



PREMIER OF TASMANIA

The Hon Ivan Dean MLC
The Hon Meg Webb MLC
The Hon Rob Valentine MLC
The Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC
The Hon Ruth Forrest MLC
The Hon Tania Rattray MLC
By Email: meg.webb@parliament.tas.gov.au

1 APR 2021

Dear Members

Thank you for your letter of 31 March, 2021 raising concerns regarding the timing of the general election for the House of Assembly which has been called for 1 May 2021.

The question of whether there is any legal impediment to calling the general election on the same day as the Legislative Council election was considered before the election was called. The power to call an election is an executive power exercised in accordance with the *Electoral Act 2004* and I am advised there is no legal nor constitutional matter that would prevent both elections from taking place on the same day.

Additionally, the executive government is held to account by the opposition in the Parliament and is ultimately accountable to the Tasmanian community at an election. Accordingly, I do not agree with your position that it is the Legislative Council that exercises the primary function of holding the government of the day to account. Even if such an argument is made, I do not agree that holding both elections on Saturday 1 May, in any way blurs the lines of the independent functions of the two Houses.

For these reasons I will not be seeking for the date of either the general election of the House of Assembly, nor the Legislative Council elections to be changed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Gutwein'.

Peter Gutwein MP
Premier