**Mosman
COUNCIL**

22 October 2010

Senior Committee Officer
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Sheen,

I refer to your letter of 15 October in relation to my appearance before the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, and the request of the Chair to provide further information in relation to Council's submission that public funding of election campaigns would inevitably disadvantage genuine community based individual candidates.

As I indicated at the hearing, I could not recall the direct reason why this was included in our submission of 16 September, but have now had the opportunity of discussing the matter with the General Manager and other members of a small working party established to prepare our response.

There is a general view at Mosman that electoral matters, including above the line voting, grouping, and the need to appoint a registered agent all leads to complexity and is a disincentive to independent candidates to stand for election. It appears that the process is becoming more and more professional which leads one to the conclusion that you have to be in a party. The parties obviously have professional administrations and offer assistance, and as I indicated at the hearing, Mosman is a truly independent Council.

Even if public funding of candidature came from the State there would obviously be a threshold that a candidate would have to achieve to obtain the funding and if a candidate was aligned with a party the Mosman perception is that it would be easier to achieve this threshold - hence our view that public funding would inevitably even further disadvantage genuine community based individual candidates.

I hope this clarifies the Council's submission and my appearance before the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely,

(Councillor A S Connon)
MAYOR