

24 11 2017

Mr Gerry McInally
Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee into the Political Influence of Donations
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr McInally,

I am writing in response to your letter to Westpac CEO Brian Hartzler seeking information on Westpac's political donations policy. Mr Hartzler has asked me to respond on his behalf.

Our position on political donations is set out in *Westpac Group's Principles of Doing Business* which is available on the Westpac Group website. This policy states:

We believe that we have a responsibility to support the democratic process and ensure that governments are well informed of our activities. We are therefore committed to ensuring that any political donations made by the Westpac Group are:

- *made solely for the purpose of supporting the democratic process itself and do not reflect the personal political views of management or the Board;*
- *not made where there can be any misrepresentation of their purpose; and*
- *lawful, properly recorded in our accounts, and adequately disclosed in accordance with relevant electoral laws.*

Importantly, in accordance with Board policy Westpac does not make cash donations to political parties.

Westpac's political engagement expenditure relates to payment to political parties and related entities for participation in legitimate political activities such as business observer programs attached to annual party conferences, policy dialogue forums and other political functions such as speeches and events with industry participants.

All political expenditure must be approved by the Head of Government and Industry Affairs (as the delegate of the Board). In addition, on an annual basis:

- *the Board reviews our political donations policy and expenditure; and*
- *senior leaders are required to attest that they have not made any payments which do not comply with this policy.*

In addition, Westpac declares all expenditure under this policy in both its Annual Report and to all relevant electoral authorities.

Yours sincerely,

Brett Gale
Group Head of Government Affairs and Communication Strategy