



13 April 2018

Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations
Department of the Senate
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Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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MCA responses to questions from Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations

Dear Ms Hill

Please find below Minerals Council of Australia's (MCA) responses to the questions put to us by the Committee in the letter dated 28 March 2018.

Adequacy of current laws governing third parties and their political expenditure

The MCA does not have a position on the adequacy of existing laws for disclosing political expenditure. Rather, the MCA's focus is complying with all relevant requirements in a transparent and timely manner. Consistent with this approach, the MCA provided the Committee with our disclosures of political expenditure for 2016-17 in advance of the Australian Electoral Commission's deadline for publication of disclosure returns.

The most appropriate means, if any, of further regulating third party actors to improve the integrity of political decision-making, including the possibility of caps on political expenditure, caps on political donations, and restrictions regarding foreign donations

The MCA considers that all entities that incur political expenditure (as defined in legislation) need to comply fully with the law. The MCA does not have particular views on caps on political expenditure or political donations. But if regulatory obligations change then the MCA will comply accordingly.

Whether third party actors would accept further regulation if it were part of a comprehensive reform of the political funding and disclosure regime

The MCA would comply with any further regulation of political donations and expenditure. We would submit, however, that any additional regulation should be well-designed to avoid duplication or onerous reporting requirements.

Whether all types of third parties should be treated equally in relation to regulation of their political expenditure

The MCA considers that all entities that incur political expenditure (as defined in legislation) need to comply fully with the law.

How additional third party regulation might impact charities in their ability to fulfil their purpose under the ACNC Act

The MCA has no specific comment to make on particular impacts on charities other than all entities that incur political expenditure (as defined in legislation) ultimately need to fully comply with the law.

Yours sincerely

DAVID BYERS
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE