Submission on Political Donations

I acknowledge the Government’s attempts over recent years to eliminate corruption from the donations process, but ICAC’s Operation Spicer has clearly shown that this result has not yet been achieved.

I request that the following nine points be included in a revised system:

1. In a democracy only people should vote and only people should be allowed to donate to election campaigns.

2. The clear conflict of interest where a candidate accepts donations from the liquor industry, mining interests or developers would be avoided by banning all corporate or union donations.

3. To achieve this result it would also be appropriate to ban the transfer of money from any national organisation to a state affiliate where there is any discrepancy between state and federal laws.

4. To avoid any perception of corruption donations from individuals should be capped.

5. To achieve equivalence and equity in campaigns a strict budgetary limit should apply.

6. The level of donations and the names of donors should be available for public scrutiny before any election and a cut-off applied one week before an election so that the information will be complete and current.

7. This cut-off should apply until all funding and expenditure for that election have been reconciled and reported.

8. The adoption of further relevant suggestions from previous enquiries into funding of election campaigns should be pursued.

9. This should include introducing a level of public funding of election campaigns while capping both the total budget and donations.

In light of evidence presented at Operation Spicer it is essential that these measures are introduced before the March 2015 general election.

Peter Morris