

**Inquiry into the Final Report of the Expert Panel – Political Donations and the
Government's Response**

Supplementary answer by The Greens

Towards the end of the JSCEM session with the Greens witnesses this morning, a member of the Committee ask Mr Maltby and I a question along the lines of whether we thought it would be reasonable to end the ban on prohibited donors making donations because the low donations caps would be sufficient protection against such donations being a corrupting influence.

My response after being able to give the issue more thought is:

Removing the ban on receiving donations from prohibited donors such as developers would run the risk of opening up significant opportunities to corrupt parties and politicians.

If a corporation has a vested interest in government decisions or approvals affecting its business, it only takes a number of individuals who are "close associates" of a corporation to each make \$5,000 donations to a party and/or \$2,000 to its candidates to create a cumulative large fund easily capable of compromising or corrupting a party or MPs.

The cap on donations would not provide an adequate check against such a practice as it could be effectively circumvented by a group of people each associated with a particular corporation that is currently a prohibited donor.

thanks,

Geoff Ash
Registered Officer
The Greens