



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE 1 – PREMIER AND FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE INQUIRY INTO THE ELECTORAL FUNDING AMENDMENT BILL 2023 TABLES ITS REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11 September 2023

The Upper House committee responsible for examining the proposed changes to the *Electoral Funding Act 2018* (EF Act) has tabled its report. Portfolio Committee 1 - Premier and Finance has completed its inquiry into the Electoral Funding Amendment Bill 2023, which seeks to amend two provisions of the EF Act:

- Clause 1 seeks to introduce a cap of \$225,900 on electoral expenditure by third-party campaigners (TPCs) for state by-elections.
- Clause 2 seeks to increase the applicable cap for TPCs from \$24,700 to \$225,900 in each electoral district, in relation to electoral expenditure incurred substantially for the purposes of an election in a particular electoral district where there is a state general election or by-elections in more than one electoral district.

Committee Chair, the Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC stated "The proposed amendments to the EF Act implement a key recommendation from the 2022 Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters' inquiry into caps on TPC electoral expenditure (2022 JSCEM inquiry)"

Mr Buckingham continued: "Given there is currently no cap on the electoral expenditure for TPCs at state by-elections following the recent High Court's decision in *Unions NSW v New South Wales [2023] HCA 4*, the report supports a cap on electoral expenditure by TPCs and finds that the amount proposed by the Government strikes the right balance."

The committee recommended that the Legislative Council proceed to debate the bill, addressing the concerns of stakeholders as represented in the report.

The committee's report and other inquiry related documents may be found on the committee's webpage.

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Jeremy Buckingham MLC, on 9230 2445.