

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 013
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Wednesday 17 December 2025

The Secretariat

Parliamentary Justice, Integrity and

Community Safety Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Parliamentary Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee about the Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025.

I am a recently retired public servant. I make this submission in my capacity as a private individual, resident of Queensland for over 60 years, and voting member of the public.

In my public service career, I worked for two Queensland Government integrity agencies and several department's ethical standards units for 30 years, from 1996 to 2025. I saw my fair share of corruption and was involved in both investigating and preventing corruption.

I am very concerned by the Bill's proposal to remove the ban on political donations from property developers and related industry bodies for State elections, and target the ban to local government elections only.

There are both recent and past examples of political donations from developers raising corruption risks and issues for both State and local governments. The Victorian Independent Broad Based Anticorruption Commission report on Operation Sandon highlighted this risk with the former Premier of that State implicated in the report.

In 2009 the former Labor Government's reputation was damaged by allegations of developers using former Government Ministers to lobby for changes to the Southeast

Queensland Regional Plan in favour of property developers. Despite the allegations not being borne out by two investigations by the former Crime and Misconduct Commission, the stain on the Government was long lasting and changes were made to lobbying rules arising from issues uncovered by the investigation.

There are multiple examples in the recent past across several Australian jurisdictions of local councillors being bribed and improperly influenced by developers such as Wollongong City Council in New South Wales; the City of Casey and Kingston City Council in Victoria; and Ipswich City Council in Queensland. There is good reason to maintain the ban on donations from the development industry to local councils given how close and direct the benefit of council decisions are to developers. There is no reason to suggest that developers would change their tactics when it comes to State officials. The planning powers of the State in Queensland are able to confer greater benefit at scale to developers in a State preparing for the Olympic Games and at a time when all governments are under pressure to address a housing crisis and free up land for urban development.

In my opinion a government concerned with integrity, trust, and public confidence may be best advised to maintain the ban to both levels of government.

I am happy to further discuss my submission with the Committee.

Yours faithfully



James (Jim) Meyers

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