

14 June 2018

To the Committee,

Please consider my submission in respect of the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018.

Political donations have the potential to raise real or perceived conflicts of interest where the donor is in a position to benefit from a decision by a public body, or to unduly influence a political decision which may have a benefit to them personally or commercially.

This risk occurs at all levels of government, but has recently had a high profile in relation to local government, especially with regard to development assessment matters. There is equally concern about undue influence in State Government matters, both in development assessment (for instance when a development is "called in" and given approvals outside the scope of the local government planning scheme), or in mining and infrastructure approvals and facilitation, where State Government is seen to be providing benefits (deferment of royalties, open-ended water licence, construction of road and other infrastructure, etc.

I applaud the proposed provisions that constrain political donations from the development industry, but implore you to widen the scope of constraint to include all donations from any individual or commercial entity (such as miners) which may directly benefit from Government decisions potentially influenced by political donation.

I commend my submission to you.

Regards,
Wallace Wight

