

**Submission in support of the**  
**“Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018”**

To the Committee Secretary:

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in support of Michael Berkman MP’s “Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018” and implore the Committee and the entire Queensland State Parliament to address the bill in support of further action to limit and remove corporate donations to political parties and candidates from Queensland’s electoral laws / processes.

Years ago, as soon as I reached voting age, I began taking more notice of politics as a result of my concern for global environmental issues. In following Queensland’s and Australia’s recent political history up to the current day, it is clear that the best decisions are often avoided. Instead, they are altered, diminished or delivered as outright opposite outcomes whenever possible to suit the vested interests lobbying political parties / candidates and providing financial assistance through donations to the same political parties / candidates to run their election campaigns.

Long term visions for a sustainable environment, for socially-beneficial programs are often ignored in the face of opportunity for short-to-medium-term profit increases of major donors to political campaigns.

I use the word “donations” only because it is the recognised terminology. When there is little or no social benefit derived from a donation, I feel it is appropriate to rename it as an “inducement.” Some would say “bribe” and I would agree in some circumstances present in Queensland today.

The electoral process within Queensland and within Australia can be run in the future with funding provided to political parties / candidates from the public purse. There are examples of this across the world today.

The Labor Party in Queensland recently advocated for removal of the ability for property developers to “donate” to political campaigns. I applaud this step and on the same rationales that have been raised about their ability to invite corruption, I request that the Crime and Corruption Commission

be directed to address broader corporate political donations from vested interests as per Michael Berkman MP's bill as mentioned above.

Yours Sincerely,

Chris Turnbull

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