



Jo Root, ACT Greens Convenor



Date: 09 June 2021

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA (Chair)
Justice and Community Safety Committee
Email: LACommitteeJCS@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Mr Hanson

Thank you for the opportunity to elaborate on recommendation 22 of the Electoral Commission's report provided below, on limiting the funding that can be received by a political party to not exceed their electoral expenditure.

Recommendation 22 Amending the Electoral Act to include provisions that limit the amount of public funding that can be received by a political party or candidate to ensure that the amount received does not exceed the amount of electoral expenditure incurred (see Comparison of public funding received against election campaign expenditure, page 66).

The ACT Greens do not support a cap on public funding but as per our submission we maintain that if corporate donations are allowed, then the public funding per vote should be reduced again; and if no separate bank account is required to be held specifically for the ACT election, and each donation does not need to be checked against the electoral roll, then the administrative funding should be reduced.

The ACT Green's report recommends (i.e., Recommendation 21) that the committee investigate an appropriate annual cap for administrative funding per party, rather than an amount being set per MLA. We propose the JACS Committee investigate whether administrative funding should remain fixed per MLA, or whether total funding should be capped per party, noting that many administrative functions and costs within the parties are reduced per head with efficient, central administrative systems. For example, only one bookkeeper is required to manage party accounts, no matter what the number of elected MLAs.

The Greens believe that parties should be able to manage their administrative costs efficiently and effectively with capped funding, and the public payment for this should be capped at the equivalent of five times the maximum amount payable per MLA. Based on current figures, this would equate to \$115,631 per annum for parties with five or more MLAs.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further information.

Sincerely,



Jo Root
ACT Greens Convenor