

Electoral Laws (Restoring Electoral Fairness) Amendment Bill 2025

Submission No: 031

Submission By: [REDACTED]

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I oppose the proposed changes to Queensland's election campaign finance laws that would remove the ban on political donations from property developers for State elections and allow loans from financial institutions to be used for electoral expenditure.

The ban on property developer donations was introduced to address clear risks of real and perceived influence over planning, infrastructure, and housing decisions. These risks are not confined to local government. State governments make many of the most significant development and planning decisions, and limiting the ban to local elections creates an artificial distinction that undermines public confidence. Even where no improper conduct occurs, the perception of influence is damaging to trust in the democratic process.

Allowing loans to fund election campaigns also raises concerns around transparency and fairness. Access to loans is not equal and is more likely to benefit larger or better connected parties, increasing spending pressures and weakening the intent of expenditure limits. It may also obscure the true financial position of campaigns at the time voters are making decisions.

Queensland's current framework is widely regarded as strong and principled. These proposed changes risk weakening electoral integrity and should not proceed.