

**Submission
No 17**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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To whom it may concern

I would like to contribute to the inquiry.

We have been living in North Turramurra and then Wahroonga for the 15 years. Over this period we have noticed that the policies of NSW Governments has been increasingly impacted by political donations.

There now appears to be plenty of evidence on the public record that donations to political parties from the private sector have become so large that it would be impossible to think that these donations are not being rewarded. There is obvious financial return being derived from at least some of these donations.

My wife (Michelle) and I can see the exponential housing development that is occurring in our area where local government development policy is being overruled by State Government development policy (with individual cases often ending up in the Land Environment Court). We live in a largely Liberal voting area and successive Labor Governments and Ministers in charge of Development policy have not appeared to listen to our concerns. We feel that donations are corrupting the political process. I guess there are other examples that could be drawn from other policy areas but the Housing Development area is an example where we are seeing the problems manifest themselves in a seriously worrying way.

I don't think there is any real problem with individuals or the private sector donating to Political parties but these donations should be done in a way that cannot be perceived to be corrupting the process. We would like to suggest that the only way of protecting everyone from these sort of accusations is to put a cap on such donations making it illegal for individuals or the private sector to make a donation in any one year of more than say \$1,000. All Political Parties should not be allowed to rely on this sort of funding. It can only become a problem when the amounts become significant.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute our concerns.

Yours faithfully

Michael James
Wahroonga