



## PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters

### Proposals to increase voter engagement, participation and confidence Supplementary questions – 28 October 2024 public hearing

#### Greens NSW

1. Could you give more specific detail on the Greens NSW's position on the ICAC's Operation Aero recommendations to improve party governance and standards?

Answer:

**Recommendation 1:** Issuing of Penalty Notices for less severe breaches

The Greens NSW would support such a measure. We think that prosecution by summons for mere minor breaches of the cash donations prohibition is unwieldy and would support this recommendation

**Recommendation 2:** Make Administration Funding contingent on achievement of acceptable standards:

The Greens NSW would broadly support this recommendation and have already begun to implement internal policies for improved internal governance. We believe that these standards should be tied to the objectives of the Electoral Funding Act and also general good governance

**Recommendation 3:** Auditing and Implementation of standards

**Recommendation 4:** Amending the EFA 2018 to provide the NSWEC with necessary powers to assess and audit and enforce non compliance

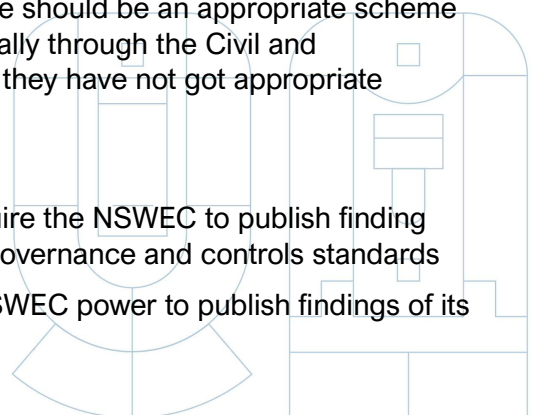
The Greens NSW would broadly support this but would be cautious in regards to the NSWEC's capacity to audit the proposed governance standards. We note that adding more layers on to regulate matters that are already illegal seems unlikely to be effective.

The Greens NSW would also point out that political parties may need to have appropriate resourcing including time to work through internal processes to implement these matters and also the NSWEC would likely need time and resources to figure out what would be an appropriate audit process.

The Greens NSW also believe that as part of this there should be an appropriate scheme available for parties to contest determinations potentially through the Civil and Administrative tribunal if the NSWEC determines that they have not got appropriate standards.

**Recommendation 5** Amending the EFA 2018 to require the NSWEC to publish finding regarding political parties adherence to established governance and controls standards

**Recommendation 7** Amend EFA 2018 to give the NSWEC power to publish findings of its compliance audits etc



The Greens NSW support this noting our long standard support for more transparency in political donations and their impact on governance at all levels.

The Greens NSW would just also note that the Australian Electoral Commission currently publishes its compliance audits of various political participants on the compliance with the disclosure obligations under the Commonwealth Electoral Act.

**Recommendation 6:** Amending Section(100) for senior office holders to report and increasing the penalties

The Greens NSW would support such changes but as with our responses to the other recommendations note that it might take time and resources to implement such a compliance regime with the NSWEC

2. The inquiry is considering residence requirements for political party officials. What is the Greens NSW's view on the suggestion that officials of a registered political party should be required to live in NSW?

Answer:

The Greens NSW would be supportive of this provision and feel that it would assist the NSWEC with performing its audit and compliance functions

