

**Submission  
No 181**

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

**Organisation:**

**Name:** Ms Alice Beauchamp

**Date received:** 31/03/2008

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Dear Madeleine Foley,

Thank you for the willingness to accept a written submission despite the lateness.

This topic is of great importance for the proper functioning of democracy, and its consideration is urgent.

The growing size of corporate/developer donations, at all three levels of government, gives an unfortunate sense of the buying of influence, and the suspicion, that the recipients are likely to grant what has been bought. It seems unlikely, that huge sums of money are given in a pure spirit of benevolence (and were it so, shareholders would be likely to object).

The dangers have recently been prominently seen in developer influence on certain local councils. Action is clearly needed. This has certainly been signalled previously, notably by Neville Wran as Premier, but satisfactory follow-up measures have apparently failed to eventuate.

There are also, of-course, individual donors, genuinely wishing to give support, without expecting to buy favours. Providing such donations are capped at a modest level, say max.\$1,000, and declared, they should be enabled to continue. Without these, individuals and new groups/parties might be shut out from the process. That would prevent democracy from being as open and inclusive as is desirable.

Yours Sincerely,  
Alice Beauchamp