

ALDO ANTOLLI

COUNCILLOR · KINGBOROUGH COUNCIL

Candidate for Mayor of Kingborough, October 2026



17 August 2026

Hon Kerry Vincent MLC
Minister for Local Government
Level 10, Executive Building
15 Murray Street
Hobart TAS 7000

Publication of candidates' home addresses on local government election material: request for interim relief ahead of the October 2026 elections

Dear Minister

I write as an elected Councillor of Kingborough Council and a candidate at the October 2026 local government elections, to raise a matter of candidate and family safety.

The requirement, and why the alternative does not work

Section 311 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires every article relating to an election to carry the true name and address of the responsible person, and section 311(4) excludes post office boxes and electronic addresses.

Section 311(4)(b) permits an address at or through which the responsible person may be readily contacted, which in theory allows premises other than the candidate's home. In practice it does not. Using that limb requires a business owner or another individual to agree to have their own premises or home address printed on political material, displayed on roadside signage across the municipality and letterboxed to thousands of households. It asks a third party to accept the reputational exposure of public association with a campaign, the risk of vandalism to their property, and the risk of confrontation from members of the public who disagree with the candidate. Very few will accept that, and no one should be asked to. An option that works only by transferring a safety and property risk onto an uninvolved third party is not a genuine option.

The only realistic address available to an independent candidate is therefore the family home.

The disadvantage to independents

The burden does not fall evenly. An endorsed party candidate can satisfy section 311 using their party's registered office. The Tasmanian Greens endorse candidates at Tasmanian local government elections and their candidates have that option. An independent has no equivalent. The same obligation is discharged by a party candidate at no personal cost and no risk to their family, while an independent must publish the address of the house their children live in.

That is a structural inequity, and it operates in the one sphere of government where independent representation has always been the norm.

Other jurisdictions manage this. Queensland permits a business address or a post office box for council election material. Victoria permits a PO box. South Australia allows an independent candidate to use a PO box with the Electoral Commissioner's approval, provided their suburb is disclosed. Each preserves traceability without publishing a family home address.

The safety risk is real

Rates of domestic violence and community crime have risen and the tone of public debate has hardened. Councils vote on contentious planning and development matters across a four year term, and Tasmania has activist groups willing to engage in high risk direct action. It is not unreasonable to anticipate that an aggrieved or unstable individual will take a grievance to a councillor's home rather than to the chamber.

Most people who stand for local office are parents, carers, small business operators and volunteers. Requiring them to publish where their family sleeps deters participation, and it falls hardest on women, on people who have left violent relationships, and on independents.

Last week I was conducting a rural ratepayer visit at the ratepayer's request and drove past the home of a competing candidate who is also a sitting councillor. He left his home, followed me by car, and when I pulled over to check my next appointment he parked alongside me and hemmed my vehicle in, filming me through his window and demanding to know why I was in his neighbourhood. He asserted that my presence near his house threatened his safety. I did not engage, closed my windows, manoeuvred out, made a statement to Kingston Police and lodged a complaint with the Kingborough Chief Executive Officer. The ratepayer complained to the Chief Executive Officer separately and has consented to his statement going to police.

The matter is being handled through the proper channels. I raise it only for what it shows. A person who genuinely fears for their safety does not leave their home, pursue someone by car and confront them, and this was a sitting elected member. If that is the reaction of a fellow candidate, the risk from a genuinely aggrieved member of the public, handed my home address by operation of statute, is self evident.

The compliance trap

A breach of section 311 is an advertising offence, not a question of eligibility. I can stand, but I face a fine of up to five penalty units, presently \$1,065, for each non compliant article, which across a sign run reaches many thousands of dollars. I have no alternative address and cannot absorb those penalties. Absent any change, I will comply and display my home address, under protest.

What I am asking

1. **Interim relief for October 2026.** That you work with the Tasmanian Electoral Commission to put in place, before nominations close on 21 September 2026, an approved alternative address arrangement for candidates with a demonstrated safety concern, such as a council or electorate service address, or a Commission approved post office box with the candidate's suburb disclosed.

2. **Legislative amendment.** That the Local Government Electoral Bill and the associated amendment Bill expressly provide for an approved alternative address on the South Australian model, and that you advise whether the current draft deals with this. I understand the electoral amendments will not commence before October 2026, which makes the interim arrangement the more urgent of the two.

Other independent candidates have already written to you on this matter and I support their position. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss it with you or your office.

I provide this letter in my personal capacity as an elected member and as a candidate. It does not represent a resolution or formal position of Kingborough Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo Antolli', with a horizontal line underneath.

Aldo Antolli

Councillor, Kingborough Council

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