

Submission
No 9

**INQUIRY INTO PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTION
FUNDING, EXPENDITURE AND DISCLOSURES BILL
2011**

Organisation: Australian Deer Association Inc.

Name: Mr Douglas Young

Date received: 10/01/2012



Submission to;

NSW Parliament

Legislative Council

Select Committee on the Provisions of the Election Funding

Expenditure and Disclosure Amendment Bill 2011

Presented on behalf of the **Australian Deer Association Inc.**

By Douglas Grant YOUNG, New South Wales State Secretary

The Australian Deer Association Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation that is not affiliated with any political party. There is no external sponsorship or support, therefore all of our funding comes from our members. The State Executive represents five Branches and one Sub-Branch in New South Wales.

Some of the Objects in our Constitution are;

- The retention and improvement of habitat for deer and other wildlife, particularly by encouraging governments to pass legislation and make regulations based on sound management principles.
- The preservation and extension of public access to the Australian bushland for recreational use, and encouragement of such use.
- The education of hunters in the safe handling of firearms.
- To do all that is reasonably necessary to enable these objects to be achieved and to enable members to receive the benefits, which these objects are intended to achieve.

As an organisation facing what we see as threats to our cultural heritage there is a need to engage with the Government in this state.

There are several ways of doing so, they are;

1. Have our members meet with and lobby their local member of parliament.
2. The State Executive to meet with and lobby the relevant ministers.
Keep in mind these two options require members to take time off work to attend these meetings. The ADA like most clubs and organisations is run by volunteers.
3. Employ a lobbyist at considerable expense to represent our cause.

With the formation of the Shooters and Fishers Party another avenue has become available. Their objects and policies align with our own. This gives us the opportunity to access the two sitting members and have them negotiate with the Government for what will hopefully be positive outcomes. Alternatively they can introduce bills that are similar to the ADA's objectives.

Address to the Terms of Reference.

- (a) the bill restricts any community and not for profit organisation, including unions, community groups, clubs and environment and social justice organisations from engaging in the political process,
- (b) the bill will limit the capacity of peak organisations to engage in the political process and be seen by the members to not be endeavouring to achieve the objects of the association. Any aggregation of funding would restrict the individual ADA Branches from making separate donations,
- (c) the impact on these organisation may be to discourage membership as it will be seen to restrict support for a greater range of candidates,
- (d) the ADA does not and will not pay affiliate fees to any political party.
- (e) The restriction of \$1,000 from individuals severely limits the support that smaller political parties would receive.
- (f) No comment
- (g) The bill needs to be amended to include donations from community and not-for-profit organisations including community groups and clubs and environment and social justice organisations.
There should not be any cap on the donations that individuals and any community and not for profit organisation, including unions, community groups, clubs and environment and social justice organisations.

The ADA would like to see greater effort by the government or the electoral commission to educate voters on the two houses of parliament in New South Wales. It is frustrating, to be handing out How to Vote forms for the Legislative Council with the advice "vote for whoever you want as the Government but vote for us in the Upper House" and receive a vague stare. You know that they have no understanding of the two house parliamentary system used in this state.

With an increasing adult migrant population there is a lack of education on the New South Wales parliamentary system.

Should the Government decide that it is still the responsibility of the political parties to educate voters then a more equitable solution must be introduced. Money from the Political Education Fund must be distributed to all parties irrespective of whether they sit in the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council.