

From: Thomas Aubert [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 September 2016 10:55 PM
To: ElectoralMatters Committee
Subject: RE: Uncorrected Transcript - Electoral Matters public hearing - 5 August 2016

I respond on behalf of Mr Quigley and myself:

To Mr Borsak's question to me regarding the invoicing of candidates: The NSW Nationals invoice candidates for election expenditure, as permitted by the Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981 (NSW). This is required as the Party, as others do, centralises all expenditure through its dedicated State Campaign Account.

To Dr Phelps' question to me regarding individual State Campaign Accounts: For the provision in section 95A(4) to be utilised by a candidate, the self-funding of their election campaign must be made into a State Campaign Account specifically for that candidate. It is my understanding that this would require a separate bank account, for if the funding was "hypothecated" against a State Candidate in a Party's centralised State Campaign Account, this would constitute a donation to that Party, not to the candidate.

To the Chairman's question to Mr Quigley in relation to electronic voting: The Nationals support electronic voting. It gives better access for rural and remote electors to exercise their franchise. However, the public would need to be convinced that the integrity of any electronic voting system is beyond reproach. I refer the Committee to my answer following the Chairman's question.

To Mr Franklin's question: The Nationals do not support a change.

Mr Taylor's question to me: The correspondence I referred to is attached. I waive any legal professional privilege that may attach to them or their contents.

To Mr Borsak's question to me regarding the registration of political parties: The Nationals currently do not have concerns regarding the registration process.

Please let me know if you require any further information, and again apologies for the late reply.

Kind regards

Tom

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