




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

ELECTORAL LEGISLATION (POLITICAL DONATIONS) AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Electoral Legislation (Political Donations) Amendment Bill 2018 introduced by the member for Maiwar. According to the objectives of the bill, the bill amends the Electoral Act 1992 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 to prohibit the making of political donations by for-profit corporations to candidates in state or local government elections, groups of candidates in local government elections, third parties, political parties, councillors and members of state parliament.

When did for-profit corporations stop becoming citizens of this country? This should be a fundamental right. There are already guidelines and disclosures around donations to political parties. This Labor government has banned one section of our society from making donations—that is, developers. Developers have been excluded from the process. That is bad enough.

The explanatory notes state that most recently the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018 amended the Electoral Act and the LGE Act to introduce a ban on property developers donating to political parties, elected members and candidates in a local or state government election. Candidates, groups of candidates, third parties, political parties, associated entities and councils are prohibited from receiving gifts from a property developer or industry representative organisation where a majority of members are property developers which are now prohibited donors. I note that this does not include not-for-profits and therefore organisations such as GetUp! are not included.

I am particularly frustrated as we have a large employer in the district, which I have already mentioned today—New Hope's New Acland mine—that is going through its stage 3 process. There are objectors to that process and the legal work is being done by the Environmental Defenders Office who I note are supporters of this bill. Taxpayers' money is provided to them and they are putting together the case to put the taxpayers at the New Acland mine out of work. This is another attack on our democracy. I think it is absolutely outrageous and it should be strongly opposed.