



Submission No 25
Spec 22.1

3rd May, 2000.

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA,
Chair,
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
Brisbane, QLD, 4000.

RE: ELECTORAL ACT 1992 (QLD)

Dear Mr Fenlon,

With reference to your request for a submission from the National Party of Australia – Queensland in relation to the proposed amendments to the *Electoral Act 1992 (Qld)* I hereby tender the Party's response to the issues outlined in your letter dated 3rd April, 2000.

1. Annual Returns by Registered Political Parties

a. Threshold Amount for Reporting

The Commissioner's recommendation that the threshold amount for reporting be increased to the level prescribed in the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*, namely \$1,500.00, is supported by the Queensland National Party.

b. Categorisation

The Queensland National Party would support the Queensland legislation mirroring the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act* in the interests of uniformity.

The removal of categorisation would assist in the compilation of returns and would greatly reduce the administrative processes necessary to complete two separate returns satisfying the provisions of both State and Federal legislation.

If the Commissioner subsequently chooses to amend the Queensland legislation to mirror the provisions of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act*, the Party would also suggest that the returns to be completed by donors, broadcasters and publishers be identical to those now utilised by the Commonwealth Electoral Commission.

The uniformity of these documents would therefore ease the burden to be placed on third parties during the disclosure process.

2. Loans to Parties and Candidates

The Queensland National Party concurs with the Commissioner's thoughts on this issue.

3. Definition of "Associated Entity"

In the interests of uniformity, the Queensland National Party will support the Commissioner's recommendation in relation to this issue.

In conclusion, the National Party of Australia – Queensland is also cognisant of the fact that consistency between Commonwealth and Queensland legislation is highly desirable unless valid reasons can be shown for any departure from uniformity.

Please note that, as advised, the viewpoints expressed above have not been ratified by relevant policy committees of the Party and may be subject to amendment when final details of proposed legislation are available.

Ken Crooke
State Director