

Submission on the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018

John Meyer

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the above Bill introduced to the Queensland Parliament by Michael Berkman MP.

I have grave concerns that the political system in Queensland has been severely corrupted by corporate donations to political parties. While there is the potential of corruption from any donation to a political party (e.g. unions, individuals), it is donations from businesses that present the most danger to our democracy.

The CCC's Belcarra report only touches the surface of the corrupting influence of donations, and the current government's legislation banning developer donations only addresses a fraction of this major problem. The fact that the Labor government is legislating to restrict donations from developers is a clear indication that they know these donations are corrupting, that they are given with the intention to influence decision making in a direct and obvious way. It is impossible to argue that other industries (mining, banking etc) do not also expect and receive favours from Labor and LNP governments as a result of their donations to these parties.

Corporate donations take power away from the people of Queensland and put it in the hands of business, resulting in government approving or supporting projects detrimental to the wellbeing of the community and the environment. Such projects include the [REDACTED] development (gambling industry), the [REDACTED] mine (mining industry), and the [REDACTED] development (developer/construction industry). All of these projects (and more) have been approved following large donations from their proponents to the Labor and Liberal National parties.

I believe it is the duty of this Parliament to pass this legislation to protect Queenslanders from the influence of big business.

Thank you.

John.