

**LOWERING THE VOTING AGE
ACT 2008**

(Brought in by Combined Schools)

An Act to allow young people to vote under a voluntary system until they reach the current compulsory age

Be it considered by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Youth Parliament of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled, as follows:

Short Title

1. This Act may be cited as the *Lowring the Voting Age Act 2008*.

Commencement

2. This Act commences on the 1st of January after it receives royal assent.

Voting Rights

3. Notwithstanding existing law, persons over sixteen years of age may vote voluntarily in State and Local Government elections.

Inconsistency

4. To the extent of any inconsistency between this Act and any previous Act, this Act shall prevail.

Education

5. All Government school grade ten curricula shall incorporate a voting education unit in grade seven.

**SCHEDULE 1 – OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES OF THE LOWERING THE
VOTING AGE ACT 2008**

- a) To encourage responsible voting from an early age;
- b) to empower youth in making informed social decisions; and
- c) to eliminate the situation where compulsory voting is young people's first voting experience.