



Mr Gerry McNally
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email politicaldonations.sen@aph.gov.au

4 December 2017

Dear Mr McNally

We refer to your letter dated 7 November 2017 requesting PricewaterhouseCoopers' (**PwC**) response to various questions posed by the Senate Select Committee in relation to its inquiry into the political influence of donations. Luke Sayers has asked me to respond to your letter.

The responses to your questions are set out below.

1) Could you outline the reasons why you make political donations?

PwC makes donations to Australian political parties to support the democratic process in Australia. Political parties are a key element of the Australian system of government, which provides the context in which our firm operates. An effective and stable system of government benefits business generally, including ours. Our policy is to provide similar levels of financial support to both major parties over time.

2) What, if any, other activities you undertake as well as making political donations?

From time to time we host fundraising events for political parties or particular party MPs or candidates. Where required, the value of catering and other services connected with such events is disclosed as a donation to the relevant party.

Individual Partners or staff members may also be active members of political parties and contribute to their activities in a range of ways.

3) Why do you donate to political parties?

See answer to (1) above

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4) *What improved outcomes for your shareholders do you expect from donations and any other similar activities?*

As a partnership we do not have shareholders. The benefit of providing financial support to political parties is robust and informed debate about policy issues within a stable system of government, which generally benefits our Partners, staff, clients and the wider community.

5) *Does the legislative timetable influence the extent and timeliness of your donations?*

Our donations are not influenced by the legislative timetable.

Please contact me if you require anything further.

Yours sincerely

Tony Peake
National Government & Public Sector Leader