



Election Funding Authority of New South Wales

Select Committee Presentation
3 March 2007

Structure

- 3 member Authority
- Administration staff provided by NSW Electoral Commission

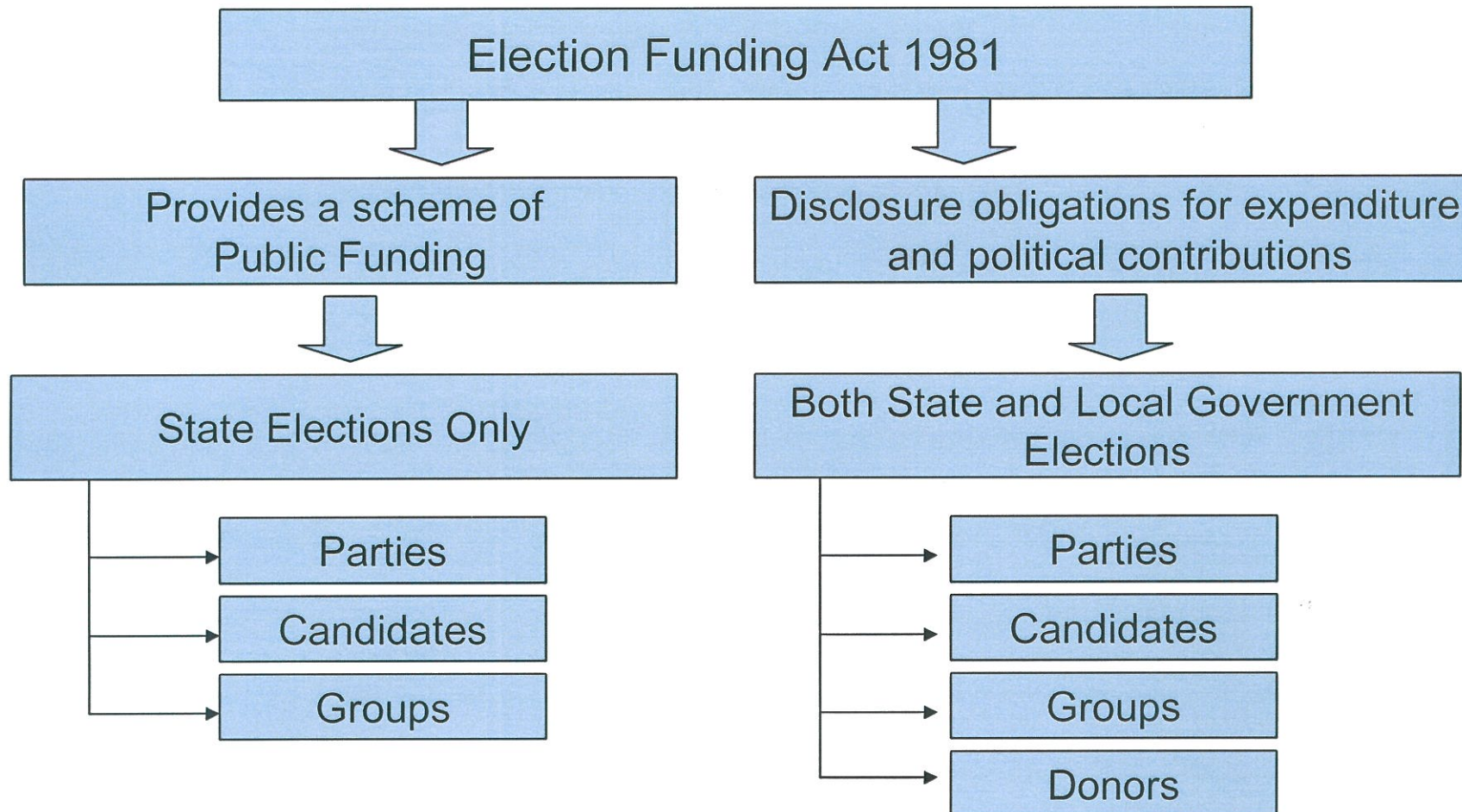
Election Funding Authority

- Chair - Electoral Commissioner
 - Nominee of the Premier
- Nominee of the Leader Opposition

Administrative Function (NSWEC)

- Secretary (0.3 FTE)
- 2 Clerical Officers

Governing Legislation



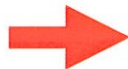
- Funding .. Three Funds

- Central Fund ~ for the Legislative Council election
- Constituency Fund ~ for the Legislative Assembly election
- Political Education Fund ~ for postage and materials for the education of the electorate in party policies

- Constituency & Central Fund calculation

- Calculated after Writ issued (*SGE March 5, 2007*)

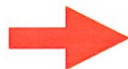
- CPI Indexed unit



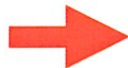
SGE 2007 \$2.69 per elector

- X by number of electors enrolled on day Writ issued

Total is split:



2/3 Central Fund



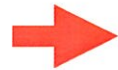
1/3 Constituency Fund

Funding

(\$M)	Maximum Entitlement	Payment	Payment Ratio
- Central Fund	7.85	7.58	96.6%
- Constituency Fund	<u>3.93</u>	<u>3.59</u>	<u>91.3%</u>
General Election 2007 Funding	11.78	11.17	94.8%
- Political Education Fund (PEF)	<u>1.66</u>	<u>1.66</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Total Funding 2007	13.44	12.83	95.4%



- PEF is an annual payment paid each year based on price of a postage stamp



4-year period = \$6.64M

All claims are submitted with an audit certificate

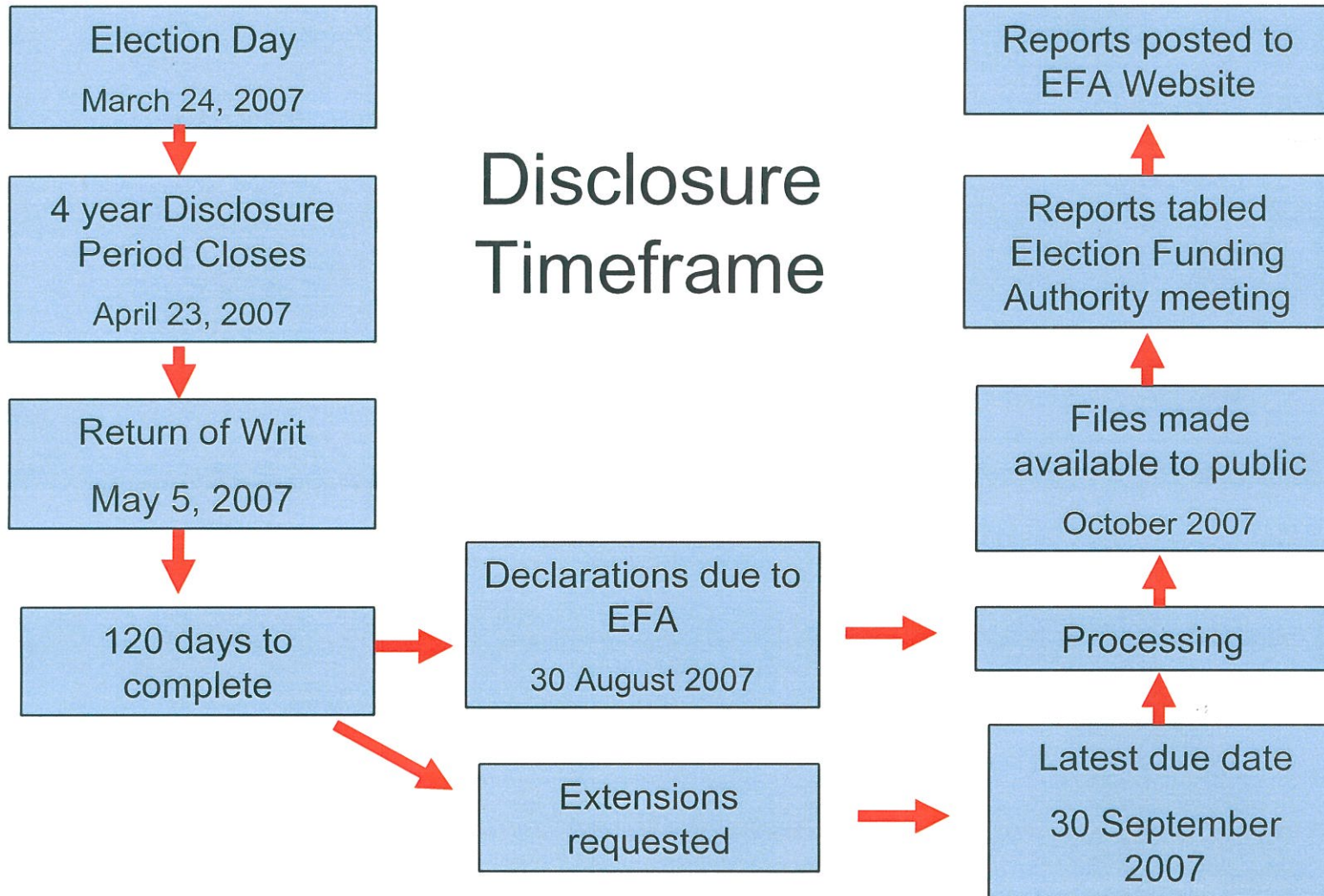
Disclosure Obligations

- Declarations received by the EFA
 - Political Donations
 - Political Expenditure
 - Claims for public funding
- Disclosure Period
 - Generally 4 years, but several variations
 - Commences 31st day after the previous election
 - Finishes 30 days after the current election
 - To be submitted within 120 days of return of writs for GE and 120 days of election for LGE
- Political Donors to disclose
 - Making of a donation to party, group or candidate
 - Providing a service at discounted or no charge
 - Giving of a gift
 - Purchasing of tickets or other item relating to a fundraising event

Donations Received

Disclosure Thresholds					
Amount \ Entity	Party	Group	Candidate	Donor	
\$0 - \$200	<<<<< Total number >>>>> <<<<< Total value >>>>>			Not Disclosed	
\$201 - \$1,000	<<< Total number >>> <<< Total value >>>		Name Address Amount	Not Disclosed	
\$1,001 - \$1,500	Total number Total value	<<< Name >>> <<< Address >>> <<< Amount >>>		Not Disclosed	
> \$1,500	each donation	<<<<< Name >>>>> <<<<< Address >>>>> <<<<< Amount >>>>>			Total Value of all donations

Disclosure Timeframe



Declarations Received by month

	Mar- Jun 07	Jul 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07
Parties	3	2	7	2	1		
Groups	3	1	6	6	1		
Candidates	191	121	396	100	22	12	2
Donors	39	79	461	347	606	209	27
Total	236	203	869	455	630	221	29

Compliance

2007 General Election

	Declarations	Non-compliance
– Parties	16	2
– Party Agents	-	2
– Groups	17	2
– Candidate	843	26
– Political donors	<u>2,735</u>	<u>916</u>
Totals	3,611	948

Political donations

State General Election Disclosures to the EFA

	Party, Group & Candidate Returns	Donor Returns
Number of Donors	2,735	1,815
Number Donations	9,681	8,917
Value	\$51.5M	\$37.5M

Submission to the committee

3 key suggestions

1. Annual Declarations
2. Electronic Filing
3. Political Donor Identification system

Recommendation 1 : Annual Declarations

Current Issues

- Confusion over what constitutes the reporting period
- Record keeping for 4-years is onerous
- Value of information diminishes due to age
- Transactional processing peak for EFA – 180,000 records

Benefits of recommendation

- Improved transparency
- Increased opportunity for public scrutiny
- Simplify compliance, easier to understand
- Ease the reporting burden
- Smooth the processing peak
- Consistent with other reporting regimes e.g. ATO, ASIC, AEC

Recommendation 2 : Electronic Filing

Current Issues

- Manual paper based reporting system
- Double handled: (1) Party/Candidate/Donor and (2) EFA staff
- Data validation issues
- Onerous to process

Benefits of Recommendation

- On-line using common web technologies
- Improved efficiency – one entry only, direct to EFA system
- Allows frequent YTD snap-shots of data via the web
- Provision of 'searchable' fields – name, postcode. etc
- Assists with a donor identification system (*Recommendation 3*)

Recommendation 3 : Political Donor Identification

Current Issues

- Difficulty in matching records between declarations made by:
 - Party, group or Candidates and
 - declarations made by the donors

Benefits of Recommendation

- Simple solution of Elector Roll identification or ABN
 - Persons
 - Donor must be on the electoral roll and supply sufficient information to be identified from the roll
 - Organisations
 - Donor advises their ABN

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