I don’t believe it is in the public interest to fully fund NSW State Elections from taxpayer funds.

Already a large sum of $8 million is allocated and I read of a proposal by the Premier to increase this to $8.5 million for the 2015 election in the interim of decisions from this panel.

If NSW elections are fully funded by the taxpayer where will the money come from? And who regulates the amount? It will either come from State revenue which means it will be taken away from other items - possibly health, education, welfare, etc - where taxpayers prefer their money is spent. Otherwise there would need to be a new source of revenue - taxes or charges. Neither is in the public interest.

Politicians would be likely to determine the amount available - not in the public interest and potentially ever increasing and open to corruption.

The public does not want the excessive saturation of campaigning at election time. The politicians do it for themselves and their Parties and massive sums of money are wasted. Elections tend to be bought which is not democratic. The public turns off - hangs up on calls, disposes of leaflets without reading, ignores media advertising.

There needs to be a cap on amounts spent by Parties on elections and they need to work hard and clever to convey their messages and within spending limits and not just throw money around.

Donations can be made by the public within specified limits not decided by politicians and need to be recorded on Party websites daily or weekly as they are made and with complete transparency. Businesses and industries and lobbyists dependant on government regulation should be barred from making donations - developers, gambling and alcohol related, mining, and applicable others.

It may be harder to control the amount of non paid advertising material from radio, TV, newspapers and all the various media forms, and the trend to bias rather than facts based on the ownership and star talent of these forms. But we tend towards the commentary and information sources we agree with.

Funding elections needs to be drastically changed to stop the sort of corruption we have been seeing and to direct the large sums of money towards more valuable contributions to society than bombardment by politicians.

Marilyn Long

Individual