



# The Liberal Party of Australia

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT

FEDERAL DIRECTOR  
Brian Loughnane

**25 September 2008**

**Mr Kai Swoboda  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600**

*Dear Mr Swoboda:*

I am writing on behalf of the Liberal Party of Australia to advise the Committee of our view of the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Political Donations and Other Measures) Bill 2008.

The Liberal Party is opposed to the Bill proceeding at this time.

We made it clear in our submission to the Committee earlier this year that the most sensible approach to the issue of political and campaign financing is for the Committee to undertake a comprehensive examination of the issue. We were critical then, and we maintain the criticism now, of the Government bringing forward bills that only deal with selected aspects of the matter. What is needed, in our submission, is an overall approach, not the piecemeal approach the Government is persisting with. It is not possible to properly consider the Bill currently referred to the Committee without properly considering other related aspects of campaign financing.

In particular, we believe it is premature for the Parliament to consider this Bill before the Government has brought down its proposed Green Paper on electoral matters. There is no reason for considering a bill to make changes to some aspects of political finance when there are numerous other aspects which may also need to be considered when coming to an informed conclusion.

We urge the Government to withdraw this Bill. The Liberal Party will be pleased to contribute constructively to a discussion on the future direction of electoral and campaign regulation in this country. However, to be effective, we believe such a discussion can only occur after the publication of the Government's Green Paper.

Yours sincerely