

FACT SHEET

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL EXPENDITURE AND POLITICAL DONATIONS) **BILL 2013**

Concerns have emerged over recent elections that high spending candidates are able to use their personal wealth to saturate electorates and gain election by means of their spending power. Caps on donations and a new requirement for real-time disclosure of donations should alleviate these concerns.

This Bill amends the *Electoral Act*:

- to set a limit of \$75,000 per candidate on individual expenditure for House of Assembly elections;
- to set a cap on party expenditure of \$750,000 for House of Assembly elections;
- to provide for the Electoral Commission to determine the form of the Register on which all political donations to parties, candidates and elected members are to be recorded and determine a form to provide for disclosure within 14 days ('immediate disclosure') of one-off or accumulated political donations from a single source to a total of \$1500 or more within a financial year; and verify the information provided in the 'immediate disclosure' and the Register, and correct it if necessary
- and to prohibit anonymous donations to individuals and parties over a total of \$1500.

A Consultation Paper was released in 2012 seeking feedback on these and other reforms. The reforms here did not create any controversy during the consultation.