



Premier of Queensland
Minister for the Olympics



Brisbane 2032
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Queensland



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9 June 2002

Mr Neil Laurie
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Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2022 regarding Petition 3698-22 requesting the House to hold a full inquiry into the use of lobbyists, the connections relating to donations from lobbyists and developers, and the use of pressure tactics by politicians on public servants, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 May 2022.

Queensland has some of the strongest transparency and integrity measures for political funding and disclosure in the nation through the *Electoral Act 1992*. Property developers are prohibited from making political donations to registered political parties, candidates and other electoral participants.

My Government has also introduced real-time disclosure of political gifts of \$1000 or more and caps on electoral expenditure and political donations.

Electoral expenditure caps were introduced in Queensland from 1 August 2020 and were in place for the 2020 State Election and the 2021 Stretton by-election. Political donation caps are due to commence on 1 July 2022 and will limit the amount of money a registered political party or State election candidate can receive from a single donor to spend on electoral expenditure.

Lobbying activity is regulated under the *Integrity Act 2009*. Under the Act, the Integrity Commissioner is required to keep a register of third-party lobbyists. The register is published on the Integrity Commissioner's website and contains particulars of each registered lobbyist and their contact with state and local government or opposition representatives. Success fees for successful lobbying activities are prohibited under the *Integrity Act 2009*.

The Act also enshrines the Lobbyists Code of Conduct which outlines standards for the conduct of lobbyists. The standards of conduct include, but are not limited to, ensuring that lobbyists conduct their business to the highest professional and ethical standards, prohibits corrupt, dishonest, or illegal behavior, and requires lobbyists to appropriately manage any conflicts of interest. The *Integrity Act 2009* requires that all third-party lobbyists must comply with the Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

My Government is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity and is willing to consider measures to strengthen the regulation of lobbyists.

In this regard, I note that Mr Kevin Yearbury's Report on the Strategic Review of the Integrity Commissioner's Functions (the Yearbury Report) made a range of recommendations to enhance the regulation of lobbying in Queensland. The Economics and Governance Committee tabled a report on its Inquiry into the Yearbury Report on 3 June 2022.

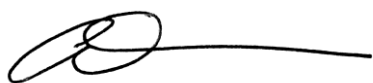
In addition, I note that Professor Peter Coaldrake's Interim Report on the Review of culture and accountability in the Queensland public sector identifies matters relating to the regulation of lobbying that will be addressed in the final report.

My Government will fully consider recommendations made in the above reports in relation to regulation of lobbying in Queensland.

Given these reviews into integrity and accountability, I do not consider it necessary to hold a full inquiry into the use of lobbyists at this time.

Again, thank you for writing to me and I hope this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

**ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND
MINISTER FOR THE OLYMPICS**