

**Submission
No 112**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

Name: Ms Yvonne Jayawardena

Telephone:

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Yvonne Jayawardena

Ms Rachel Simpson,
Director,
Select Committee on Electoral
and Political Funding,
Parliament House,
Macquarie Street,
Sydney, 2001.

15 FEB 2008

14th Feb 2008

Dear Director,

I strongly urge this Select Committee to recommend to Parliament that a cap be put on the amount allowed for a) electoral funding and b) political funding.

Democracy should never be held to ransom by money.

The outcome of an election should not be influenced by the seemingly unlimited amount of money donated to a political party; as an example, the NSW Labor Party received approximately 24 million in donations and spent 16.7 million on the last election.

Organisations, institutions and people donate money to a Party expecting favourable outcomes for their particular aims and projects once that Party gets into power.

For example, the development lobby has donated lavishly to the Labor Party and recent changes and proposed changes to the Planning Laws reflect the enormous influence developers seem to have over the NSW Government in this respect. What is happening under the guise of "cutting the red tape" has a terrible impact on local communities.

The democratic rights of individuals are ignored. The trust in public administration is deeply eroded.

Having been in the past a Local Government Councillor and a political candidate at both State and Federal level I am profoundly saddened by the state of affairs in New South Wales.

I feel that if a cap were to be put on political and electoral funding, the situation might be remedied, at least to some extent, in the future and the public would cease to feel disenfranchised.

I would also like to know whether members of the public will be allowed to speak at the Public Hearing.

Yours faithfully

Yvonne Jayawardena

15 FEB 2008