

**Submission  
No 2**

## **REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS**

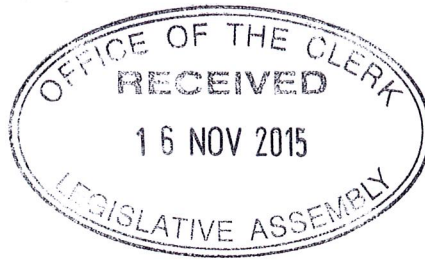
**Organisation:**

**Name:** The Hon. George Souris

**Position:**

**Date Received:** 9 November 2015

The Honourable George Souris



9<sup>th</sup> November, 2015  
Your ref: D15/33826

Mr Mark Coure MP  
Chair, Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of NSW  
6 Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Coure,

I am delighted to have been asked to make a contribution to the Committee's deliberations in review of the Code of Conduct for Members.

In the Code, at item 2 (Bribery) I believe there is scope to add a new sub-section (c) as follows:

**2 (c) A Member must not knowingly or improperly promote any matter, vote on any bill or resolution or ask any question in the Parliament or its Committees in return for any remuneration, fee, payment, reward or benefit in kind, gift or donation which any entity corporate or unincorporated has received or expects to receive that is a political party or a branch thereof or in the case of an independent Member, a support group re-election committee or any entity with reasonable closeness to a political party, a branch thereof or support group or re-election committee of any Member.**

I believe there is a loop-hole in the Code regarding donations to political parties, industry associations, trade unions etc and in the case of independent Members their various support groups which may also include industry associations, trade unions and the like.

I do not however believe charities should be part of this classification.

The Code seems to focus on a Member's voting, questions etc in Parliament or its Committees, however a Member may potentially engage in bribery through other means such as in general advocacy, in the media, letter writing, reference writing and representations to government departments and/or Ministers.

I appreciate that this aspect may be considered to be adequately covered both in the Preamble and in other parts of the Code generally. I shall leave it merely as a suggestion for discussion.

Yours sincerely,

  
George Souris