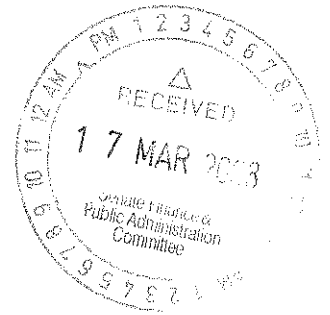


George Newhouse



13 March 2008

Senator Helen Polley
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Parliament House
PO BOX 6100
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Re: Senate Finance and Public Administration Estimates Hearing
Tuesday, 19 February 2008

On 19 Feb 08 during a Senate Finance and Public Administration Estimates Committee hearing Senators Fifield and Ronaldson put forward a number of propositions about me and my candidacy for the Seat of Wentworth that were not accurate or not complete. In particular:

1. Senator Fifield referred to me as the ALP candidate for the seat of Wentworth at the last election, and then alleged that I “failed to resign from the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal of New South Wales”.
2. Senator Fifield stated that, “It does look from an outside observer as though it [my candidacy] was a fairly open and shut case of ineligibility according to the Constitution”.
3. Senator Ronaldson suggested that, “clear evidence ... has been provided [to the AEC] in relation to Mr Newhouse’s non-resignation within the time required by the Constitution”.
4. Senator Ronaldson also made the following statement: “I think on any reasonable test an undated letter received in a minister’s office, where the resignation was required to be tendered, after the event shows that this is a clear case of \$56,220 or whatever it was which has been inappropriately provided to the Australian Labor Party through Mr Newhouse.”

These statements and assertions do not accurately represent the facts.

Neither Senator Fifield or Senator Ronaldson have made any serious effort to investigate the details of my resignation, and either they are unaware of the operation

the *Consumer, Trader, and Tenancy Tribunal Act 2001* (NSW) or they have not provided your committee with information about the operation of Schedule 2 of that Act, which contains a safety net provision that automatically vacated my membership of the tribunal when my nomination as a candidate was lodged, which was two days before the due date.

The Australian Electoral Commission ("AEC") has made it clear that the votes that accrued to the ALP in the seat of Wentworth are completely eligible for public funding and they have been paid.

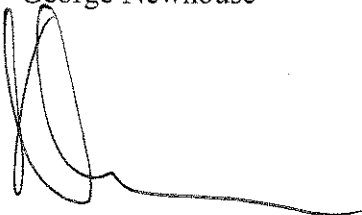
In addition, at the estimates committee on 19 February 2008 Mr Campbell from the AEC said, "as far as I am concerned, under the provisions of the act Mr Newhouse has not been proved to be ineligible to be a candidate."

If there is any further consideration of my candidacy or electoral funding matters relating to it could you please inform Senators and your committee of the following:

1. Representatives of the AEC have stated publicly that I have not been proved to be ineligible to be a candidate."
2. There is some question about whether my part time position on the CTTT was in fact an office for profit under the crown under the constitution and therefore whether I was required to resign at all;
3. There has been no investigation or determination about the validity of my resignation to Minister Burney; and
4. Any fair assessment of my candidacy under the constitution and by your committee must consider the operation of Schedule 2 of the *Consumer, Trader, and Tenancy Tribunal Act 2001* (NSW) which contains a safety net provision that automatically vacated my membership of the tribunal when my nomination as a candidate was lodged, which was two days before the due date.

Could you please table this letter at the next Senate Estimates Committee meeting and raise it at the next convenor's special hearing.

Yours Faithfully,
George Newhouse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'George Newhouse', written over a horizontal line.