

Chris Oughton

Director, Kwinana Industries Council

Via email: chris.oughton@kic.org.au, cc Yvonne.noack@kic.org.au

Dear Mr Oughton,

Thank you so much for writing to the Greens regarding the Kwinana Industry Council's concerns about the role of donations in political policy-making and decisions. As the Greens spokesperson for Integrity in Government, I am answering on behalf of the party.

The Greens are campaigning very strongly to protect the integrity of policy- and decision-making. One of the ways we are intending to do that is to vastly increase the transparency of political donations and to ban donations from for-profit industries – and we have particularly singled out property developers as one of the key industries that must be banned from donating.

While debating the COVID provisions of Planning and Development Bill, I pointed out the very great concerns I held about the conjunction of Ministerial powers and the lack of transparency around political donations. I referred to the multiple Eastern states that have banned donations from property developers. I would now also like to point out that the Federal Government has deliberately undercut these laws, despite the High Court's ruling in the States' favour.

The Greens hold strongly that Government must be transparent and accountable. In addition to our strong position to ban corporate donations, we are advocating for Ministerial diaries to be open and believe that Conflict of Interest must be much better managed than it currently is. We would support gift registers being made properly public.

We have repeatedly said that there is too much discretion in the final decision-making around planning issues. We are repeatedly seeing development applications being approved against expert advice. We are seeing a similar heavy hand from the Minister and the WAPC with regards to Local Planning and Improvement Schemes such as that in Mandogalup. We would be more than happy to see an independent investigation of all of the decisions that have been made to approve counter to expert advice to reject based on health, environmental and planning grounds.

Thank you for writing to the Greens regarding your concerns about the influence of donations on public policy and decision-making. I have attached the Greens 'Democracy for Sale' policy platform for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Alison Xamon MLC

Member for North Metropolitan

26 February 2021