

**Submission  
No 95**

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

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For the Attention of Rachel Simpson.  
***Inquiry on Political Party Funding***

We would like to make a submission to the legislative assembly ***Inquiry on Political Party Funding.***

### **We want a donor-free democracy.**

- Political donations in New South Wales show voters that Members of Parliament and political parties can be "bought" by those with enough money, to do what donors want.
- Politicians, paid by the public and using their money who are in fact controlled by donors, can be compared with medieval monarchs who were controlled by their financiers who enabled them to fight wars and gain their crowns.
- Donor-funded advertising and public relations corrupts the election process by ensuring the election of those who can advertise best, rather than those who can govern best. The result is hopeless government services such as health, crime protection, road safety, child protection, court systems, planning, drugs, alcohol abuse, gambling and many more.
- This is all the more evident in Local council elections.
- Allowing minister to meet with those who can afford the many thousands that are paid for the meeting to bend the ear of the people is a blight on our democracy. Yes the government recently has taken the cabinet to the people but that's a once in a blue moon chance where big donors get more chances to express there issue,

**Planning laws** -An excellent example of donor driven legislation is the latest proposal to change the planning laws. Democratically elected councils will have almost no say. Most multistorey development applications will be decided by government-appointed planning panels instead of by councils. Disputes over applications worth less than \$1 million will go before government appointed arbitrators, not councils. The government will take away council control of Section 94 community service funds paid for by developers and will hugely scale them back. All to the detriment of local government and th epeople they serve

"Outcomes based planning policies" is what Minister Frank Sartor calls these changes. Outcomes for developers no doubt.

- **ELECTION ADVERTISING**
- Pre-election advertising should be strictly limited to factual statements about past performance compared with past promises and future policies.
- There should be a limit on third party election advertising.

## . PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS

To take the place of reduced private donations public funding of elections should be increased. This could take the form of:

- Assistance in the form of free mailings
- Free use of public rooms during an election period
- Free airtime for political broadcasts

Public funding should also be available on an equitable basis to all contestants of an election. even if they are not currently elected to either house. as distinct from the money received if a candidate receives above a specified percentage votes.

## MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF MEASURES

Timely public disclosure of donations received and election expenditure should be mandatory so that the media and the public can be rapidly informed of trends and of any transgressions. Parties should be obligated to place on a website details of monthly electoral income and expenditure in similar form to the final election reporting currently required to the NSW Electoral Funding Authority.

Effective sanctions for breaking electoral funding regulations should be established, including loss of office.

**Conclusion** – Democracy is cheapened by developer donations and other large donors, links between Pubs funding and introducing pokies, developments in environmentally sensitive areas by companies that have donated large sums, Bypassing local planning laws by taking in developments to the minister office some times look as if favours are being called.

We call for political donations to be removed from the funding spectrum and public funding on an equitable basis for all candidates who stand in State Elections.

Yours Sincerely

M.Ellis  
Secretary

Central Coast Acf Branch

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