



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE
Speaker (Chair), Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA,
Mr Andrew Wall MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into the ACT Register of Lobbyists

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CAPaD submission to the Inquiry into the Scope of the ACT Register of Lobbyists

Introduction

The Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy (CAPaD) wants a better democracy in the ACT — where citizens trust their elected representatives, hold them accountable, have greater engagement in decision-making, and defend what sustains the public interest.

CAPaD thanks the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure for the opportunity to contribute to the inquiry on this important issue.

Comments on the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry

- **Expanding the scope of the [ACT Register of Lobbyists](#) to cover in-house government relations staff, industry associations and project management liaison officers and companies;**

CAPaD understands that lobbyists for companies and industry organisations are already included on the Register and considers that the Register should continue to cover these lobbyists.

In relation to in-house government relations staff and project management liaison officers, we consider that the scope of the Register should be expanded so that lobbyists approaching such officials should also be required to be registered and meetings between such officials and lobbyists be reported on.

CAPaD also considers that MLAs who are not Ministers should be covered by the Register and be required to provide a quarterly or six-monthly record of events attended and meetings with lobbyists.

CAPaD also would like to see the definition of a lobbying activity revised to delete the second dot point which excludes lobbying “with a Minister in their capacity as a local Member and in relation to matters falling outside their ministerial activities”. We feel that a Minister could also have influence in Cabinet regarding areas outside his/her own portfolio responsibilities, so it is reasonable to include lobbying of a Minister whether it is within or outside of his/her own ministerial activities.

- **In light of recent developments such as the publication of Ministers' diaries as required by the amended Freedom of Information legislation, and the intended formation of an integrity commission, is there still a need for a lobbyists register;**

CAPaD is strongly of the view that lobbyists should continue to be registered, notwithstanding the publication of Ministers' diaries.

- **If there is a still a need for a register:**





Canberra Alliance for Participatory Democracy

CAPaD: **Awakening** Democracy

- (a) the scope of who is covered by the Lobbyists Register and who should/should not be included; and
- (b) whether the scheme should be administered by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (as currently exists) or whether the Lobbyists Register should be in the remit of the proposed Integrity Commissioner or some other body.

CAPaD considers that

- (a) the scope of the Register should be expanded in line with our comments above in relation to in-house government relations staff and project management liaison officers, as well as MLAs and any lobbying of Ministers.
- (b) The Register should continue to be administered by the Clerk of the Assembly as is the current practice, particularly in the early stages of the Integrity Commissioner's establishment. The question of who administers the Register should be reviewed two years after the establishment of the Integrity Commission.

CAPaD thanks the Committee for the extension of time to make our submission and commends the Standing Committee for conducting this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Beth Slatyer, CAPaD Co-Convenor and

Fiona Tito Wheatland, Deputy Co-Convenor

11 December 2018

