

**Submission  
No 86**

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

**Organisation:** Lithgow City Council  
**Name:** Mr Paul Anderson  
**Position:** General Manager  
**Telephone:** 02 6354 9999  
**Date received:** 14/02/2008

---



Reference: PJA:AM

14 February, 2008

The Director  
Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL & POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING**

Thank you for the opportunity and please find the following submission to the Select Committee on Electoral and Political Party Funding.

Public funding may provide a level of equality between the candidates and minimise the danger of obtaining funds from inappropriate sources, however, it also raises the important question as to where this funding will be sourced from, if it was to be introduced for local government elections. Local government is already struggling to meet the increasing demands of its community, fulfil additional responsibilities the State Government has passed on and maintain aging infrastructure due to the Government's rate pegging limit. This situation may become further 'stressed' if the Department of Planning's proposed changes to developer contributions are placed before and passed by Parliament. Therefore, any public funding for local government elections can not be funded by ratepayers.

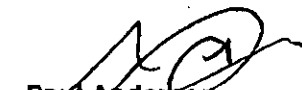
The provision of funding under the Political Education Fund includes the posting of written materials and information regardless of whether the information only contains information about the party/independent concerned. To alleviate any perceived misuse of this public funding, it is considered appropriate that guidelines or conditions for use be prepared.

Alternatively, party funding may not be the appropriate form of funding in local government as often an allegiance to a political party is not disclosed at the time of the election and may not be identified publicly until donations are declared some 120 days following the election.

Finally, the timing of disclosures for electoral donations should be reviewed with consideration being given to more frequent reporting rather than 120 days after the election. Also, the accessibility of this information should be reviewed with consideration to it becoming easier to access within the electoral area.

I hope the above information assists in your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

  
**Paul Anderson**  
GENERAL MANAGER

(02) 6354 9999  
(02) 6351 4259

www.lithgow.nsw.gov.au  
council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE  
TO GENERAL MANAGER

TOTAL P.01