



Tony Simpson MLA

MEDIA STATEMENT

LIBERAL PARTY SPOKESPERSON FOR INNOVATION

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Parliament must move into the 21st Century

Liberal Party Spokesperson for Innovation Tony Simpson has criticised the Carpenter Government for not being willing to move into the 21st Century, following a recommendation from the Procedure and Privileges Committee not to pursue the implementation of e-petitioning.

“This decision proves that the Carpenter Government is not forward thinking or modern, but instead is stuck in the past,” said Mr Simpson.

“I was also disappointed that I, as the original mover of the motion to have the committee look into this issue in the first place, was not asked to speak to the committee about my ideas for e-petitioning.”

E-petitioning, which allows a person to petition the Parliament to take a certain action over the Internet, is hailed by many as a way to increase the level of political participation, especially among young people.

“It is obvious that many young people feel disenfranchised and outside of the political system.

“The importance of e-petitioning in increasing the participation of young people in the political process and helping them feel like they have a voice cannot be underestimated.

“We as a Parliament should be doing everything we can to get people involved in politics and this is why it amazes me that this Government that claims to have a vision for the future, would be so backward looking on this matter.”