



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Electoral System, Reforms**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is ensuring the integrity of our democracy for all Queenslanders. On 29 October I stood with the Premier and announced our game-changing electoral reforms. These reforms will cap donations to curb the corrosive influence of big money in politics and limit electoral expenditure to ensure that all voices can be properly heard in our political discourse. These changes will significantly enhance the fairness, integrity and transparency of Queensland's electoral system. As promised, I extended an invitation to registered political parties to attend a briefing so they could gain more clarity around the reforms. I also provided a briefing to a collection of peak bodies and third parties likely to be affected by the bill.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the LNP for coming along to that briefing as well.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Everton will direct his comments through the chair.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Today I will proudly introduce our Electoral and Other Legislation (Accountability, Integrity and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2019. The bill will be subject to an extensive committee process, building upon my consultation with groups like the Centre for Public Integrity. Today I will also be requesting a parliamentary committee to consider whether caps should be put in place for local government into the future. The review will see the Palaszczuk government delivering on the last outstanding recommendation of the CCC in the Belcarra report.

This bill builds on the comprehensive electoral reforms already achieved by the Palaszczuk government. We lowered the disclosure threshold so Queenslanders could know who is funding their candidates and political parties. We introduced a nation-leading real-time disclosure system and I am moving to ensure that in the last seven days of a campaign we have disclosure of a political donation within 24 hours of it being made. We acted on CCC recommendations to ban property developer donations, and we fought for our laws. We fought for them in the Supreme Court, we fought for them in the Court of Appeal and we fought for them in the High Court, and we won. We fought for these laws because we know Queenslanders want a democracy that they can be proud of. We will never stop fighting for them.

This bill will also reform the laws around signage for elections, and we welcome the community's views on these proposals. The Palaszczuk government is also delivering on the integrity recommendations of the CCC with two new criminal offences. This government will continue to ensure that we have the strongest laws with the most transparency in this country. We welcome a national discussion on these reforms and call on the Commonwealth to introduce more transparency around donations and elections so that we can have fairer and more transparent electoral laws at all levels of government.