

# MEG WEBB MLC

*Independent Member for Nelson*

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Via email: [contact@integrity.tas.gov.au](mailto:contact@integrity.tas.gov.au)

Thursday 3 July 2025

Dear Ms McKenzie,

**Re: Political Parties submissions regarding Lobbying Code of Conduct**

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 July 2025, providing further information regarding the TIC Board's decision to not proceed with the Lobbying Code of Conduct as expected on 1<sup>st</sup> of July this year.

I note the following statements contained in your letter:

*"... the Board decided in June 2025 not to proceed with the launch of the new Code on 1 July 2025, following various representations from parliamentarians."* and

*"Prior to the proposed launch of the new Code on 1 July 2025, we received representations from the Government, the Opposition and the Greens, each raising a number of concerns. Given those concerns, it appeared that much of the Parliament was opposed to key elements of the new Code."*

Respectfully, I would suggest it is in the public interest for those Party representations to be published on the Integrity Commission website, given the bearing and weight the Commission provided them in its decision-making process to not proceed with the updated and publicly consulted Lobbying Code of Conduct.

As also stated by the Tasmanian Integrity Commission, the current Lobbying Code of Conduct presents a "*modest regulatory*" process, which fails to provide the Tasmanian community "*any details of the frequency, type or subject of lobbying undertaken by lobbyists.*"

Clearly the Commission considers the current lobbying oversight framework as inadequate. Many in the community would agree.

Hence, the representations from those political vested interests which should be covered by best practice lobbying oversight, but which became the basis for a decision to leave Tasmanians with an acknowledged inadequate and less-than second-best oversight framework should be made public, just as submissions to a consultation process would be treated.



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Further, in light of the Commission's public recommendation that it is now up to the (new) Parliament to "*consider, debate and agree on a model*", it is important that we can begin that discussion from a fully informed position, inclusive of the apparent arguments against the Commission's preferred lobbying oversight model.

Basically, the Commission has thrown this matter back into the Parliament's court. It would then be consistent to provide the Parliament with all pertinent information, particularly should legitimate problems or matters of concern have been identified with the new Lobbying oversight model.

To reiterate, the now abandoned preferred lobbying oversight model was developed via a thorough public consultation model. Yet, the representations made at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour which stopped in its tracks the new framework's implementation have not been publicly disclosed. It is arguably in both the public interest to publish those representations, and in the interest of a fully informed future parliamentary debate now recommended by the Commission.

As a potentially useful comparison, I note the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission's policy of publishing all correspondence received and issued on current matters of significance and of public debate, such as the proposed Macquarie Point stadium.

I urge consideration by the Board of the immediate publication of all representations received by the Commission which contributed to its decision to not proceed with the intended implementation of the new Lobbying Code of Conduct, for the transparency, accountability and informative purposes detailed above.

Lastly, in the interests of consistency and transparency I can advise my intention to release publicly my correspondence sent to, and received from, the Commission on this matter.

Kind regards,

**Meg Webb MLC**  
**Independent Member for Nelson**