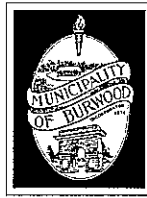


**Submission
No 3**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation: Burwood Council
Name: Mr Pat Romano
Position: General Manager
Telephone: 02 9911 9911
Date received: 22/01/2008

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BURWOOD COUNCIL

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Rev The Hon Fred Nile, MLC
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

File: E.100.000
Folio No: 1.2007.41986

11 December 2007

Dear Rev Nile

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry into Electoral and Political Party Funding. Whilst your terms of reference are very broad, I will limit this submission to the area of 'electoral funding and disclosure'.

Burwood Council is one of the smallest Councils in New South Wales, both geographically and by population and therefore very vulnerable to unscrupulous tactics regarding electoral funding. Indeed, with only 18,000 electors and seven (7) Councillors, it can take relatively very few votes to be elected to Council and to therefore, potentially hold the balance of power.

Whilst Burwood is small, it is a highly desirable location for developers, as Burwood is the only regional centre between Sydney and Parramatta.

With this in mind and with the 2008 Local Government elections pending, it is imperative that all funding of political parties is made in an open and transparent manner, with details made available to the public in a timely manner via easily accessible means, including the internet.

Unfortunately, under the current arrangements, it would be relatively easy for a vested interest group to 'secretly' bank-roll an unscrupulous candidate (or group of candidates) to run for Burwood Council.

Council is, therefore, supportive of greater levels of transparency for political funding, and hope that reforms can be implemented prior to the 27 September 2008 Local Government elections.

If you have any queries regarding this submission, please contact Robert Cummins, Director of Governance & Corporate Services, on 9911 9911.

Yours faithfully

for Pat Romano
General Manager