



Letters To The Editor

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[Hobart Mercury](#)

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English

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Enshrine values

THE Mercury's editorial "Rights off the show" (November 12) is right to warn against a constitutional bill of rights which may lead to litigation and all-powerful courts, such as the US. Thankfully, this is not being considered here.

The charter of rights proposed by the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute and being investigated by the State Government after being voted up at Labor's State Conference earlier this year is a legislative charter and not a constitutional one. The difference is not wordplay.

The proposal would have little impact on our courts but instead force parliamentarians, through a new "human rights committee" to place greater weight on commonly accepted "rights" as codified in the charter. It would also create a Human Rights Commissioner, filling the "educational" role described by Lara Giddings.

Let us support a charter of rights which finally enshrines Tasmanian values of equality and dignity within the law.

Ben McKay

Hobart