



## Submission to the Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Donation Reform & Other Measures) Bill 2020

On behalf of the Australian AEC-registered political party namely The Republican Party of Australia [hereinafter: The RPA], I acknowledge the invitation to make a *considered* submission to the Private Member's Bill in question being sponsored by Tasmanian Senator **Jacqui Lambie**.

Firstly and as advocates of *other*, even wholesale Commonwealth electoral reform(s), The RPA believes that ONLY eligible Australian citizens who are also eligible to vote in federal elections and/or stand as candidates for Office may make tax-deductible donations to officially registered and recognised political parties. This means that corporate organisations, lobby groups, industry associations, unions and the like *cannot* make donations of *any* amount whatsoever to contesting, federally-registered political parties.

Secondly, there is no rhyme or reason in The RPA's collective mind for there to be ANY limit on the sum-total of ANY (legal) donation to a registered and recognised political party so long as the said sum-total is declared on the appropriate forms and/or returns following a federal election or, as the case may be, in the second half of each & every calendar year.

Thirdly, as is the case presently, The RPA concurs with the existing provision of NON-disclosure of the donor's name providing the sum-total of said (legal) donation does NOT exceed the threshold which is arrived at per CPI adjustments each & every half-calendar year.

Fourthly, The RPA has no quibble with the proposal for the applicable proposed 'reporting period' being merely seven (7) days after what is established per legislation or legislated amendment as the 'reporting period' e.g. seven (7) days following the conducting of a democratic, federal election.

Fifthly, The RPA is opposed to half-yearly returns as this constraint would be an unnecessary impost especially on minority registered and recognised political parties.

Sixthly, The RPA concurs that the definitions pertaining to that which constitutes 'political entities', campaigners, associated entities and/or 'third parties' needs be more firmly articulated and/or carefully crafted.

Seventhly and lastly, The RPA concurs with the long overdue strengthening of the investigatory and monitoring powers of the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC).

I am, Yours Faithfully and Patriotically,

**PETER WARREN CONSANDINE**

Registered Officer

REPUBLICAN PARTY of AUSTRALIA