



24 March 2022

**Chief Justice's Chambers**  
**Hobart**

Dr David Plater  
Deputy Director  
South Australian Law Reform Institute  
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Dear Dr Plater

### **Review of Tasmania Law Reform Institute**

I refer to your letter of 22 March and earlier correspondence. I apologise for my delay in replying.

I would be happy to have a discussion with the Review Panel, but unfortunately I have made arrangements to go away for a few days, departing on 26 April. I could perhaps meet the panel early on that morning, if that is possible, but that would be my only opportunity.

I can state my views about the TLRI very briefly. I was a member of its Board from its creation in 2001 until 2013. For some 20 years the Institute has done valuable work, producing issues papers and reports whose contents reflect a very high level of scholarship. They are frequently relied upon by judges and sometimes cited in judgments. The arrangement provided an excellent opportunity for candidates for higher degrees to undertake research relevant to law reform projects, to the benefit of themselves, the University, and the community. However, in recent times, the work of the Institute has practically come to a standstill. I am not aware of any sensible reason why that should have happened. The Vice-Chancellor recently described the TLRI as "the jewel in the crown", apparently referring to its significance within the Law Faculty. I am not sure that that is any longer an apt description, but it was until recently, and should be in the future.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon Alan Blow AO**  
**Chief Justice**