

ISSUE 2404

# "In Support of Progress" Newsletter

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## Political games

### *Political Games – cont..*

Well, it's on! The Premier has met with the Governor, and the Governor has agreed to give him the election he wants. A strange decision, considering that there was no actual threat in the Parliament and he had been guaranteed Supply.

After returning from Government House, the Premier made a few points:

He wants to restore stability

He acknowledged a range of issues concerning Tasmanians  
which remain unresolved

He has a Plan

And then:

Minority Government is destabilizing

Labor can't govern!

Actually, the recent instability has nothing to do with Labor – it is of the Liberal's own making - but why let the facts get in the way of the normal narrative.

Given that he has been angling for an early election for some time - at least it has been on his radar for some time - the level of unpreparedness is quite astonishing. Candidates have still not been chosen, policies are still being formulated (the so-called "PLAN"), final decisions of the government were rushed through on the last day, including the release of a sobering financial Revised Estimates report, and with a number of Inquiries still "in session".

Whoever takes the reins of government after March 23 will have one heavy agenda to prosecute.

The old saying "Don't wish too hard for what you want, you might just get it" is entirely relevant here. The Premier may have found it difficult to do with his two recalcitrant former party members, but it will be nothing compared to what he might be facing after the election. Because it is London to a brick there will not be a majority government.

The mood in the electorate is "restless" and alternatives to the main parties are popping up and, given the reduced quota (down to 12.5%) have a real chance of success. Which makes for real chaos!

So, what might a new Parliament look like? For starters, there will be 35 members, seven in each electorate.

Note that Jacquie Petrusma has now been mentioned as being a candidate in Franklin, and Elise Archer has announced her intention to stand in Clark. Both have been big draw-cards for the Liberals in past campaigns, although Archer will be running this time as an Independent with an axe to grind.

The question - the starting point really, is what might the Parliament look like if an election was held **this weekend**. (I emphasise – this weekend). A disclaimer. Not all would-be candidates have been chosen, or announced their intention, and campaigns can change things around very quickly, and what might seem relevant today can dissipate very quickly.

So, as of now, with the most recent EMRS poll showing the level of support for the Libs at 39% and Labor at 29%, JLN at 20% and Greens 12%, my prediction is LIBS 13, ALP 10, OTHER 12.

The table below reflects not just the recent polling but also the likely successful candidates. I bear no ill-will to those who I suspect are on shaky ground, and I wish them well in their campaigns. But this campaign is one for independents to win, and campaigning will be tough.

#### A POSSIBLE MAKE-UP

	BRADDON	BASS	LYONS	FRANKLIN	CLARK
<b>LIB</b> <b>13</b>	Rockliff Jaensch Ellis	Ferguson Wood ???	Barnett Sheldon ???	<b>ABETZ</b> <b>PETRUSMA</b>	Behrakis Ogilvie/??
<b>THE MIX</b> <b>12</b>	<b>JL NETWORK</b>  <b>GARLAND</b>	<b>ROSOL (?)</b> <b>JL NETWORK</b>	<b>BADGER</b> <b>JL NETWORK</b>	Woodruff  <b>GLADE- WRIGHT (?)</b> O'Byrne	Bayley  <b>ARCHER</b> Johnston
<b>ALP</b> <b>10</b>	Dow Broad	Finlay O'Byrne	White Butler	Winter <b>THORPE (?)</b>	<b>WILLIE BENSON</b>
<b>LOSERS:</b>		Alexander	Tucker	Street Young (Dean)	Ogilvie?  Haddad
<b>IN (NEW)</b>	2	3	3	4	4
<b>OUT (OLD)</b>		1	1	2	2

#### Notes:

- 1 The colours in the table are self-explanatory
- 2 New persons who could be elected are in capitals
- 3 The rise of the Jacqui Lambie Network as a strong and populist force.
- 3 A BIG shakeup in representation for the Liberals and the ALP in Franklin and Clark, with an opportunity for 3 independents/Greens in each
- 4 Question marks reflect possible party wins, but as yet no (well-known) candidates to fill them.

So, this is a sobering wake-up call. How could you make a minority government work if this was the make-up? And to the Premier – a lot harder than at present!

It is incumbent therefore on the major parties to be relevant to the people of Tasmania. Winning their confidence and trust will not be easy. A solid agenda is needed moving forward. When people do enter the polling booth, what will be influencing their vote?

Maybe a caring agenda, such as health, housing, cost-of-living  
 Maybe infrastructure projects such as power schemes, roads and stadiums,  
 Maybe more esoteric things, such as integrity, stability and the environment.  
 And no doubt a lot of negative stuff about how bad the "other lot" are.

A lot to think about!