



15 August 2018

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Inquiry into the impact of expenditure caps for local government election campaigns**

What will be the impact of expenditure caps on local government election campaigns? The NSW Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters has adopted a new inquiry to look into the issue.

The Committee will look at the impact of these expenditure caps for local government campaigns in more detail. In particular, the Committee wants to review the differences for local government areas and wards with different populations. It is interested in whether there are alternative methods to calculate the expenditure caps.

"The Government introduced the caps to ensure a level playing field for everyone in local government elections. They will prevent expenditure arms races, particularly in tightly contested areas", explained the Hon Dr Peter Phelps MLC, the Committee Chair. The caps are outlined in the Electoral Funding Act 2018.

"However, the Government also recognised that this is a complex area and has asked the Committee to consider the matter. While some costs will be fixed, others may vary depending on the number of electors in a ward or local government area."

The Committee is currently calling for submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, including members of the public and will hold a hearing in September.

The Committee welcomes submissions from anybody with an interest in this area within New South Wales or other jurisdictions with similar processes.

The closing date for submissions is 14 September.

Further information about the inquiry can be found on the Committee's website at:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/electoralmatters>

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