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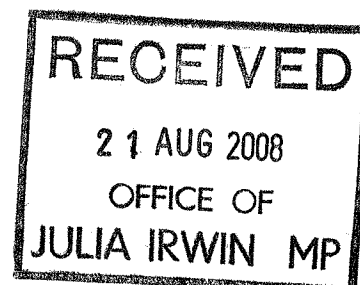
## SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The Hon Michael Polley, MHA

Submission No. 5

7 August 2008

Mrs Julia Irwin MP  
Chair - Standing Committee on Petitions  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**



Dear Madam Chair,

### ELECTRONIC PETITIONING

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to your inquiry into the introduction of an electronic petitioning system for the House of Representatives.

Following the 2004 report of the Working Arrangements of the Parliament Joint Select Committee,

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/REPORTS/workingarrange-report12.pdf>

the House of Assembly adopted the recommendations of the Committee first by way of Sessional Orders and after a trial period by way of an amendment to the Standing Orders.

The system utilised by the House is a copy of the software developed by the Parliament of Queensland with only minor changes in terms of terminology and nomenclature. There have been no issues with the operation of the software.

Since the introduction of the system, the House has received only nine E-petitions and so there have been minimal resourcing issues, both in terms of financial and manpower. The Clerk-Assistant of the House is responsible for the administration of the system.

Notwithstanding the very small number of E-petitions received the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from those signatories who have completed the feedback form. The principal advantages which have been expressed are the system's simple process and the ability to forward a link to others whom a signatory may consider would be interested in joining the E-petition.

I hope this information is of use to you and I wish you well with your inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

**Hon. Michael Polley MP**  
**SPEAKER**