

**Submission  
No 45**

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

**Organisation:**

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Dear Rachel

In recent years there has been a growing disquiet (and frankly a feeling of disgust) by the public on the matter of donations by 'big business' to our two main political parties, both at State and Federal level.

Huge sums have been pumped into the 'war chests' of political parties and it is obvious that a 'quid pro quo' is expected in return, by these 'business interests'.

Newspaper reports over recent years, have actually quoted large companies confessing to making political donations, in attempts to gain support for their projects and business endeavours - to the benefit of **only** their shareholders – not the general community.

Some years ago Paul Keating came out publicly and stated that all political donations should be banned because of their insidious influence on our political system – and of all people, citizen Keating should be fully familiar with the hidden 'modus operandi' of such largess!

In the NSW State construction industry alone, it is very obvious that generous cash donations have influenced the State Labor Government in 'greasing the wheels' to allow many large, completely inappropriate, unit blocks to be shoe-horned into Sydney suburbs, by pressuring Councils to alter zoning height restrictions. Northies Hotel, Cronulla and The Catalina Apartments in Caringbah immediately spring to mind, in this regard. As a ratepayer, you will be aware that many thousands of dollars of local government cash has been wasted in fruitless challenges to many of these development intrusions, in the Land and environment Court.

Most Councillors, of course, are just 'political apprentices' (as evidenced by their frequent 'irrelevant pontifications' in Council Chambers) – so it is not difficult to imagine their opinions **on planning matters** being influenced by political party allegiances, at State level. A great step forward, therefore, in nullifying the influence of political donations by vested interests would be to ban such allegiances within Municipal Councils. Like Councillors' sexual orientations and religious persuasions – their **personal political interests** should be deemed completely irrelevant to the planning and servicing requirements of their local communities.

Large political donations by vested interests, are undoubtedly an unwholesome, undermining influence on our democratic system. At the very least, they tend to 'colour the judgment' of some of our political masters - and at worst, lead to celebrated cases of skullduggery and criminal proceedings, (ref. the Rockdale ICAC enquiry, for instance!)

**Political donations should be capped at a modest level - and publicly declared on a regular basis, by all beneficiaries.**

Good luck to you and your committee of inquiry, as you look closely at this serious and disturbing threat to our democratic system of government.

Yours sincerely

John Flett

Wangi Wangi

May 2002

**Bob - the Brickie!**

As DUAP's 'Leggo lust' - bricks up our Shire,  
Contractors pump their concrete - ever higher!  
Will naive voters, again, hear - "Liar! Liar!"  
As State Elections loom -  
And duplicitous Pollies teeter near the mire,  
Of Opposition 'Doom'?

In '99 – weird Willock Avenue took the fall.  
Phantom windows! Gym bars on every wall!  
But Miranda's Central Rd. now joins the call,  
For Taronga's tubing!  
These 'monkey architects' have had a ball -  
While we were snoozing!

But Surely '**Godzilla**' will shake us free  
From our trusting, compliant reverie?  
Caringbah's King-Kong will soon decree  
That Greed is God!  
DUAP's 'urban duncity' is plain to see.  
Bob's given his nod!

Developers easily justify their 'screw'  
Because Silvertails will love the view.  
But Caringbah's congestion-battling crew,  
Quakes at this Monstrosity.  
Her **eleven levels** were approved - **for you!**  
She's Mayor Kev's legacy!

Study your Shire's **LEP** – consider '**Option One**'  
Developers crave Option 'Crate' – (stack and run!)  
Sickly blue coops – the Kingsway's 'Royal Yawn'.  
Ugly bridge-lock. Snail-rail.  
'**Con**'crete carpet-baggers - leave **us** 'in the gun'!  
It's such a shameful tale.

Residents, who cherish this vibrant Shire,  
Accept our population must climb higher.  
But at **215,000** souls, is it '**selfish desire**'  
To plead for our patch?  
Bob's future for Sydney's suburbs – **IS DIRE!**  
**Watch Godzilla's eggs hatch!**

John Flett

Nice 'approach' John – but who's your man in Miranda?  
Why, it's concrete Kev –Sutho's former Mayor Schreiber!  
Are his Council's 2000 Approvals just being overlooked?  
“Ssshh! He's our 'Phantom' – Can't have voters spooked!”

Show gratitude Mr Meriton – Kev's 'done it right for you'  
(And every other Carpetbagger exploiting Sutherland, too!)  
Let him score a Godzilla Penthouse, at your basement rate -  
To crown his extensive pecuniary interests - in Real Estate!

But, fear not Mr Brogden – there's a 'mole' in Kev's team -  
Poor Barry's being shafted for Brickie Bob's DUAP dream!

John Flett

## Clarke Rubber Store “Improvements” Caringbah! May ‘98

Our Council Chamber’s all ‘a-glow’  
‘**Godzilla Tower**’ has got the go!  
A mighty monument - **to greed.**  
Just what our Shire doesn’t need!  
Who approved floors **THREE to TEN?**  
Run that past me once again!

Objections? Protests? Yes, a few.  
But Council knows just what to do.  
“Macquarie Street, mate, protest there!  
This urban density’s - **our share!**”  
“Without a doubt Bob Carr’s to blame.  
Isn’t it a bloody shame?”

The Developer will get his ‘screw’.  
The Silver-tails will love their view,  
But what it means for me and you -  
Is a hundred and ninety pots of poo!  
When **Godzilla** pulls her mighty chain  
Can Potters Point withstand the strain?  
Will her mega-litre stormwater gush  
Swell, or swamp, our Hacking flush?

All battles with ‘the Jones’s’ ended  
When you claimed her vista splendid -  
Her **ELEVENTH** level Penthouse Suite!  
(Forgive just a smidgen, of conceit!)

**But what’s this horror in the East?!!**  
The rival plan! That ‘other Beast!’  
She’s spiralling at a rapid rate,  
Some call her ‘Sutho’s Watergate!’  
The ‘**Northie Serpent**’, I’ll be bound,  
Will make you feel you’re on the ground!

Alas, no sunrise o’er Bate Bay -  
Instead ‘**that shadow**’ till mid-day!  
Harvest moon and shimmering light?  
No sign of that - till late at night!  
She’ll block your million dollar view  
And could spell financial ruin too!  
**She** will always **dominate** your sky -  
‘Cos Northie – is **THIRTEEN stories high!!**

John Flett

“But, Och, mankind are unco weak, / an’ little to be trusted.  
If **self** the wavering balance shake, / it’s rarely right adjusted!”

R.Burns

### **A Con job for the ‘boys’?**

Cuff, the tailor’s on the up and up.  
Affluent Burgher - Yuppie pup!  
Stitch and style; crease and flare -  
Conspicuous piles of cash to spare!

May 2002

Snappy Cuff has Rockdale at his feet,  
And ambitious plans for Frederick St –  
With a shonk D.A. and a Council bum,  
He’ll create – Cuff’s **‘Con’dominium!**

Sly Dog’s soon lapping up Cuff’s dough.  
**\$40,000?** - **Four** storeys will ‘get the go’  
**\$70,000?** - The Councillor’s ripper rate -  
For **each** extra floor - from five to eight!

How can “pushy Andy” swing this deal?  
A mystery brings “floppy Mac” to heel!  
Mac **merely** brown-nosed his Labor mate,  
With a Party donation! - **Irresistible bait?**

Good citizens suffer this Rockdale Rort,  
**“Grubby Scum”** selling ratepayers short!  
It’s Greed and Power - that heady mix -  
Bob’s **‘boys’**, of course, disown such tricks!

As ICAC reveals Rockdale’s ‘Watergate’  
Irene Moss decodes - text, “suit” and rate.  
Please, Michael Carmody - **do that sum!**  
Shouldn’t ‘little earners’ be **taxed** income?

Cuff! You’ll achieve your dream - one day  
And o’er your ‘colleagues’ hold great sway!  
Your stitch-up skills, have paved the way -  
**Designer Mailbags! - labelled ‘Long Bay’!**

John Flett.