

Personal submission from:



to:

**The Review of the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Act 2018**

## **MY OPINION**

**FIRST PREFERENCE:** The prohibition of all donations to politicians and/or political parties at all levels of politics. The money required to promote policies at elections should be 100% publicly funded through the Electoral Commission.

**SECOND PREFERENCE:** The capping of political donations at \$1,000 per year and the immediate publication of the name of any donor and the amount donated on the Australian Electoral Commission website. The balance of money required to promote policies at elections should be publicly funded through the Electoral Commission.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

1. “The enormous amounts donated by a sector whose existence depends on the issuing of government permits is highly problematic for public trust in the democratic process.” Centre for Public Integrity analysis, “Miners splash \$136m on political donations”, *The Age* newspaper 18/1/21. This undermines public trust in politicians and our democratic process. And gives wealthier Australian individuals and organisations undue influence on political outcomes.
2. “In a sign of the link between donations and policy outcomes, the figures show a spike in payments during the debate over climate change and a carbon price during the 2013 election and its aftermath.” “Miners splash \$136m on political donations”, *The Age* newspaper 18/1/21. This sends a message to companies that they can “pay” politicians to get the policies they want.
3. “The High Court finding that “the basic human tendency towards reciprocity means that payments all too readily tend to result in favours...” “Laxity of donations reeks of self-interest”, *The Age* newspaper 19/1/21. This leads me to believe that political donations have no other reason than to influence political outcomes. It undermines the principle of *one person, one vote* and replaces it with *one dollar, one vote*.