



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON BOB KATTER MP

Federal Member for Kennedy



5 March 2020

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

**Submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Commonwealth Electoral Amendment
(Lowering the Donation Disclosure Threshold) Bill 2019
and matters related thereto**

We refer to the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters regarding the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering the Donation Disclosure Threshold) Bill 2019 and make the following submission.

1. Minor Parties receive fewer Electoral Donations than the Major Parties.
2. Lowering the Threshold from \$13,800 to \$1,000 will impact the Independents and Minor Parties who rely on donors for Electoral funding.
3. Legislating donations over \$1,000 to be disclosed will ensure fewer donations.
4. These changes will make no difference to the Major Parties and their large Corporate Donors.
5. There is no level playing field in Politics and lowering the Threshold from \$13,800 to \$1,000 will not change the way the Major Parties receive donations.
6. Lowering the Threshold to \$1,000 will only change the way smaller donations are made.
7. We believe this Amendment will not assist with greater democratic transparency for our democratic accountability.

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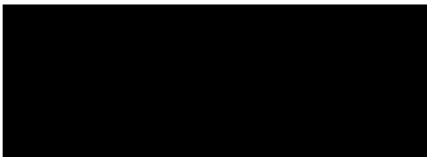
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8. All Members of Parliament are elected to represent all the people of their Electorate and therefore there should not be any vested interest if they are serving their constituency.

In conclusion, we believe the threshold of \$13,800 should remain in place to ensure Independents and Minor Parties are not disadvantaged in comparison to the Major Parties, thus ensuring the survival of the cross-bench in the House which provides better checks and balances in the Parliamentary processes. We believe lowering the threshold to \$1,000 will only advantage the Major Parties.

We bring our Submission to the attention of the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters to ensure these issues regarding the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Lowering the Donation Disclosure Threshold) Bill 2019 are taken into consideration.

Sincerely



Hon Bob Katter MP
Federal Member for Kennedy