

Ms Ronda Miller  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

16 MAY 2013

Dear Ms Miller *Ronda,*

I refer to Report No. 1/55 of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters entitled 'Inquiry into Administrative Funding for Minor Parties' and dated 15 November 2012.

In accordance with Legislative Assembly Standing Order No. 303A, I wish to present the following Government response to the Clerk to be reported to the House at its next sitting.

In March 2013, the Government introduced a Bill proposing amendments to the *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* to implement the recommendations arising from the Committee's inquiry into administrative funding for minor parties. The *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Amendment (Administrative Funding) Act 2013* (the "Amending Act") commenced on 3 April 2013 and, among other things:

- increases the maximum annual amount of administrative funding to which parties and independent elected members are entitled in line with the funding formula recommended by the Committee (Recommendations 2 and 4);
- provides that parties and independent elected members are entitled to submit claims for quarterly payment from the Administration Fund for actual administrative expenditure incurred (Recommendation 3);
- requires the Election Funding Authority to make payments from the Administration Fund within six weeks of receiving a claim for payment that complies with the Act and is supported by the documentation and information required by the Authority (Recommendations 3 and 4); and
- ensures that all claims in respect of the 2012 calendar year are to be determined in accordance with the new maximum annual entitlements (Recommendation 4).

The Government consulted with the Election Funding Authority in relation to the amendments proposed by the Committee. The Authority raised concerns with respect to the Committee's proposed one-month deadline for the processing and payment of administrative funding claims. To address the Authority's concerns, the Amending Act

imposes a six-week deadline on the Authority with respect to the payment of claims for administrative funding.

I note that, for the purposes of Recommendation 1, the Amending Act does not introduce a specific funding model with respect to 'minor parties'. Accordingly, the Amending Act does not define the term 'minor party'.

I have written separately to the Clerk of the Legislative Council to present the Government's response in accordance with Legislative Council Standing Order No. 233.

Yours sincerely



**Barry O'Farrell MP**  
Premier