

**Submission
No 117**

INQUIRY INTO ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

Organisation:

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Reference ELECTORAL & POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING

We would like to see NSW State & Local Government lead by example and ban all Political Party donations as the very donation implies and is totally perceived to be an up front payment for an owed favour. This in itself is corrupt.

We are particularly opposed to donations by Developers and any donation linked in any way to Developers. Of particular concern is the behaviour over the last 8 years of Parramatta City Council and all of their activities surrounding the obnoxious development on [REDACTED].

The Council has approved numerous Mixed Use Development Applications on Woodville Rd that don't comply with the LEP or the DCP. Issues such as height restrictions, Floor Space Ratios, boundary setbacks & all the public concerns & submissions were ignored in favour of the developers.

We believe that the Land & Environment Court has been compliscent in this behaviour. At On Site Hearings the public have witnessed the chummy relationship between Council Officers & Solicitors with the appointed Commissioners. It has been evident that Council have been communicating directly with Commissioners prior to the Hearings. The Commisioners & Council have even changed Hearing Venues at the last minute to shake off the public's involvement.

There have been a number of these Developments on [REDACTED] approved by Council behind closed doors instead of in the public forum that they should have been held in. One example is [REDACTED].

Additionally, a recent DA was approved for a 4 storey block of units on a single block of land on the corner of [REDACTED]. This is totally illegal. This DA overstepped all required development parameters. The area of land was not large enough to permit such a development. The FSR was exceeded by two and a half times the allowable amount. Additionally, the existing house was mysteriously burnt down.

There have been numerous examples of heritage homes burnt out so that approval to demolish and build 4 storey blocks of units can be given an instant green light by Parramatta City Council. One example is [REDACTED]. There are many other examples of burnt out homes on [REDACTED]. Where is the Police & Council investigation? Its simply not happening – They are turning a blind eye to it.

Eventhough there have been numerous requests from the ratepaying public, the Council continues to refuse to do an Overall Pollution, Traffic & Environmental Impact Study. This is being done on an individual [REDACTED] site basis by the Developers. Each site is being treated on an individual basis as though the numerous other [REDACTED] DA's don't exist.

In conclusion, we believe that Developers are running Parramatta City Council. Many of the Councillors & Council Officers are returning the favour to Developers for their "Political Donations". The losers are the general public, the ratepayers and the future generations that will be left with their legacy.

Regards,
Mark & Valda McMullen