

**Submission
No 147**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation: Marrickville Council
Name: Ms Candy Nay
Position: General Manager
Telephone: 02 9335 2222
Date received: 20/02/2008

OUR REF: 952
YOUR REF:

20 February 2008

Rev the Hon Fred Nile
Chairperson
Legislative Council Select Committee
on Electoral and Political Party Funding
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Chairperson

**MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO NSW PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY
INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING**

I am writing to advise that, at its meeting on 19 February 2008, Council resolved to make a submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Electoral and Political Party Funding calling for:

- an end to political donations from corporations and other organisations;
- prompt and transparent disclosure of all donations on a public website maintained by the Election Funding Authority;
- reporting on donations to require political parties to identify who the significant donors are and who they donate to, that is if the donation is to a candidate, local party branch, state or federal office; and
- capping political donations at \$10,000 per individual per year; and making the following additional points:
 1. Currently disclosure of political donations and election expenditure in NSW is made every four years after state elections. This should change so political contributions and money from fundraising events are disclosed every year for the first three years after NSW state elections. During the year leading up to an election, disclosure of donations over \$1500 should be made quarterly.
 2. There have been a number of complaints at the federal and state levels that some government advertising is for the political advantage of the political party in power and particularly designed to assist at election

Phone 02 9335 2222
Fax 02 9335 2029
TTY 02 9335 2025 (hearing impaired)
Email council@marrickville.nsw.gov.au
Website www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au

time. In order to reduce unnecessary advertising and increase public confidence in the political process, an independent committee should be set up to scrutinize all government advertising campaigns. The committee overseeing government advertising should ensure that all advertising is for important public education purposes and not for any political gain.

3. Currently in local government elections voters are provided with no information on who is funding the candidates prior to the election, and no public funding is available for local council elections. Contributions to political parties over \$1500 and contributions over \$200 to individual candidates standing for councils made prior to local government elections should be reported prior to the election and immediately posted on the websites of the NSW Election Funding Authority and the relevant local council. Public funding for local government elections should be introduced.
4. Considering the damage donations from property developers has had on the political process in NSW, special measures are needed to cover this category of donation. The Election Funding Act 1981 should be amended to require persons and companies submitting development applications to councils or the Minister for Planning to declare all political donations they have made to councillors, their campaigns, their parties or to the Minister or his or her party or campaigns.
5. As many of the problems being considered by this inquiry are replicated at the national level, there is a need for reform at the federal level and in other states. The select committee should recommend that the federal government calls a national summit to explore all issues of electoral funding, including capping election spending, banning all donations except those by individuals, capping donations from individuals and banning donations from individuals who are not permanent residents or citizens of Australia.

For further enquiries concerning Council's submission, please contact Emma Wallhead, Acting Manager, Administrative Services on 9335 2023

Yours sincerely



Candy Nay
General Manager