



## Electoral Commissioner

Our ref: 16/469

Senator the Hon James McGrath  
Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

### **Inquiry into proposed amendments to the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017**

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the inquiry into proposed amendments to the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017 (the Bill).

The proposed amendments have been prepared by the Department of Finance (Finance) under instruction from the former Special Minister of State. Given this, Finance is best placed to provide advice to the Committee on policy aspects. Finance has consulted the AEC on technical and implementation aspects of the proposed amendments. If the proposed amendments are made to the Bill and the amended Bill is passed, this will require changes to some of the AEC's administrative processes and systems.

As noted in recommendation 15 of *the Advisory report on the Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Funding and Disclosure Reform) Bill 2017* (April 2018), the AEC requires additional resources to implement these process and system changes and to conduct an education campaign to assist political participants, business, industry associations and the charity sector to understand the new or changed funding and disclosure requirements under the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The AEC has received funding from Government to implement the changes proposed by the Bill as introduced. However, as you would appreciate, until the final form of the legislation is known, changes to the AEC's systems, processes and procedures and any education campaign cannot be finalised and therefore the final question of additional resources cannot be fixed.

Yours sincerely

Tom Rogers

27 September 2018