

**Submission
No 105**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation: Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Inc
Name: Mr Julian Sheen
Position: President
Telephone:
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Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Inc.

FOUNDED IN 1955

AFFILIATED TO THE NATURE CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF NSW

Rachel Simpson
Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding
Parliament House, Sydney
fundinginquiry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

13 February, 2008

Dear Ms Simpson,

SUBMISSION TO FUNDING INQUIRY

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society has a membership of about 300 residents of the Oatley-Mortdale-Peakhurst area. The Society has been established for 52 years and its primary aim is to protect the natural environment, particularly at the local level.

In recent years we have become alarmed by the NSW Government's changes in the legislation controlling planning and development. We consider these changes are very detrimental to the environment, to our quality of life and to the welfare of future Australians. However, the changes greatly favour the property and development industries whose recent funding of both major political parties has been excessively large. That there is no link between the funding and the legislation changes is unbelievable.

Our experience with the above is consistent with the general perception that large donations and related favours to political parties are made for the deliberate purpose of distorting the decisions and policies of party members. Such donations provide the potential, opportunities and incentives for outright bribery and corruption, and are incompatible with the aims of an equitable, democratic and socially advanced society. We therefore suggest the following:

- Donations to political parties from any company or individual should be limited to \$5000 (or similar small amount) in any calendar year,
- All donations should be promptly and clearly displayed to enable public scrutiny,
- Members of parliament should be expressly prevented from gaining personal benefits from donors during or after their terms of parliamentary service.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Sheen
PRESIDENT

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Inc.

ABN 86511271725

PO Box 52 Mortdale 2223

Website: off.oatleypark.com