



Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL ACT 1992

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA (CHAIR), ALISTAIR COE MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), SHANE RATTENBURY MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

Assembly Committee releases report on ACT election issues

The Select Committee on Amendments to the *Electoral Act 1992* today released its report following an inquiry into the ACT's electoral legislation.

Committee Chair Mr Mick Gentleman said that the ACT's major campaign finance reforms introduced in 2012 generally appeared to be working well, but that some adjustments were needed.

"Transparency in campaign expenditure and reporting is essential to ensuring that our political system is free from undue influence and any perception of corruption," said Mr Gentleman. "At the same time we need to make sure voters aren't prevented from getting the information they need to make an informed choice."

The Committee, established in March 2014, comprised Mr Gentleman, Mr Alistair Coe and Mr Shane Rattenbury.

One matter the Committee considered was how the High Court's decision in *Unions NSW v NSW* in December 2013 affected the ACT. The High Court found that some NSW provisions impermissibly burdened the implied freedom of political communication. It appears clear for the same reasons that donations towards ACT election campaigns will no longer be able to be restricted to ACT voters.

Amendments to the Electoral Act to increase the size of the Legislative Assembly to 25 members were introduced by the Attorney-General on 5 June 2014.

The report is available [here](#).

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