

20 January 2020

Mr Linus Power MP
Chair
Economics & Governance Committee
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000



Via email: egc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair,

Re: Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief comments on the Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019 (Bill). Lung Foundation Australia acknowledges the intent behind this legislation and those aspects of the Bill ensuring genuine transparency and equality for all in the political process. However, we cannot support the Bill in its current form.

We believe that in failing to include a ban on political donations from tobacco companies in the Bill, the Government missed an opportunity to conclusively end the practice of big tobacco buying influence in the Queensland Parliament. Whilst we acknowledge and commend those political parties who have made policy decisions not to accept donations from the tobacco industry, we believe a legal prohibition on the practice must be in place for all registered political parties. This would be a significant step towards ensuring the development of health policy in Queensland is not influenced by the commercial interest of organisations - tobacco companies - that seek to undermine the health of Queenslanders.

We acknowledge and support comments from the Queensland Law Society, the Human Rights Law Centre, QCOSS, QNMU, QCCL, and others regarding the "chilling effect that the new electoral expenditure framework for "third parties" will have on the participation of not for profit (NFP) and charity organisations in the debate and development of social policy, where that particular issue is connected with their purpose" (Queensland Law Society).

We trust the Committee will consider our comments with a view to strengthening the Bill through further amendment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Brooke", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Brooke
Chief Executive Officer

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