

2016-2017-2018

The Parliament of the  
Commonwealth of Australia

THE SENATE

## **Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017**

*(Second reading amendment to be moved by Senator Waters, on behalf of the Australian Greens)*

Leave out all words after “that”, insert:

“the bill be withdrawn because the Senate is of the opinion that:

- (a) the bill ignores corporate influence over politics and disproportionately targets the not-for-profit sector, which is an attack on public interest advocacy;
- (b) the bill is likely to discourage charities from engaging in issue-based advocacy in furtherance of their charitable purposes, because of uncertainty in the definition of ‘electoral matter’;
- (c) there is no public interest benefit to the proposed added layer of regulation for the charitable sector, because the existing regulatory framework for not-for-profit organisations under the *Charities Act 2013* is sufficient to prevent charitable organisations from engaging in partisan political activities; and
- (d) the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* should be amended to introduce caps on campaign expenditure by political parties, candidates and associated entities, which are indexed to inflation and subject to periodic review.”