

**Submission
No 88**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

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Date received: 14/02/2008

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Ms R Simpson
Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Simpson

Re: Submission to Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding

Manly Council would like to make a submission to the NSW Legislative Select Committee Enquiry into Electoral and Political Party Funding.

At a Planning and Strategy Council meeting on 11th February 2008, Council resolved:

That Manly Council endorse the 3 recommendations below and submit them to the NSW Legislative Council Enquiry into Political Funding.

RECOMMENDATION 1

That the Enquiry Committee recommends that the NSW Parliament votes to call upon the Federal Government to urgently convene a National Summit to develop a national strategy to fundamentally reform, in a coordinated manner, the financial donations legislation for federal and all state and all local systems.

The issues and legalities concerning money politics is complex but a National Summit would have to at least consider the following reform proposals:

- All donations, including in kind donations, to be immediately and publicly declared.
- The original source of all donations to be declared.
- Corporate and individual donations be outlawed totally or at least restricted to an upper limit, say \$1,000.
- Donations from foreign entities to be banned.
- Corporations, unions and organisations to be required to have shareholder/member approved political donations policies.
- Campaign expenditure limits.
- Tighter controls over the 'independent' campaign spending by the supporters of political parties and candidates.
- Reforming electoral funding to promote political equality.
- Increased penalties for breaching funding laws.

- Political Party donations disclosures to be accompanied by a report from an accredited auditor.
- Adequate resources to be provided to the Australian Electoral Commission to effectively enforce political funding regulations.

The National Summit would need to be of sufficient time for proper consideration and a comprehensive debate of the reform options. The National Summit attendees should consist not just of politicians but also a broad range of legal experts, academics and community representatives.

RECOMMENDATION 2

In recognition that recommendation 1 may not succeed, it is imperative that the Enquiry Committee still proceed with preparing a draft bill for the radical overhaul of the political funding legislation in NSW to ensure NSW adopts the best practises possible in electoral and political funding. The draft Bill should draw particularly on the legislative frameworks of New Zealand, Canada and the UK and consider the following reform proposals:

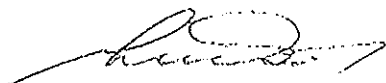
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RECOMMENDATION 3

That the Enquiry Committee immediately call on the Premier and Leader of the Opposition to ensure Lee Rhiannon MLC is included on this committee.

Would you please ensure that these three recommendations are submitted to the Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding by 15th February 2008.

Yours faithfully



Viv Hudson
Manager Administration

Date: 14/2/08