



23 May 2008

**Legislative Council**

## **INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING**

Committee Chairman Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC today issued, on behalf of the Committee, a statement clarifying the Select Committee's handling of information alleging corruption in the Shoalhaven region, following media speculation.

"The focus of the inquiry has been the systemic reform of electoral funding in New South Wales" Revd Nile said.

"The existence of a submission to the Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding was identified during debate in the Legislative Council on 8 May 2008 as being made by Mr Mark Corrigan. The submission in question contains serious allegations of corrupt conduct. A Parliamentary committee needs to proceed with caution before providing the protection of parliamentary privilege to serious allegations of this nature."

"In this instance, the Committee followed long standing Legislative Council practice regarding submissions of this sort."

"Citizens who wish to raise serious allegations of localised corruption have alternative forums available. The committee is not the appropriate body to investigate detailed allegations of corrupt conduct or maladministration. The Independent Commission Against Corruption exists for this purpose."

The Committee today published an item of correspondence between the Committee and Mr Corrigan in which the Committee urged him to direct his allegations to the Independent Commission Against Corruption. That correspondence, dated 11 March 2008, is attached to this Media Release, and explains the approach the Committee has consistently taken in regard to this matter.

"The Committee will report in June, making positive recommendations for policy change," said Revd Nile.

**For further comment please contact Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC,  
Chairman, ph. 0418 619 731**