuals were recruited to supplement local returning officer office staff and were vital to the success of the elections.



With the increase in the size of the House of Assembly from 25 to 35 members, this State election was the first since 1996 that required electors to mark at least seven preferences on their ballot paper (instead of a minimum five preferences) for it to be a formal vote. An additional advertising campaign was rolled out to inform electors of this change, which had a very positive effect. More information about this campaign is provided on page 36. The increase in size also saw a record number of candidates contesting the election and a record number of columns on ballot papers across the five divisions.

The dates set for the State election created significant uncertainty regarding the Commission's ability to run a tally room on election night. Due to the great work of the Hotel Grand Chancellor and the tireless efforts of various media outlets and TEC staff, a full media and public tally room was set up in 30 hours. I thank the leaders of the three parliamentary parties for making speeches in the tally room and helping to ensure this culturally significant electoral ritual remains an important aspect of the Tasmanian State election.

The second half of the year was filled to the brim with significant electoral events. The former member for the Legislative Council division of Elwick resigned in February to contest the House of Assembly election in March. This triggered a Legislative Council by-election, conducted in parallel with the periodic elections during the April-May period. The election to the Legislative Council of two current mayors triggered mayoral and councillor by-elections for Glenorchy City and Sorell councils in May and June.

Over the last 12 months, the TEC has also conducted a review of its physical space requirements in southern Tasmania. Several factors have contributed to this priority, including the end of the current lease on the Commission's Moonah office and limitations on the availability of adequate floor space for lease at short notice in the face of uncertain State election timelines. Snap elections in 2021 and 2024 have caused this issue to be felt more acutely in recent years.

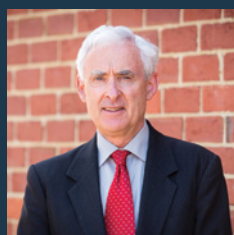
The review, assisted by Department of Justice staff, outlined the different types of spaces needed to meet the TEC's current and future requirements. It is hoped that in the next financial year a suitable location will be identified and the site adjusted to the bespoke needs of the TEC.

The seven-year terms of the Commission Chair and Member were due to conclude during the year 2023-24, however with the Government going into caretaker mode for the State election, new appointments are still to be made. Commission Member Karen Frost has not sought a second term and will end her formal role with the Commission early in the next financial year. Thank you, Karen, for being such an important contributor through such a tumultuous period. You have been a great voice of reason and support.

Finally, I thank the TEC staff for their endurance, professionalism, compassion and care for Tasmanian democracy.

# The Tasmanian Electoral Commission

This annual report of the Commission covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. It is submitted pursuant to section 13 of the Tasmanian *Electoral Act 2004*. Although the Commission is a statutory body, corporate support is provided by the Department of Justice and full financial and staffing reports are included in the Department of Justice Annual Report.



**Mike Blake**  
Chairperson



**Andrew Hawkey**  
Electoral Commissioner



**Karen Frost**  
Member

# Commission functions and powers

The Tasmanian Electoral Commission ("the Commission") is established under section 6 of the *Electoral Act 2004* ("the Act"). The Commission comprises the Chairperson, the Electoral Commissioner and one other member.

The following functions and powers of the Commission are specified in section 9 of the Act.

- (1) In addition to the functions conferred on it by any other provisions of this Act or any other Act, the Commission has the following functions:
  - (a) to advise the Minister on matters relating to elections,
  - (b) to consider and report to the Minister on matters referred to it by the Minister,
  - (c) to promote public awareness of electoral and parliamentary topics by means of educational and information programs and by other means,
  - (d) to provide information and advice on electoral issues to the Parliament, the Government, Government departments and State authorities, within the meaning of the *State Service Act 2000*,
  - (e) to publish material on matters relating to its functions,
  - (f) to investigate and prosecute illegal practices under this Act.
- (2) The Commission may do all things necessary or convenient to be done, including employing persons, for or in connection with or incidental to the performance of its functions.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2) and in addition to any power conferred on the Commission by any other provision of this Act or any other Act, the Commission, in addition to conducting Assembly elections or Council elections may conduct ballots or elections for a person or organisation and may charge fees for that service.

# The Tasmanian Electoral Commission (cont'd)

The Commission and the Electoral Commissioner have legal responsibilities under the following legislation:

- » *Electoral Act 2004*
- » *Electoral Regulations 2015*
- » *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023*
- » *Local Government Act 1993*
- » *Local Government (General) Regulations 2015*
- » *Juries Act 2003*
- » *Legislative Council Electoral Boundaries Act 1995*
- » *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*
- » *Water Management Act 1999*

## Electoral roll management

The Commission, and the Electoral Commissioner, have statutory responsibilities for the independent and impartial conduct of Tasmanian elections and referendums.

An up-to-date and accurate electoral roll is an essential prerequisite for the conduct of elections. The State of Tasmania and the Commonwealth of Australia have a joint management arrangement whereby the TEC and the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) jointly manage and maintain the electoral rolls for federal, state and local government elections. The Electoral Commissioner is a member of the Electoral Council of Australia and New Zealand (ECANZ) which regularly discusses strategies for maintenance of the electoral roll.

All electors enrolled on the State roll are entitled to vote at the local government elections for the municipal area in which their enrolled address is situated.

## Purpose, vision and values

### Purpose

To provide independent, impartial and high-quality electoral services to the people of Tasmania.

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### Vision

To maintain confidence in the integrity of Tasmania's electoral processes and make it simple for people to understand and participate.

---

### Values

#### Respect

**We will:**

- » be actively inclusive
- » be broadly accessible
- » be accountable
- » be mindful and considerate
- » support diversity

**We will not:**

- » be biased

#### Integrity

**We will:**

- » be impartial
- » uphold our independence
- » be accurate
- » be transparent
- » comply with electoral law

**We will not:**

- » comment on political matters
- » hide errors

#### Adaptability

**We will:**

- » be responsive
- » be flexible
- » be prepared
- » commit to improvement
- » work to find a solution

**We will not:**

- » be stuck in our ways
- » take unnecessary risks

#### Collaboration

**We will:**

- » be supportive
- » be consultative
- » engage
- » empower
- » share knowledge

**We will not:**

- » set unrealistic expectations
- 

### Core business

#### Advice

We provide appropriate and expert electoral advice.

#### Management

We conduct accurate, transparent and accessible electoral events.

#### Awareness and engagement

We provide clear and impartial electoral information that enhances understanding and participation.

#### Organisation building

We develop and maintain an agile, creative and cyber secure organisation that empowers, supports and develops staff.

#### Enforcement

We ensure compliance with electoral legislation.

---



# Significant events of 2023–24

# 2024 House of Assembly elections

On Wednesday 14 February, Her Excellency the Governor informed the Electoral Commissioner that, on the advice of the Premier, she had prorogued the Parliament and dissolved the House of Assembly to enable a general election on Saturday 23 March, for the divisions of Bass, Braddon, Clark, Franklin and Lyons.

Writs were issued on 21 February and, when nominations closed on 29 February, 167 candidates had been nominated to contest these elections. This compares with 105 candidates in 2021 and represents the largest field of candidates for election to the House of Assembly since its establishment in 1856.

## **An expanded House**

These elections would be the first conducted since the *Expansion of House of Assembly Act 2022* increased the number of members to 35, returning the House to pre-1998 levels, with seven members to be elected from each of the five divisions.

This Act changed the formality requirement for voting, with electors to number at least one to seven preferences on their ballot paper instead of the previous one to five.

Going into these elections, a principal concern was the potential for an increased number of informal votes if electors failed to number a sixth and seventh preference. To manage this risk, a supplementary public awareness campaign was developed featuring the tagline '7 or more to make your vote count', with visual prompts to emphasise the number 7. This message was delivered concurrently with the longstanding 'Your vote is bigger than you think' campaign. Further information about the '7 or more' campaign is provided on page 36 this report.

# 2024 House of Assembly elections (cont'd)

## **New counting challenges**

The expanded membership of the House also introduced complexities to counting processes. The record number of candidates called for larger ballot papers containing up to 11 columns, in Bass and Clark. This, along with the need to verify the formality of ballot papers to seven preferences, significantly increased the time required to complete first-preference counts and the two subsequent rechecks.

To address the high demand for timely results in the face of these extended counting timelines, media releases issued after polling day provided more detailed explanations of the scrutiny process.

## **Stock issue in Lyons**

Following the commencement of the early voting period on Monday 4 March, an issue with the production of ballot papers for the division of Lyons was identified.

A small number of ballot papers in an initial batch had not received the required security wash—a coloured watermark printed onto the paper stock in advance of an election. Ballot papers that do not bear this security wash or have not been initialled by an issuing officer are not valid.

An investigation into this printing issue found that one batch of ballot paper stock used for this division was affected. Approximately one in every 100 sheets in this batch did not receive the required colour wash, and it was immediately quarantined.

A full audit of Lyons ballot papers in pre-poll centres was also conducted and a small number of unwashed (white) papers were identified, removed and quarantined.

Postal ballot packs were mailed to 1,997 postal voters in Lyons before the issue was identified. Bulk mailing processes do not allow these ballot papers to be initialled by an issuing officer and it is estimated 20 did not receive the required security wash.



While this error affected a small number of electors, the issue was considered serious and urgent. The Electoral Commissioner unreservedly apologised when the error was identified and took steps to ensure that no electors were disenfranchised as a result.

A team was established to contact postal voters in Lyons by email, phone, and SMS. Replacement ballot packs were issued to any elector who received an unwashed ballot paper or if they believed they may have done so having already completed and returned their original pack. The TEC's Integrated Postal Vote Management System was used to flag and remove duplicate and invalid ballot papers from the count.

A dedicated phone service was set up to receive elector queries, and overseas postal voters were encouraged to make use of the Telephone Assisted Voting (TAV) service. TAV was a new voting option for this state election, used by almost 4,000 overseas and interstate electors.

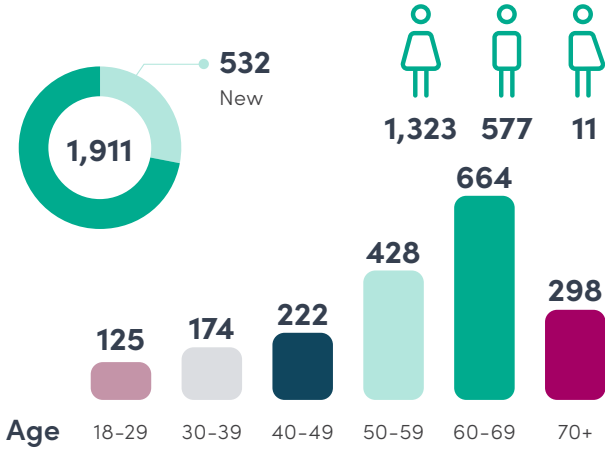
### **Increased informal voting**

The statewide rate of informal voting rose to 6.31% from 5.13% in 2021, with speculation that the change in the formality requirement may have contributed to this outcome. However, analysis of informal ballot papers determined that this was not the case and, notably, only 212 of the 23,465 informal ballot papers contained just five preferences (1-5).

Ballot papers containing apparently unintentional errors accounted for nearly 60% of the informal vote. The repetition or omission of preferences between one and seven was the most frequently observed issue (6,557 ballot papers). The *2022 to 2024 Report on Parliamentary Elections* provides analysis of informal ballot papers and further detail will be published in a supplementary report, in the second quarter of 2024-25.

# 2024 House of Assembly elections snapshot

## Election staff



## Roles

Staff may occupy multiple roles



Returning officers and assistant returning officers



Polling place managers and polling place liaison officers



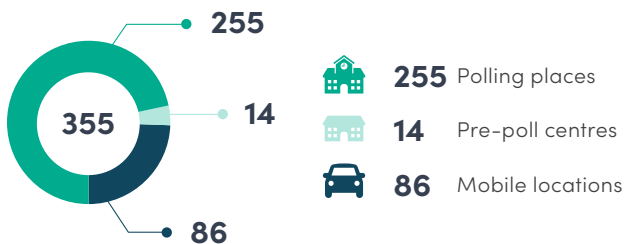
Issuing staff



Non-polling place staff



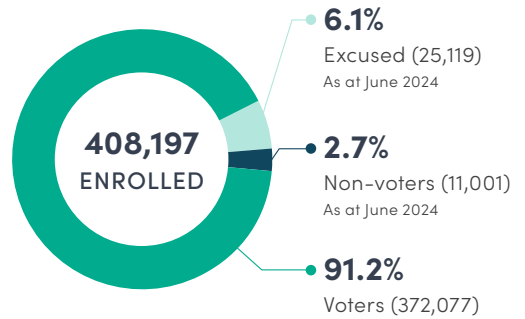
## Polling locations



## Participation

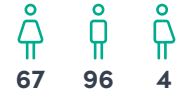
Voters

**91.2%**

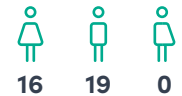


## Candidates

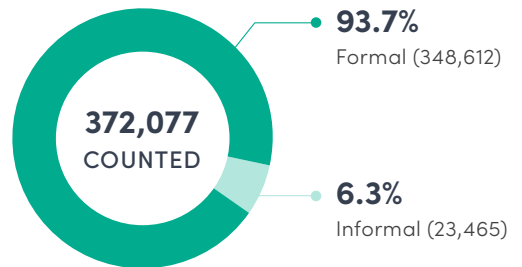
Candidates stood



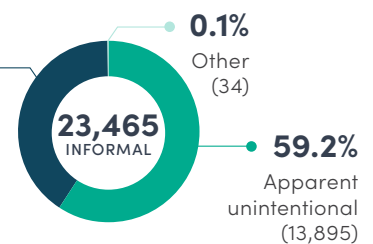
Candidates elected



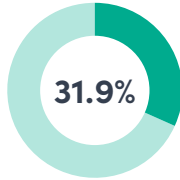
## Ballot papers



**40.7%** Apparent intentional (9,536)



## Voted early



Pre-poll	22.23%
Interstate pre-poll	0.20%
Postal	7.15%
Telephone voting service	1.05%
Mobile	1.29%

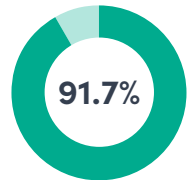
## Postal returns

(excludes general postal votes)

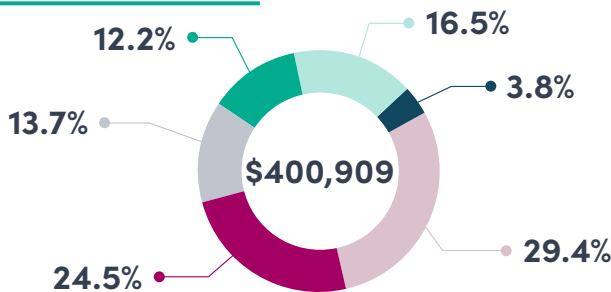
				Total
Issued	19,262	932	59	20,253
Returned	18,338	757	1	19,096

## Voted in person

	Mobile	Pre-poll	Polling day
In division	3,942	69,414	237,475
Out of division	845	13,305	16,264



## Election awareness



- TV
- Radio
- Social media
- Newspaper
- Outdoor
- Production

Costs are for two awareness campaigns.

## Cost per elector

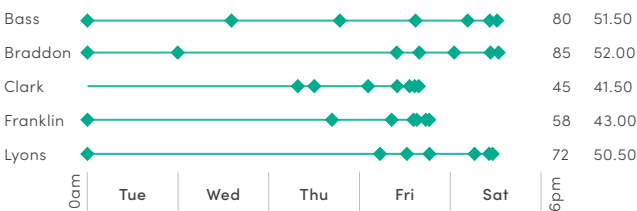
2024 HA		\$12.37
2022 Fed		\$25.94
2021 HA*		\$18.44
2019 Fed		\$7.97
2018 HA		\$14.28
2016 Fed		\$7.49
2014 HA		

\$12.37

\*Legislative Council & House of Assembly elections held concurrently. Actual costs for each election could not be quantified.

## Counting

### Candidate elected timeline



### Ballot paper columns



5 days

Significant events 19

# 2024 Legislative Council elections

Full details of all Legislative Council elections can be found on the TEC website.

Under the Legislative Council periodic cycle, elections for the divisions of Hobart and Prosser were due to be conducted in 2024. Following the resignation of the Member for Elwick, Josh Willie, on Tuesday 27 February 2024, a by-election was also required to be conducted concurrently with the periodic elections.

Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, issued writs for the elections on Wednesday 3 April. When nominations closed at 12 noon on Thursday 11 April, 16 candidates had been nominated: four in Elwick, seven in Hobart and five in Prosser.

Bec Thomas was elected as Member for Elwick until 2028, Cassy O'Connor was elected as Member for Hobart until 2030, and Kerry Vincent was elected as Member for Prosser until 2030.

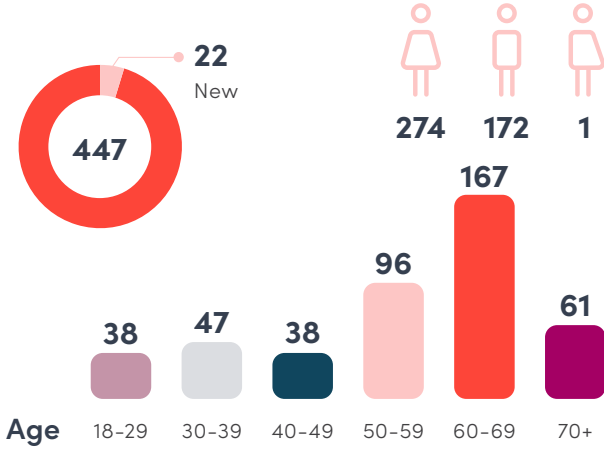
Legislative Council results are provided in Appendix B.



Elected members announced at the Declaration of the Poll on Thursday 9 May.

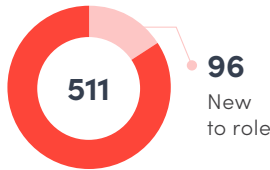


## Election staff



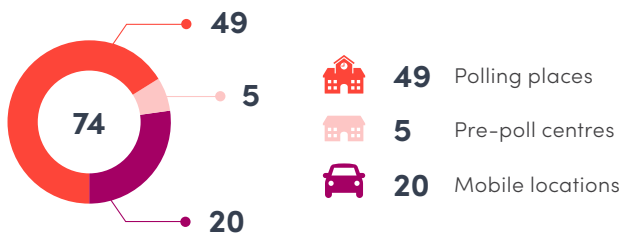
## Roles

Staff may occupy multiple roles



Returning officers and assistant returning officers	3	3	0	New to TEC 0 New to role 1
Polling place managers and polling place liaison officers	52	37	0	New to TEC 0 New to role 21
Issuing staff	153	84	0	New to TEC 8 New to role 37
Non-polling place staff	114	64	1	New to TEC 7 New to role 37

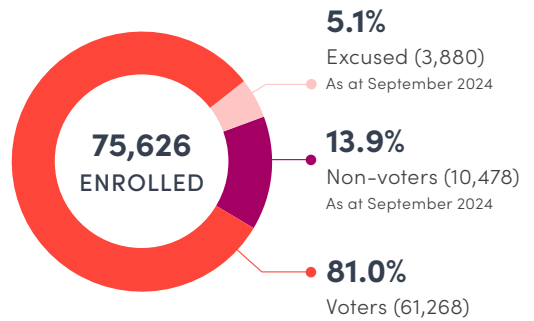
## Polling locations



## Participation

Voters

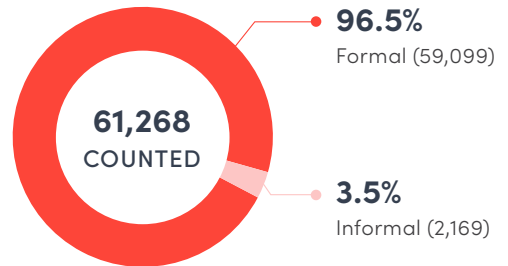
**81.0%**



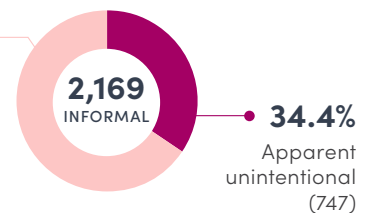
## Candidates

Candidates stood	5	11	0
Candidates elected	2	1	0

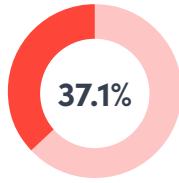
## Ballot papers



**65.6%**  
Apparent intentional (1,422)



## Voted early



Pre-poll	27.51%
Interstate pre-poll	0.05%
Postal	7.01%
Telephone voting service	1.52%
Mobile	1.04%

## Postal returns

(excludes general postal votes)

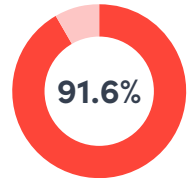


Total

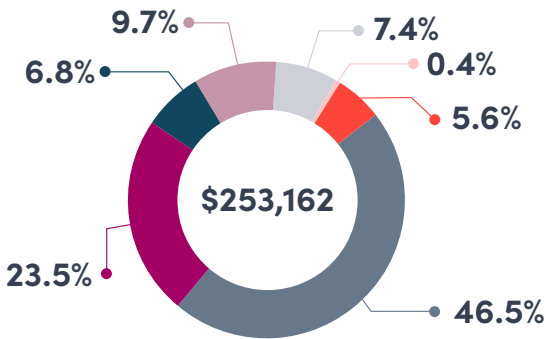
Issued	2,840	78	2	2,920
Returned	2,756	69	0	2,825

## Voted in person

	Mobile	Pre-poll	Polling day
In division	498	14,852	36,564
Out of division	140	2,002	2,067



## Election awareness



Elector cards presented when attendance voting

18,726

- TV
- Radio
- Social media
- Newspaper
- Outdoor
- Production
- Elector mailout

## Cost per elector

2024 LC	\$18.07
2023 LC	\$14.51
2022 LC	\$17.71
2022 Fed	\$25.94
2021 LC & HA*	
2020 LC	\$22.08

\$18.07

\*Legislative Council & House of Assembly elections held concurrently. Actual costs for each election could not be quantified.

# Legislative changes

## A Tasmanian funding and disclosure scheme

On 11 December 2023, the *Electoral Disclosure and Funding Act 2023* (the Act) received Royal Assent, establishing significant new responsibilities and powers for the Commission, including:

- » establishment of a funding and disclosure unit,
- » management of the lodging of reportable political donations, donation returns and election returns,
- » provision of online public access to reportable political donations and lodged returns,
- » establishment and maintenance of registers of candidates, party agents, official agents, associated entities and third-party campaigners,
- » establishment of significant investigatory powers to investigate any breaches set out in the Bill, and
- » management of two types of funding (campaign funding and administration funding) for some House of Assembly political participants.

By proclamation on 20 June 2024, 1 July 2024 was fixed as the date on which Part 1 and sections 5 and 180 of the Act (establishing the scheme and facilitating the Commission's costs and expenses in that regard) were to commence.

1 July 2025 was fixed as the date on which the balance of the Act (and the system itself) is to commence.



## **Amendments to *Electoral Act 2004***

On 11 December 2023, the *Electoral Matters (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2023* (the Act) received Royal Assent, making several amendments to administrative processes and:

- » introducing a new definition of ‘electoral matter’,
- » updating authorisation requirements for online, social media and digital communication ‘electoral matter’,
- » updating requirements for the registration of a political party and public access to information about political parties,
- » amending the name of the Redistribution Tribunal to the Tasmanian Augmented Electoral Commission, and
- » updating and clarifying various compliance and enforcement provisions within the Act and providing the Commission with powers of investigation.

By proclamation on 20 June 2024, 1 July 2024 was fixed as the date on which the provisions of the Act (other than section 28) were to commence.

1 July 2025 was fixed as the date on which clause 28 (insertion of investigative powers into the *Electoral Act 2004*, relevant to administration of the funding and disclosure scheme) is to commence.

## **Electoral advice**

During 2023–2024, the Tasmanian Electoral Commission provided technical electoral advice in relation to the following legislation:

- » Electoral Matters (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2022

# Organisational review

From June to November 2023, TEC staff worked with an independent consultant to complete an organisational review and determine the TEC's current and long-term ability to deliver on its statutory responsibilities.

This process was triggered by a range of factors, including the additional workload expected from the introduction of a Tasmanian funding and disclosure scheme; an increased role managing the enrolment of Tasmanian Aboriginal persons on the Aboriginal Land Council of Tasmania (ALCT) roll; and the impact of large-scale non-voter processes following the move to compulsory voting at local government elections.

Following a thorough consultation and review process, a range of issues, pressures and risks were identified. It was determined that, under the current structure and staffing footprint, there is a significant risk to the TEC's ability to deliver on both current and future statutory requirements. The current staffing model was identified as having several single-person vulnerabilities and it was noted that the absence of significant error or event failure to this point was a testament to the dedication of the existing staff.

Failure of TEC systems and processes has potentially significant consequences. To reduce this risk, particularly in the face of increasing regulatory requirements and political and community expectations, considerable growth in resourcing was recommended.

A new staffing model was proposed, with a directorate structure comprising Elections and Engagement, Business, and Legislation and Compliance teams. Regarding the impact on current staff, the review recommended that all existing positions be retained and suggested the model would provide new opportunities for staff, both now and into the future, with better-defined and more diverse career pathways.

The review's findings and recommendations were presented to the Department of Justice agency executive team in late November 2023 and received in-principle support.

The TEC's new staffing footprint will increase to 34 full-time staff and introduce both new and expanded teams. The first tranche of employment will commence in July 2024 and continue over the following 18 months.



# House of Assembly

## casual vacancies

Details of these recounts are provided in Appendix D.

### **August 2023 Clark recount (O'Connor)**

On 1 August 2023, the TEC completed a recount to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly for the division of Clark created by the resignation of Cassy O'Connor.

Ten candidates consented to be included in the recount.

Vica Bayley was elected to the House of Assembly for the division of Clark until the next general election, held on 23 March 2024.

### **October 2023 Clark recount (Archer)**

On 24 October 2023, the TEC completed a recount to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly for the division of Clark created by the resignation of Elise Archer.

Twelve candidates consented to be included in the recount.

Simon Behrakis was elected to the House of Assembly for the division of Clark until the next general election, held on 23 March 2024.

# Local government casual vacancies

The TEC website provides full details of all local government elections, including recounts and by-elections.

During 2023-24, the TEC conducted recounts to fill councillor vacancies for the following councils:

- » Glenorchy City (July)
- » Central Highlands (September)
- » Glamorgan-Spring Bay (September and February)
- » Southern Midlands (October)
- » Tasman (October)
- » Hobart City (November and April)
- » Sorell (December)
- » Derwent Valley (February)
- » Huon Valley (February)
- » Meander Valley (February)

By-elections for mayor and councillor positions were conducted for the following councils:

- » King Island (January) - councillor only
- » Glenorchy City (June)
- » Sorell (June)

# Glenorchy City Council elector poll

**Electors enrolled:**

33,554

**Declarations returned:**

24,266

**Response rate:**

72.32%

**Total ballot papers:**

22,479

Following a public meeting held on Wednesday 27 March 2024, to discuss the urgent repair of the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool and other pool-related concerns, a petition signed by over 1,000 electors was submitted to the Glenorchy City Council on Tuesday 23 April 2024, requesting an elector poll in accordance with section 60C of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The elector poll was conducted by postal ballot in conjunction with the Glenorchy City by-election. Electors were asked to write 'yes' or 'no' in response to the following questions.

***Do you support the Council, with committed government funding, urgently repairing and reopening the Glenorchy War Memorial Pool?***

	YES	NO	Total formal votes	Informal	Total
Votes	19,637	2,421	22,058	421	22,479
Percentage	89.02%	10.98%			

***Should the Council apply for future government funding, to retain the pool and redevelop it into a modern public pool facility that will serve the Glenorchy area for the longer term?***

	YES	NO	Total formal votes	Informal	Total
Votes	20,547	1,539	22,086	393	22,479
Percentage	93.03%	6.97%			

# Glenorchy City Council elector poll (cont'd)

## Analysis of responses to the second question

For the second question, ballot papers were counted as groups (YES, NO, informal) determined by the response to the first question. The details of this breakdown are as follows.

Of those who responded **YES** to the first question:

	YES	NO	Informal	Total
Votes	19,216	289	132	19,637
% (group)	98.5%	1.5%		
% (poll)	87.1%	1.3%		

Of those who responded **NO** to the first question:

	YES	NO	Informal	Total
Votes	1,156	1,245	20	2,421
% (group)	48.1%	51.9%		
% (poll)	5.2%	5.6%		

Of **informal** responses to the first question:

	YES	NO	Informal	Total
Votes	175	5	241	421
% (group)	97.2%	2.8%		
% (poll)	0.8%	0.0%		

# Other elections and ballots

In 2023–24, the TEC conducted the following non-parliamentary elections:

## **Statutory elections**

- » Elizabeth Macquarie Irrigation Trust
- » Mowbray Swamp Drainage Trust
- » Togari Drainage Trust

## **Non-statutory elections**

- » Liberal Party Senate Selectors
- » Yolla Co-Op

# Assisting other electoral authorities

The TEC assists other electoral commissions by issuing pre-poll votes for their elections. Ballot papers were issued for the following elections:

## **Electoral Commission of South Australia**

- » 2024 Dunstan by-election

## **New Zealand Electoral Commission**

- » 2023 State election

## **Western Australian Electoral Commission**

- » 2023 Rockingham by-election

## **NSW Electoral Commission**

- » 2023 State election





# Innovations

# Election readiness: expecting the unexpected

An early state election in 2021 provided valuable learnings for the TEC and resulted in a shift in the approach to election preparations and readiness.

The move of two government members to the crossbench in May 2023, which placed the Liberal Government into minority, brought about a heightened electoral environment that persisted over many months. During this time the TEC implemented a range of measures to strengthen readiness and mitigate the risks of another early major event.

During elections, the TEC employs short-term professional returning officers to oversee the statutory responsibilities of front-line election management. Due to the uncertainty of a possible early election, the TEC moved to bolster the available returning officer pool by training an additional four experienced returning officers, identified through our collegial relationship with the NSW Electoral Commission.



NSW and Tasmanian delegates inspecting the TEC's new Cambridge site during the 2023 Returning Officers Conference.

NSW recruits took part in the August 2023 Returning Officers Conference, a feature of the TEC's election preparation program that provides a forum for training and information sharing. This was a valuable opportunity for Tasmanian and NSW participants to compare and contrast their experiences of election procedure and logistics.

When an early election was announced in February 2024, the TEC was well placed to recruit quickly and, as a result of this collaborative initiative, interstate staff were brought on board to fill the roles of two returning officers and one assistant returning officer.

The Operations team introduced a new approach to preparing polling place materials early in the year, moving from a manifest of polling place-specific materials to a generalised small, medium and large model. This highly-successful initiative enabled the pre-preparation and storage of over 400 boxes of polling place materials for a potential early State election and the known Legislative Council elections.



Given the TEC's reliance on short-term commercial building leases to house election offices, scrutiny centres, and training venues for State elections, the ever-tightening leasing market saw the TEC move to take on mid-term leases on two properties, one at Glenorchy and one at Cambridge.

Securing these sites ensured fit-for-purpose premises were available for a potential State election and the annual Legislative Council elections. It allowed the TEC to fully establish election offices, telephone voting and call centre facilities, secure ballot paper storage and centralised distribution points in advance of a possible early election announcement. It also allowed for the robust testing of surge capacity in an expanded telephone voting service for interstate and overseas electors.

The TEC was also able to support the AEC's Voice to Parliament referendum by affording use of the Glenorchy site as a major pre-poll centre for local electors.

# A new approach to election phone services

The addition of a Telephone Assisted Voting (TAV) service at the 2024 State election prompted the TEC to rethink how phone services might be rolled out for this large-scale event, bringing relevant infrastructure and resourcing together under one roof.



TAV has operated for smaller-scale events since 2022. These experiences have provided valuable insights when planning an expanded service for a State election. Election call centre services, including elector support and receipt of election results, have traditionally operated from the TEC's Moonah office, with 10-12 staff spread across the site where space allowed.

During advance preparations for the State election, the TEC's Glenorchy site was identified as an ideal location for a more cohesive call centre setup and an expanded TAV service, allowing IT infrastructure to be installed and tested in advance of an election announcement. This included a full-day test of call surge capacity with a large cohort of casual agency staff, many of whom returned for the telephone voting period some weeks later.

In recognition of the skill set required by telephone operators in such an environment, this was the first time the TEC utilised a recruitment services agency to provide TAV and call centre staff. This change streamlined the recruitment and onboarding of a large cohort of suitably qualified staff with a short lead time, providing consistent staffing across the election period while easing the workload of internal employment teams.

At its peak, the Glenorchy phone services centre accommodated 45 staff, including registration, transcription, and call centre teams, their respective supervisors, and on-site IT support staff.

These efficiencies and advance preparations meant that phone services teams were well placed to address additional complexities brought about by the greater number of members elected in each division (from five to seven) and the increased number of candidates. These factors impacted both the training required for operators and the call times experienced.



The call centre team received more than 9,800 calls across the election period. TAV teams received 3,936 registrations, and 3,901 Tasmanians cast their votes using the service.

Feedback from the supervisors, telephone operators and electors using the services will inform future improvements.

# '7 or more'

## awareness campaign

Following the commencement of the *Expansion of the House of Assembly Act 2022*, which increased the number of members to be elected at the 2024 State election, a significant and multi-faceted education and awareness campaign was needed to highlight new formality requirements for Tasmanian electors.

With seven members to be elected in each division, electors would be required to number at least seven preferences (1-7) on their ballot paper. As the previous requirement to mark at least five preferences had been in place since the 1996 State election, the risk of increased informal voting was a key concern for the TEC.



A new awareness campaign was developed in collaboration with creative agency The20. Featuring the tagline '7 or more to make your vote count' and a diverse cast of Tasmanians holding up seven fingers, the campaign delivered

strong, simple prompts to communicate the change and what it meant for electors when completing their ballot papers.

Multiple channels, including television, print, digital, and outdoor advertising, were employed to ensure the campaign reached every elector over a five-week period. Messaging continued through to polling day, with a poster campaign rolled out in polling screens at every polling place across the state. This comprehensive approach was run in conjunction with the existing 'Your vote is bigger than you think' campaign that has been in place since 2014.



During the election period, the TEC issued 19 media releases containing the tagline and imagery from the '7 or more' campaign. The messages to media outlets regularly focused on the change in formality and its implications for the timing of post-election processes.



The '7 or more' campaign proved successful in its bid to inform and educate electors, with voting data demonstrating a broad understanding of the requirement for at least seven preferences (1-7). Though informal voting did rise at the 2024 State election, analysis of informal ballot papers determined that the change to formality was not a key driver. Of the 23,465 ballot papers deemed informal, only 212 contained five preferences (1-5) without any other error or omission. Further analysis of informal voting is available in the *2022-2024 Report on Parliamentary Elections*.

# Report on performance





**Table 1: Electoral enrolment**

As at 30 June	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Tasmanian enrolment (excluding provisional enrolments)	389,227	396,792	403,200	405,042	407,714
Voting eligible population (VEP)	403,081	407,391	416,565	417,619	415,093
Enrolment rate (% of VEP)	96.58%	97.40%	96.79%	96.99%	98.22%

**Table 2: House of Assembly elections statistics**

Election year	2014	2018	2021	2024	
Close of roll enrolment	366,442	381,183	394,432	408,197	
Ballot papers cast	342,595	352,180	359,805	372,077	
Turnout	93.49%	92.39%	91.22%	91.15%	
Number of candidates	126	109	105	167	
Total number of counts	330	253	203	340	
Formal ballot papers	326,163	334,871	341,350	348,612	
Informality	Rate	4.80%	4.91%	5.13%	6.31%
	Apparent intentional	8,787	8,468	7,862	9,536
	Apparent unintentional	7,435	8,731	10,593	13,895

**Table 3: Legislative Council elections statistics by division**

Election year	2023				2024	
	Launceston	Murchison	Rumney	Elwick (by-election)	Hobart	Prosser
Close of roll enrolment	25,361	28,114	27,606	23,669	24,538	27,419
Ballot papers cast	20,895	23,949	22,744	19,134	19,769	22,365
Turnout	82.39%	85.19%	82.39%	80.84%	80.56%	81.57%
Number of candidates	2	4	4	4	7	5
Formal ballot papers	19,875	23,013	22,018	18,318	19,272	21,509
Informality rate	4.88%	3.91%	3.19%	4.26%	2.51%	3.83%

**Table 4: Legislative Council elections participation and informality rates**

Election year	2020	2021	2022	2022 (Pembroke by-election)	2023	2024	
	Close of roll enrolment	53,551	53,960	80,192	23,286	81,081	75,626
Ballot papers cast	45,613	44,090	66,228	18,905	67,588	61,268	
Turnout	85.18%	81.71%	82.59%	81.19%	83.36%	81.01%	
Informality	Rate	2.26%	5.22%	3.27%	3.04%	3.97%	3.54%
	Apparent intentional	707	1,211	1,257	379	1,681	1,422
	Apparent unintentional	326	1,090	907	195	1,001	747

**Table 5: Local government elections statistics**

Election year	2009	2011	2014	Glenorchy City <sup>1</sup>	2018 <sup>2</sup>	2022 <sup>7</sup>	
Close of roll enrolment <sup>3</sup>	362,890	366,906	375,355	33,283	356,810	410,975	
Declarations returned	201,550	199,153	204,875	18,236	209,522	348,453	
Turnout	55.54%	54.28%	54.58%	54.79%	58.72%	84.79%	
Total ballot papers <sup>4</sup>	526,117	510,563	591,180	53,818	596,450	1,001,646 <sup>8</sup>	
Number of candidates <sup>4</sup>	449	421	716 <sup>5</sup>	32	718	743	
Number of counts <sup>4</sup>	553	489	1,365 <sup>5</sup>	71	1,319	1,373	
Formal ballot papers <sup>4</sup>	516,524	500,410	574,335	51,716	575,279	957,096	
Informality	<b>Rate</b>	1.82%	1.99%	2.85%	3.91%	3.55%	4.45%
	<b>Apparent intentional</b>	4,994	5,471	7,378	164 <sup>6</sup>	7,597	33,413
	<b>Apparent unintentional</b>	4,599	4,682	9,367	777 <sup>6</sup>	13,574	11,137

1. Following the passing of the *Glenorchy City Council (Dismissal of Councillors) Act 2017*, a stand-alone election was conducted. Polling closed Tuesday 16 January 2018.
2. These elections included only 28 of the 29 councils.
3. Comprises those electors on the House of Assembly roll for an address within the municipal area as well as other owners, occupiers and company nominees who have enrolled on general managers' rolls.
4. Includes all ballot papers for mayor, deputy mayor and councillors.
5. Increase in number of candidates and number of counts due to the move to "all-in, all-out" elections in 2014.
6. These figures only apply to councillor ballot papers, as an informal ballot paper survey was not conducted for the mayor and deputy mayor ballot papers for the Glenorchy City Council.
7. On 16 June 2022 the *Local Government Amendment (Elections) Act 2022* received Royal Assent. This Act made two significant changes to local government elections:
  - » voting became compulsory for all electors who appeared on the State electoral roll for the forthcoming and future local government elections and by-elections, and
  - » formality for councillor ballot papers was changed to marking 1-5 preferences on the ballot paper regardless of the number of councillor positions being elected.
8. Largely attributed to the introduction of compulsory voting in 2022.

A close-up photograph of a person wearing a vibrant, multi-colored patterned shirt. They are seated at a table, looking down at several sheets of paper. Their hands are visible, with one hand pointing to a specific section on a document. The background is softly blurred, showing other people and documents, suggesting a meeting or a collaborative work environment.

# Financial performance 2023-24

This section contains breakdowns of election costs and historical comparisons. Expenditure and revenue statements can be found in the 2023–24 Department of Justice Annual Report. To provide an accurate comparison between the cost of federal, House of Assembly, Legislative Council and local government elections, the salaries of permanent TEC staff are not included in these calculations.

**Table 6: Cost of House of Assembly elections**

Election year	2010	2014	2018	2021	2024
Total cost (\$'000)	2,271	2,743	3,039	3,937 <sup>1</sup>	5,048
Number of electors on the roll	357,315	366,442	381,183	394,432	408,197
Cost per elector on the roll	\$6.36	\$7.49	\$7.97	N/A <sup>2</sup>	\$12.37 <sup>3</sup>

**Table 7: Cost of Legislative Council elections**

Election year	2021	2022	2022 (Pembroke by-election)	2023	2024
Total cost (\$'000)	N/A	1,420	271	1,176	1,366
Number of divisions	3 <sup>4</sup>	3	1	3	3
Number of electors for these elections	82,587	80,192	23,286	81,081	75,626
Cost per elector	N/A <sup>2</sup>	\$17.71	\$11.66	\$14.51	\$18.07

1. Combined cost for the 2021 Parliamentary elections where polling day and associated electoral services were shared for the State election and the 2021 periodic Legislative council elections.
2. Costs per elector for the 2021 Parliamentary elections are not clearly quantifiable and are inconsistent with other years, due to sharing of costs related to overlapping elections.
3. The substantial increase in the cost per elector for the 2024 State election can be attributed to broad post-COVID increases in the costs for providing services and the additional costs committed to the roll out of telephone voting and a modern call centre, the medium-term leases of external premises to ensure availability, the costs for relocating and using key electoral staff from interstate, the development and roll out of an additional advertising campaign '7 or more...' and the increase in complexity of counting due to the increase in size of the House of Assembly.
4. A ballot was not required for one of these divisions.

**Table 8: Cost of local government elections**

Election year	2009	2011	2014	Glenorchy City	2018 <sup>5</sup>	2022 <sup>7</sup>
Total cost (\$'000)	1,248	1,337	2,098	233	2,470	3,829
Number of electors on the roll	362,890	366,906	375,355	33,283	356,810	410,975
Cost per elector on the roll	\$3.44	\$3.65	\$5.59 <sup>6</sup>	\$6.99	\$6.92	\$9.32

**Table 9: Cost of federal elections**

Election year	2007	2010	2013	2016	2019	2022
Cost per elector on the roll	\$8.36	\$7.68	\$9.48	\$14.28	\$18.44 <sup>8</sup>	\$25.94

These figures were obtained from the Australian Electoral Commission website, [www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au). Federal election costs do not include a component for the decentralised structure of permanent divisional returning offices.

**Table 10: Cost of managing and maintaining the electoral roll**

Financial year	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Expenditure on roll (\$'000)	501	476	495	542	595
Number of electors on the roll at 30 June	389,227	396,792	403,200	405,042	405,121
Cost per elector on the roll	\$1.29	\$1.20	\$1.23	\$1.34	\$1.47

These figures include the cost to the TEC of the state/federal joint roll arrangement, associated IT infrastructure and the provision of rolls to members of the Tasmanian Parliament, registered parties and other organisations approved by the Commission under section 40 of the *Electoral Act 2004*.

5. These elections included only 28 of the 29 councils.

6. Increase in cost reflects the move to "all-in, all-out" elections in 2014.

7. Compulsory voting introduced in local government elections.

8. Cost amended. Public funding payment excluded from recalculation.



# TEC staff



# A time of change for TEC staff

On 16 May, TEC staff and returning officers for the State election were invited by Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, Governor of Tasmania, to attend an afternoon tea at Government House, in recognition of the significant contributions that had been made at multiple elections in the first half of 2024.



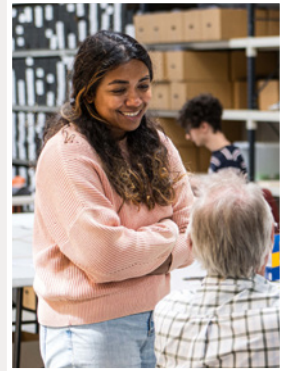
At this event, it was acknowledged that the TEC's ability to avoid major incidents or a failed election is a tribute to the skills and dedication of its staff.

Staff involvement has been key in influencing and informing an organisational review over the past 12 months. This review recommended a new staffing structure based on a three-directorate model to reduce historic dependencies and provide more balanced workloads. This will enable staff to be more proactive in planning for unanticipated electoral events, demonstrating our commitment to preparedness and smooth operations.

The expansion from 16 to 34 permanent staff over an 18-month period will significantly enhance the organisation's capacity to meet new responsibilities and face emerging electoral challenges, but it will also create a range of logistical and organisational challenges for the current staff. Recognising and addressing the impact on staff is crucial to this transition.



To commence the change-management process, a staff retreat was held in November 2023, and the Department of Justice is providing a range of wellbeing and change-management services throughout the transition period.



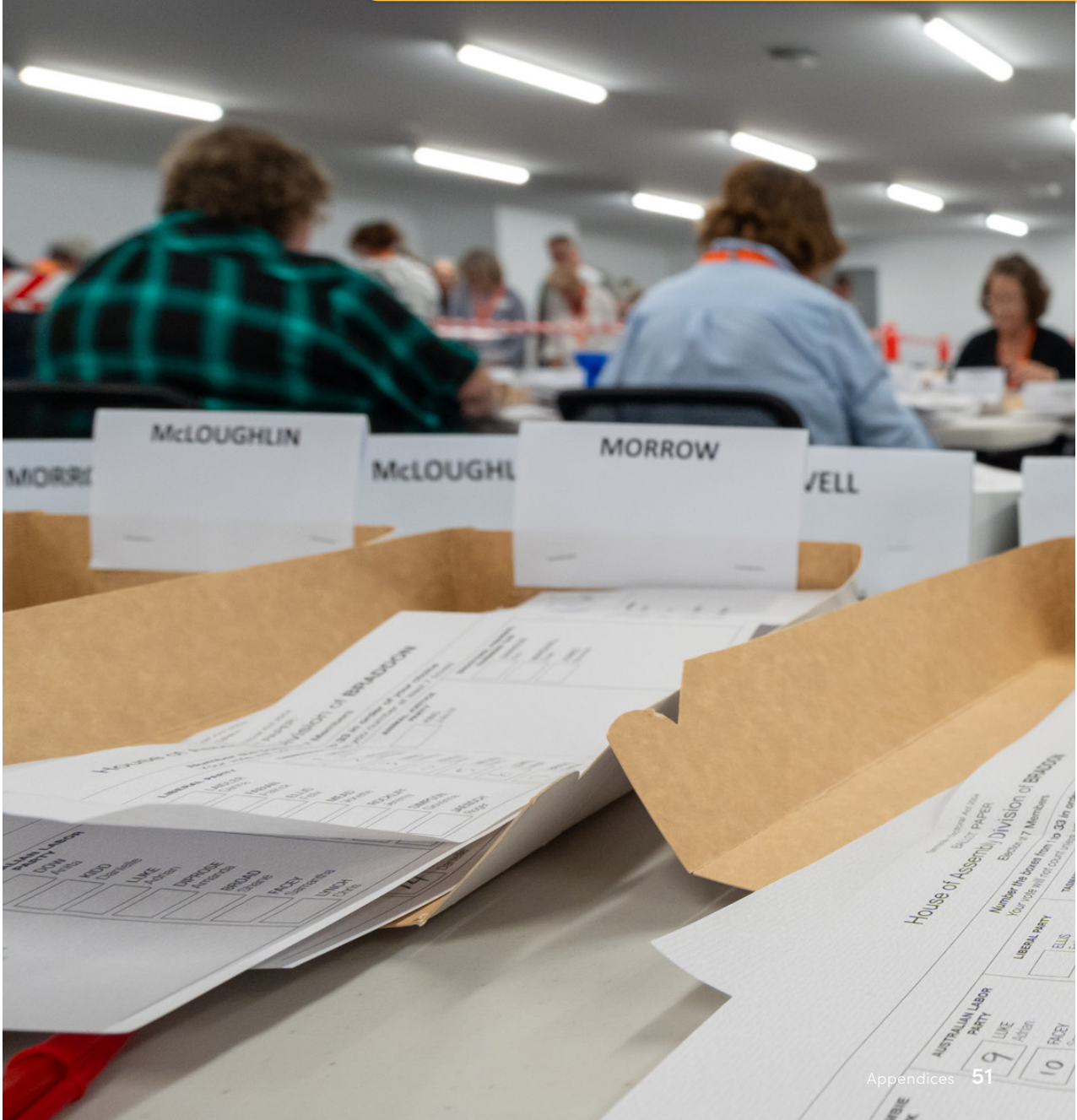
As the TEC prepares for a significant change in the months and years ahead, some areas of the organisation have already experienced a changing of the guard, as we bid farewell to some long-term staff and welcome new members to the team. Glenn Jeffrey joined the Commission as Communications Manager in July 2023, bringing a wealth of knowledge from his time at the Victorian Parliament.

We pass on our best wishes to Diana Piontek (right) and Michelle Davy, who have taken up other positions within the State public service. Diana has worked with the office since 2017 in an administration role, while Michelle was employed by the TEC for over 25 years in a policy role, which included her significant contribution to the creation of the *Electoral Act 2004*.





# Appendices



# Appendix A

## Appointments, approvals, determinations and delegations

The Commission met five times during the year. It also made a number of out-of-session resolutions (between meetings) in accordance with the procedures set out in clause 6 of schedule 2 of the *Electoral Act 2004*, making the following appointments, approvals, determinations and terminations.

### Appointments (*Electoral Act 2004*)

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
24(1)	Returning officers for the 2024 House of Assembly elections	16/02/2024
24(1)	Returning officers for the 2024 Legislative Council elections	16/02/2024
24(1)	Returning officer for the 2024 Legislative Council election (Elwick)	13/03/2024
24(1)	Returning officer for the 2024 House of Assembly election (Clark)	21/03/2024 (out of session)
92(4)	Mobile polling place for the 2024 Legislative Council elections	22/04/2024 (out of session)
92(4), 93(1) & 93(2)	Polling places for the 2024 House of Assembly elections	16/02/2024
92(4), 93(1) & 93(2)	Polling places for the 2024 Legislative Council elections	16/02/2024
92(4), 93(1) & 93(2)	Polling places for the 2024 Legislative Council elections (Elwick)	13/03/2024

### Approvals (*Electoral Act 2004*)

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
38	Public inspection of roll	29/11/2023
77(2), 77(3) & 77(4)	House of Assembly nomination forms	19/07/2023
77(2) & 77(5)	Legislative Council nomination forms	29/11/2023
96(1)	Form of ballot papers for House of Assembly elections	16/02/2024
104(2)	Scrutineer forms for parliamentary elections	19/07/2023

## Determinations *(Electoral Act 2004)*

Section no.	Subject	Date determined
27(1)	Remuneration and allowances	19/07/2023
27(1)	Remuneration and allowances	5/12/2023 (out of session)

## Terminations *(Electoral Act 2004)*

Section no.	Subject	Date approved
93(3) & 93(4)	Termination of appointment of polling places for 2024 House of Assembly elections	13/03/2024

## Approvals *(Local Government Act 1993)*

Section no.	Subject	Date determined
262C & 262D	Notices of failure to vote	10/10/2023 (out of session)
262F(2)	Determination notice	29/11/2023
292(2)	Scrutineer forms for local government elections	19/07/2023

# Appendix B

## Legislative Council elections

### Periodic cycle as at 30 June 2024

Year	Division	Current Member
2025	Montgomery	Leonie Hiscutt
	Nelson	Meg Webb
	Pembroke	Luke Edmunds
2026	Huon	Dean Harriss
	Rosevears	Jo Palmer
2027	Derwent	Craig Farrell
	Mersey	Michael Gaffney
	Windermere	Nick Duigan
2028	Elwick	Bec Thomas
	McIntyre	Tania Rattray
2029	Launceston	Rosemary Armitage
	Murchison	Ruth Forrest
	Rumney	Sarah Lovell
2030	Hobart	Cassy O'Connor
	Prosser	Kerry Vincent

Elections are conducted on a six-year periodic cycle.

Elections for three members are held in May one year, with elections for two members held in May the following year and so on.

## 2024 periodic elections calendar

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Wednesday 3 April	6 pm	Issue of the writs and close of rolls
Thursday 11 April	12 noon	Candidate nominations close
Friday 12 April	12 noon	Announcement of nominations
Friday 26 April	4 pm	Postal vote applications close
Saturday 4 May	8 am–6 pm	Polling day

## Elwick by-election summary

---

Retiring member – Josh Willie	Electors enrolled	23,669
Returning officer – John Parry	Electors who voted	19,134 (80.84%)
Bec Thomas elected to serve until May 2028	Informal votes	816 (4.26%)

## Hobart election summary

---

Retiring member – Rob Valentine	Electors enrolled	24,538
Returning officer – Peter Moore	Electors who voted	19,769 (80.56%)
Cassy O'Connor elected to serve until May 2030	Informal votes	497 (2.51%)

## Prosser election summary

---

Retiring member – Jane Howlett	Electors enrolled	27,419
Returning officer – Graeme Ingram	Electors who voted	22,365 (81.57%)
Kerry Vincent elected to serve until May 2030	Informal votes	856 (3.83%)

## 2024 Legislative Council elections - Elwick by-election

### First preference votes and informal ballot papers by polling place

ELWICK	Independent	Australian Labor Party	Tasmanian Greens	Independent	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	CANGELOSI Fabiano	McLAUGHLIN Tessa	SHELLEY Janet	THOMAS Bec			
Polling place							
Collinsvale	74	55	136	114	379	14	393
Glenorchy	530	787	383	828	2,528	160	2,688
Glenorchy Central	79	147	77	127	430	30	460
Goodwood	57	135	54	84	330	25	355
Lenah Valley	150	259	291	283	983	34	1,017
Merton	339	461	265	451	1,516	92	1,608
Moonah	178	230	249	293	950	41	991
Moonah East	197	346	309	393	1,245	42	1,287
Moonah North	216	319	254	325	1,114	59	1,173
Rosetta	111	159	97	207	574	31	605
<b>Total ordinary</b>	<b>1,931</b>	<b>2,898</b>	<b>2,115</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>10,049</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>10,577</b>
Mobile	36	67	13	57	173	4	177
Pre-poll	966	1,523	775	2,036	5,300	193	5,493
Pre-poll (out of division)	68	130	136	180	514	23	537
Postal	312	454	228	620	1,614	40	1,654
Provisional	14	6	17	16	53	1	54
Out of division	95	124	198	198	615	27	642
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>5,202</b>	<b>3,482</b>	<b>6,212</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>19,134</b>
% Formal vote	18.68%	28.40%	19.01%	33.91%	informal 4.26%		



## Distribution of preferences

ELWICK		Independent	Australian Labor Party	Tasmanian Greens	Independent	Formal votes	Absolute majority	Remarks
		CANGELOSI Fabiano	McLAUGHLIN Tessa	SHELLEY Janet	THOMAS Bec			
Count 1	Total votes	3,422	5,202	3,482	6,212	18,318	9,160	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	-3,422	1,116	728	1,578			CANGELOSI excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,318</b>	<b>4,210</b>	<b>7,790</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>9,160</b>	
Count 3	Votes transferred		2,235	-4,210	1,975			SHELLEY excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>		<b>8,553</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9,765</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>THOMAS elected</b>
Percentages			46.69%		53.31%			

# 2024 Legislative Council elections - Hobart

## First preference votes and informal ballot papers by polling place

HOBART	Independent	Independent	Independent	Australian Labor Party	Independent	Tasmanian Greens	Independent	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	BURTON Charlie	CAMPBELL Sam	HAYNES Michael	KAMARA John	KELLY John	O'CONNOR Cassy	VOGEL Stefan			
Battery Point	88	15	10	87	194	187	18	599	17	616
Battery Point West	74	15	10	88	94	138	19	438	20	458
Cascades	184	31	31	203	134	613	50	1,246	25	1,271
Fern Tree	85	10	5	49	43	206	27	425	12	437
Hobart City	59	12	18	99	83	244	34	549	11	560
Mount Stuart	102	21	15	211	216	315	34	914	21	935
New Town	79	7	12	87	118	175	19	497	10	507
New Town West	252	54	60	437	469	591	70	1,933	56	1,989
North Hobart Central	154	38	28	263	272	510	55	1,320	38	1,358
South Hobart	171	35	31	210	245	547	40	1,279	39	1,318
West Hobart	52	15	4	67	56	131	20	345	8	353
West Hobart Central	245	41	29	295	319	526	59	1,514	33	1,547
West Hobart South	131	12	12	138	123	345	26	787	18	805
<b>Total ordinary</b>	<b>1,676</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>2,366</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>11,846</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>12,154</b>
Mobile	15	10	5	40	41	60	6	177	12	189
Pre-poll	445	85	61	523	899	1,185	104	3,302	59	3,361
Pre-poll (out of division)	105	25	26	194	320	279	27	976	33	1,009
Postal	243	55	47	276	422	568	72	1,683	23	1,706
Provisional	12	3	1	12	10	40	4	82	0	82
Out of division	119	38	36	299	229	444	41	1,206	62	1,268
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>4,287</b>	<b>7,104</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>19,272</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>19,769</b>
% Formal vote	13.57%	2.71%	2.29%	18.57%	22.24%	36.86%	3.76%	informal 2.51%		

## Distribution of preferences

HOBART		Independent	Independent	Independent	Australian Labor Party	Independent	Tasmanian Greens	Independent	Exhausted votes	Formal votes	Absolute majority	Remarks
		BURTON Charlie	CAMPBELL Sam	HAYNES Michael	KAMARA John	KELLY John	O'CONNOR Cassy	VOGEL Stefan				
Count 1	Total votes	2,615	522	441	3,578	4,287	7,104	725		19,272	9,637	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	74	56	-441	45	142	45	79				HAYNES excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,623</b>	<b>4,429</b>	<b>7,149</b>	<b>804</b>		<b>19,272</b>	<b>9,637</b>	
Count 3	Votes transferred	168	-578		61	147	92	110				CAMPBELL excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>2,857</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3,684</b>	<b>4,576</b>	<b>7,241</b>	<b>914</b>		<b>19,272</b>	<b>9,637</b>	
Count 4	Votes transferred	282			135	297	161	-914	39			VOGEL excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>3,139</b>			<b>3,819</b>	<b>4,873</b>	<b>7,402</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19,272</b>	<b>9,617</b>	
Count 5	Votes transferred	-3,139			656	1,005	1,352		126			BURTON excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>4,475</b>	<b>5,878</b>	<b>8,754</b>		<b>165</b>	<b>19,272</b>	<b>9,554</b>	
Count 6	Votes transferred				-4,475	1,708	2,482		285			KAMARA excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>7,586</b>	<b>11,236</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>19,272</b>	<b>9,412</b>	<b>O'CONNOR elected</b>
<b>Percentages</b>						<b>40.30%</b>	<b>59.70%</b>					

# 2024 Legislative Council elections - Prosser

## First preference votes and informal ballot papers by polling place

PROSSER	Shooters, Fishers, Farmers TAS	Australian Labor Party	Independent	Independent	Liberal Party	Total formal votes	Informal	Total ballot papers counted
	BIGG Phillip	GREEN Bryan	SHARPE Pam	SPAULDING Kelly	VINCENT Kerry			
Agfest	77	68	9	26	126	306	8	314
Bagdad	165	192	47	48	197	649	29	678
Bicheno	67	130	96	32	153	478	23	501
Brighton	264	575	90	131	522	1,582	124	1,706
Broadmarsh	30	50	17	15	56	168	9	177
Campania	84	110	36	39	189	458	28	486
Campbell Town	99	200	57	39	162	557	33	590
Carlton	7	46	29	17	47	146	4	150
Colebrook	45	35	13	14	62	169	8	177
Coles Bay	14	22	23	13	56	128	3	131
Copping	24	40	31	26	83	204	8	212
Dodges Ferry	112	410	249	116	480	1,367	48	1,415
Dunalley	39	74	42	59	106	320	14	334
Kempton	60	97	18	19	120	314	7	321
Nubeena	50	104	95	204	122	575	13	588
Oatlands	90	189	65	43	220	607	31	638
Orford	33	122	58	23	174	410	4	414
Pontville	81	171	43	51	175	521	24	545
Primrose Sands	47	139	57	33	152	428	32	460
Ross	35	97	26	15	83	256	21	277
Sorell	170	460	167	141	745	1,683	84	1,767
Swansea	44	79	74	21	173	391	13	404
Taranna	23	51	58	61	90	283	16	299
Tea Tree	38	67	28	14	94	241	8	249
Triabunna	99	142	34	35	241	551	20	571
Tunnack	52	59	13	14	83	221	6	227
<b>Total ordinary</b>	<b>1,849</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>13,013</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>13,631</b>
Mobile	14	48	11	20	37	130	2	132
Pre-poll	543	1,678	572	465	2,569	5,827	171	5,998
Pre-poll (out of division)	42	130	62	50	152	436	20	456
Postal	182	488	211	182	690	1,753	32	1,785
Provisional	8	17	8	4	27	64	2	66
Out of division	28	92	45	28	93	286	11	297
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,666</b>	<b>6,182</b>	<b>2,384</b>	<b>1,998</b>	<b>8,279</b>	<b>21,509</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>22,365</b>
% Formal vote	12.39%	28.74%	11.08%	9.29%	38.49%		informal 3.83%	

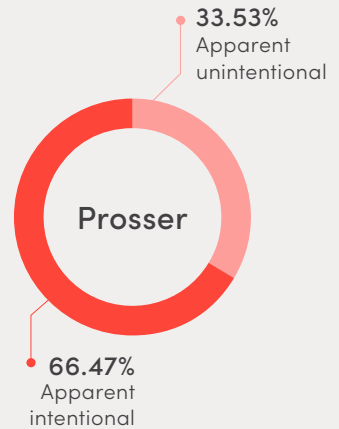
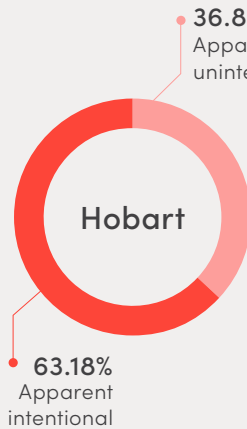
## Distribution of preferences

<b>PROSSER</b>		Shooters, Fishers, Farmers TAS	Australian Labor Party	Independent	Independent	Liberal Party				
		<b>BIGG Phillip</b>	<b>GREEN Bryan</b>	<b>SHARPE Pam</b>	<b>SPAULDING Kelly</b>	<b>VINCENT Kerry</b>	Exhausted votes	Formal votes	Absolute majority	Remarks
Count 1	Total votes	2,666	6,182	2,384	1,998	8,279		21,509	10,755	First preferences
Count 2	Votes transferred	263	321	1,011	-1,998	403				SPAULDING excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>2,929</b>	<b>6,503</b>	<b>3,395</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,682</b>		<b>21,509</b>	<b>10,755</b>	
Count 3	Votes transferred	-2,929	774	1,224		931				BIGG excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,277</b>	<b>4,619</b>		<b>9,613</b>		<b>21,509</b>	<b>10,755</b>	
Count 4	Votes transferred		2,685	-4,619		1,589	345			SHARPE excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>		<b>9,962</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>11,202</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>21,509</b>	<b>10,583</b>	<b>VINCENT elected</b>
<b>Percentages</b>			<b>47.07%</b>			<b>52.93%</b>				

# 2024 Legislative Council elections

## Informal ballot paper analysis

	Elwick by-election	Hobart	Prosser	Total
<b>Apparent intentional informal voting</b>				
Blank	205	146	237	588
Deliberate informal or scribble/messages only	334	168	332	834
<b>Total</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>1,422</b>
<b>Apparent unintentional informality</b>				
Contains writing identifying elector	1	0	0	1
Contains only ticks or crosses	188	98	138	424
No first preference	23	18	26	67
Repetitions or omissions	49	56	87	192
Two or more first preferences	16	11	36	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>747</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>2,169</b>





# Appendix C

## House of Assembly elected Members of the 51<sup>st</sup> Parliament (2024)

### Division of Bass

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Liberal Party	Rob Fairs
	Michael Ferguson
	Simon Wood
Australian Labor Party	Janie Finlay
	Michelle O'Byrne
Tasmanian Greens	Cecily Rosol
Jacqui Lambie Network	Rebekah Pentland

### Division of Braddon

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Liberal Party	Felix Ellis
	Roger Jaensch
	Jeremy Rockliff
Australian Labor Party	Shane Broad
	Anita Dow
Jacqui Lambie Network	Miriam Beswick
Independent	Craig Garland

### Division of Clark

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Liberal Party	Simon Behrakis
	Madeleine Ogilvie
Australian Labor Party	Ella Haddad
	Josh Willie
Tasmanian Greens	Vica Bayley
	Helen Burnet
Independent	Kristie Johnston



## Division of Franklin

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Liberal Party	Eric Abetz
	Jacquie Petrusma
	Nic Street
Australian Labor Party	Meg Brown
	Dean Winter
Tasmanian Greens	Rosalie Woodruff
Independent	David O'Byrne

## Division of Lyons

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Liberal Party	Guy Barnett
	Jane Howlett
	Mark Shelton
Australian Labor Party	Jen Butler
	Rebecca White
Tasmanian Greens	Tabatha Badger
Jacqui Lambie Network	Andrew Jenner

# Appendix D

## House of Assembly recounts

### Clark Recount (O'Connor)

From 31 July to 1 August 2023, a recount was conducted to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly created by the resignation of Cassy O'Connor MP on 13 July 2023.

Clark		Tasmanian Greens			Australian Labor Party		Animal Justice Party	Shooters, Fishers, Farmers TAS	Group G	ungrouped		Exhausted votes	Loss (gain) by Fraction	Total votes (the quota)	Absolute majority	Remarks
		BAYLEY Vica	SMITH Tim	TAYLOR Bec	CARNES Deb	MITCHELL Sam	WESTCOTT Tim	BENNETT Lorraine	HICKEY Sue	DUTTA Mike	EWIN Jax					
Counts 1 - 7	Total votes	3,974	1,122	2,903	220	143	400	32	1,105	337	340	47	3	10,626	5,290	O'CONNOR'S votes distributed
Counts 8 - 11	Total transferred	1	4	8	2	2	4	-32	3	4	0	3	1			BENNETT excluded
	Total votes	3,975	1,126	2,911	222	145	404	0	1,108	341	340	50	4	10,626	5,289	
Count 12	Total transferred	4	13	17	65	-145	6		13	3	1	23	0			MITCHELL excluded
	Total votes	3,979	1,139	2,928	287	0	410		1,121	344	341	73	4	10,626	5,277	
Counts 13 - 14	Total transferred	53	32	68	-287		16		47	15	6	50	0			CARNES excluded
	Total votes	4,032	1,171	2,996	0		426		1,168	359	347	123	4	10,626	5,252	
Counts 15 - 20	Total transferred	57	30	71			16		58	107	-347	6	2			EWIN excluded
	Total votes	4,089	1,201	3,067			442		1,226	466	0	129	6	10,626	5,249	
Counts 21 - 27	Total transferred	93	70	133			-442		81	32		33	0			WESTCOTT excluded
	Total votes	4,182	1,271	3,200			0		1,307	498		162	6	10,626	5,233	
Counts 28 - 32	Total transferred	151	67	156					86	-498		38	0			DUTTA excluded
	Total votes	4,333	1,338	3,356					1,393	0		200	6	10,626	5,214	
Counts 33 - 38	Total transferred	364	-1,338	845					61			69	(1)			SMITH excluded
	Total votes	4,697	0	4,201					1,454			269	5	10,626	5,179	
Count 39	Total transferred	683		448					-1,454			323	0			HICKEY excluded
	Total votes	5,380		4,649					0			592	5	10,626	5,018	BAYLEY elected
Percentages		53.6%			46.4%											

## Clark Recount (Archer)

On 23 and 24 October 2023, a recount was conducted to fill the vacancy in the House of Assembly created by the resignation of Elise Archer MP on 5 October 2023.

Clark		Tasmanian Greens	Australian Labor Party			Animal Justice Party	Shooters, Fishers, Farmers TAS	Group G	Liberal Party			ungrouped	Exhausted votes	Loss (gain) by Fraction	Total votes (the quota)	Absolute majority	Remarks	
		TAYLOR Bec	CARNES Debra	DAVIS Simon	MITCHELL Sam	WESTCOTT Tim	BENNETT Lorraine	HICKEY Sue	BEHRAKIS Simon	COATS Will	LENNON Harvey	DUTTA Mike	EWIN Jax					
Counts 1 - 7	Total votes	47	53	50	63	118	165	462	4,387	2,713	2,442	86	9	29	2	10,626	5,299	ARCHER's votes distributed
Counts 8 - 10	Total transferred	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3	-9	2	1			EWIN excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>4,388</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>2,442</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,298</b>	
Counts 11 - 14	Total transferred	-47	2	2	1	5	1	7	7	6	3	0		12	1			TAYLOR excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>4,395</b>	<b>2,719</b>	<b>2,445</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,292</b>	
Count 15	Total transferred		7	-52	6	4	0	8	10	7	5	0		5	0			DAVIS excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>		<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>4,405</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,290</b>	
Count 16	Total transferred		-62		19	4	2	11	9	7	2	0		8	0			CARNES excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>		<b>0</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>4,414</b>	<b>2,733</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,286</b>	
Counts 17 - 18	Total transferred				-89	10	3	15	16	14	10	4		17	0			MITCHELL excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>				<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>4,430</b>	<b>2,747</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>93</b>		<b>73</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,277</b>	
Counts 19 - 20	Total transferred					7	6	18	18	17	16	-93		12	(1)			DUTTA excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>					<b>149</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>85</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,271</b>	
Counts 21 - 25	Total transferred					-149	20	29	20	21	20			38	1			WESTCOTT excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>					<b>0</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>4,468</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>2,498</b>			<b>123</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,252</b>	
Counts 26 - 30	Total transferred						-197	22	49	47	41			37	1			BENNETT excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>						<b>0</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>2,832</b>	<b>2,539</b>			<b>160</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,234</b>	
Count 31	Total transferred							-573	176	131	93			173	0			HICKEY excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>							<b>0</b>	<b>4,693</b>	<b>2,963</b>	<b>2,632</b>			<b>333</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,147</b>	
Counts 32 - 37	Total transferred								926	1,589	-2,632			119	(2)			LENNON excluded
	<b>Total votes</b>								<b>5,619</b>	<b>4,552</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>452</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10,626</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>BEHRAKIS elected</b>
Percentages									55.2%	44.8%								

# Appendix E

## Party register

Political parties may apply to “register” under the *Electoral Act 2004* with the TEC.

Party registration enables endorsed candidates to be listed under the name of the party on parliamentary ballot papers.

**As at 30 June 2024, the following 6 parties were registered under the Act (alphabetical order):**

- » Animal Justice Party
- » Australian Labor Party
- » Jacqui Lambie Network
- » The Liberal Party of Australia, Tasmanian Division
- » Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party Tasmania
- » Tasmanian Greens

In 2023 a review of the party register was undertaken in accordance with section 58 of the *Electoral Act 2004*. Following this review there were found to be fewer than 100 registered members of the Australian Federation Party Tasmania, and subsequently its registration was cancelled on 8 January 2024 after a 30-day notice period.

On receipt of an application to cancel its registration, the Commission also cancelled the registration of the Local Network on 18 June 2024.



