

**Submission
No 8**

**ADEQUACY OF THE FUNDING ALLOCATION OF THE NSW ELECTORAL
COMMISSION FOR THE 2023 STATE GENERAL ELECTION**

Organisation: Liberal Party of Australia - NSW Division

Date Received: 4 March 2022

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

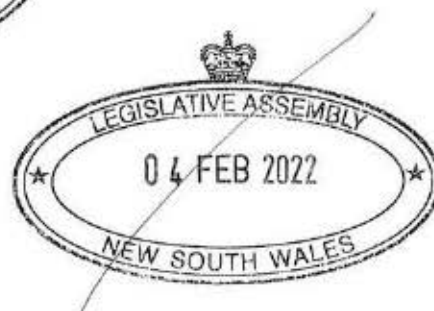
NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

State Director



23 February 2022

Mr Lee Evans MP
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
Parliament of NSW
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Evans,

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) inquiry into the adequacy of the funding allocation of the NSW Electoral Commission for the 2023 State General Election.

The Party acknowledges the effort, experience and professionalism of the NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) in preparing for and conducting elections. Moreover, we appreciate the particular challenges they have faced in preparing for the electoral events that have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Party maintains a constructive and effective relationship with the NSWEC, not only during election campaigns but also throughout the electoral cycle, and we view this relationship as critical to the conduct of elections.

Fair, democratic elections are the cornerstone of the Australian and NSW political systems and as such the Party is naturally concerned with ensuring that elections, including preparations, are undertaken to the highest standard, both to ensure ongoing community confidence in NSW electoral processes and in enabling and assisting political organisations and candidates to contest elections in a fair and easy manner.

With this in mind, the Party believes that the adequacy of the allocation of funding to the NSW Electoral Commission in order to administer the next general election is, ostensibly, a matter for the NSW Electoral Commission to assess and advocate, and for the NSW Government to determine, through its usual budgetary processes.

Like all participants in the democratic process in NSW, the Liberal Party is concerned to ensure that elections take place free of interference from foreign or other actors. As outlined in previous submissions to this Committee in respect of the conduct of past State General Elections, the Party submits that the iVote system should be reviewed and upgraded if necessary, to ensure its robustness and integrity, especially given the heightened concern regarding cyber security and

possible attempts at electoral fraud. Similarly, we would urge the Commission to review and upgrade, if necessary, systems in place to protect the electronic electoral roll, relied upon by the Commission's permanent and temporary staff as they undertake their work during the electoral cycle.

I trust this information assists the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Chris Stone
State Director