

Submission
No 60

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

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The Director
Select Committee on electoral & Political Party Funding
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Director,

RE: SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

I write on behalf of Leichhardt Council who have resolved to make a submission to the inquiry into electoral and political funding currently being conducted by NSW Parliament.

Leichhardt Council has resolved on a number of occasions calling on the NSW Government to regulate developer donations to political parties, particularly relating to Local Government and candidates nominating for local Government elections.

Whilst Council has considered and debated additional motions relating to the need for the NSW Government to impose further restrictions on developer donations in general, no resolutions have resulted.

At the July 2004 Ordinary meeting, Council considered a motion relating to Developer donations specifically for candidates nominating for Local Government elections which resulted in the following resolution being adopted:

That Leichhardt Municipal Council opposes Local Government candidates accepting donations from Developers (those individuals or companies who make a living from property development).

That the Mayor, on behalf of Council write to the Minister for Local Government the Honourable Tony Kelly stating Council's opposition to Developer donations and requesting that legislation be introduced forbidding developer donations to local government campaigns.

At the December 2006 Ordinary meeting, Council again considered a motion relating to developer donations specifically for candidates and political parties nominating for Local Government elections which resulted in the following resolution being adopted:

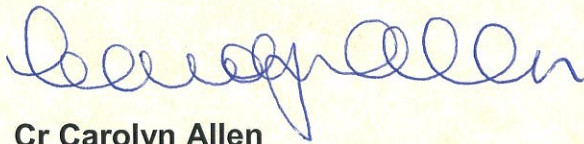
Council calls on the Iemma NSW Labor Government to change the Local Government Act in order to ban property industry donations to political parties and individuals in the future;

The Mayor write to the Minister for Local Government and to the Premier within weeks informing them of Council's position and reiterating our request that the Local Government Act be amended to ban property industry donations to political parties and individuals, this time requesting that this occur before the Council elections in 2008; and

In the interim, Council requests all councillors who have accepted donations from corporations, partnerships and individuals whose business involves property development, to declare the details, amounts and extent of those donations and to absent themselves from any debate and not vote on any motion or recommendation where such donors may receive a benefit from the outcome of that vote.

If you have any queries regarding this submission, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Carolyn Allen
MAYOR, LECHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL