

**Submission  
No 12**

**INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FUNDING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS**

**Organisation:** Mosman Council  
**Name:** Mr VHR May  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Date Received:** 20/09/2010

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# Mosman COUNCIL

16 September 2010

Mr Robert Furolo MP  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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Dear Mr Furolo,

**Re: Inquiry into the Public Funding of Local Government Election Campaigns**

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters Issues Paper - Public Funding of Local Government Election Campaigns - August 2010.

Your correspondence was considered at a meeting of Council held on 7 September when Council resolved that interested Councillors meet and be authorised to make a submission on the Council's behalf.

It is advised that the Council has given consideration, not only to the issues paper, but to your Committee's earlier report on Public Funding of Election Campaigns and the NSW Electoral Commission report on the 2008 Local Government elections.

I have been requested to convey the following position:

- Mosman Council does not support the public funding of Local Government election campaigns. Even if the State Government were to undertake to provide the necessary funds it would inevitably disadvantage genuine community-based individual candidates.
- Council believes the existing electoral laws as they relate to Local Government already are to the advantage of registered political parties and the costs to individual residents to stand for local public office are serving as a disincentive to grassroots local government democracy.
- The excessive complexity and cost resulting from matters such as Above the Line Voting, Election Funding Authority requests (including auditing) and the perceived inefficiency of the NSW Electoral Commission in the conduct of the 2008 election is a major disincentive to local candidates.
- Council is opposed to the introduction of full postal voting for Local Government elections and even offering the option of Councils choosing either attendance or postal voting. The result would seriously erode, and possibly corrupt, the democratic process.

Yours faithfully,

(V H R May PSM)  
GENERAL MANAGER

cc Councillors  
Local Government Association

Viv May/SJ

Proud to be Mosman  
Protecting our Heritage  
Planning our Future  
Involving our Community