



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

11 March 2008

Mr Mark Corrigan

Dear Mr Corrigan

Inquiry into Electoral and Political Party Funding

I write in response to your email of 2 March 2008, requesting approval to publish your submission beyond the confines of the Committee.

As I advised you in my letter of 25 February 2008, the Committee resolved that your submission be kept confidential as it contains adverse reflections on others. Although your request was considered by the Committee, the Committee's decision stands and your submission remains confidential. The Committee resolved that I write to you to outline the implications of publishing your submission or the information contained in your submission.

If you were to publish your submission, this would constitute an unauthorised disclosure of a committee document. Your submission would not be protected by parliamentary privilege if it was disclosed without the Committee's authorisation. Parliamentary privilege attaches to committee documents, such as submissions, and to their use by a committee in parliamentary proceedings. Submissions to a parliamentary committee may be made freely without any threat of legal action, for example for defamation.

Alternatively, you have the option to publish the information contained in your submission in another form. This would not be an unauthorised disclosure of a Committee document. Any information published by you in this manner would not be protected by parliamentary privilege and as such you should obtain legal advice to ensure that you would not be open to legal action being taken for defamation.

As in my previous letter, I would urge you to direct the allegations in your submission to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, if you have not already done so.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Rachel Simpson, Director -- Committees, phone (02) 9230 2898.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fred Nile'.

Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chairman