

Launceston Ratepayers' Association Inc.

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21 June 2008

Ms Fiona Reynolds
Editor,
The Examiner Newspaper
Paterson Street
LAUNCESTON 7250

Dear Ms Reynolds,

We attach here, a copy of our letter of even date to the Mayor and Aldermen of Launceston City Council, concerning last week's Local Government Association of Tasmania Conference, for you information and consideration in the formulation of press reporting.

Launceston City Council is scheduled to approve its 2008-09 Budget and Rates at its meeting tomorrow, and you may wish to publish our request of Aldermen expressed in our final paragraph of that letter, beforehand.

We also submit this LETTER TO THE EDITOR concerning compulsory voting.

Dear Editor,

The Launceston Ratepayers' Association supports the Premier's push for mandatory Local Government ballots, and commends the Launceston City Council's delegates to last week's LGAT conference when a motion by West Tamar Council was sadly voted down by the majority of (small) councils.

The opponents' argument of increased cost are hardly valid in the aim of improved democracy, as by utilizing the present postal voting system, the cost of processing additional returned votes would be limited to postage and counting, as all voters are already sent ballot papers.

But, the only way to sort out this issue, is for appropriate public consultation to be undertaken, then a poll of all electors at the next local government elections.

Max Plummer

Hon. Secretary/Treasurer
Launceston Ratepayers' Association Inc.

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