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Sent: Friday, 27 February 2015 3:06 PM
To: TEC
Subject: Submission

To the Committee Secretary, Legislative Council, Parliament House

From Peter D Jones, 24 Brushy Creek Road, LENAHA VALLEY. 7008.

There is a clear need for changes to the Electoral Act 2004, directed at the issue of disclosing political donations, caps on expenditure for Lower House elections, and a cap on the amount that can be donated to parties, members of parliament and candidates in elections.

In addition there is an obvious need to restore the number of MHAs in the Lower House to 35 so that the Cabinet can be more effective. The three major parties agree on this but do not agree over timing and the costs involved or the savings that could be made.

While the TEC works as best it can, it is inadequately funded and the current sum allocated needs to be increased. Democracy costs money and has to be able to operate properly if it is to be effective.

The Committee should consider public funding options as in other states, using the ACT as the best example. This needs to be effected before the next Lower House elections in 2018 and the next Council elections. There should be a lower threshold for public disclosure of political donations as well as a limit to the amount that can be given in one year by one person or a company. This should also apply to third parties seeking to influence the outcome of elections.

27 February 2015