

(NOTE: This letter is converted from an email response. This letter has been edited to remove correspondence not pertinent to comment on matters of anti corruption in Queensland and to add clarifications (in parentheses).

The Hon. T.H.Smith QC

Chair, Accountability Round Table

Dear Mr Smith

In regards to your request for us to commit to these (Fitzgerald principles) in the fourth of the issues raised in your correspondence, we reaffirm our support for and willingness to act in accordance with these principles.

The Greens support the principle of governing for the peace, welfare and good government of the state and if elected we undertake to act in the Parliament in accordance with this principle. The Greens also commit to make all decisions and take all actions in public office, including the making of public appointments in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations.

The Greens believe appointments to public office should be made on merit according to transparent criteria. We also commit to act in accordance with the principle of treating all people equally without providing any person or corporation undue or special access or influence, and undertake to promptly and accurately inform the public of our reasons for all significant or potentially controversial decisions and actions related to our Parliamentary activities. The Greens believe that integrity, accountability and openness in politics are vital to a healthy (sic).

In regards to the other points raised in your correspondence, the Queensland Greens support the reversing of all the changes made by the current Queensland Government to the former Crime and Misconduct Commission. We also support further strengthening the state's Right to Information legislation. The Queensland Greens also agree that there needs to be substantial reform made to Queensland's electoral laws to constrain donations to political parties.

The Greens have released a detailed reform package during the course of this election campaign. This includes:

- Bans on political donations from for-profit corporations and place caps on individual political donations.
- Prompt, comprehensive public disclosure of all political donations within 30 days.
- Ending the revolving door between politics and big business, by prohibiting Ministers from working in a role which exploits their special knowledge or connections gained as a Minister.
- Caps on electoral expenditure by parties and candidates and strict limits on third party expenditure.
- Public funding for political parties and independent candidates to reduce corporate influence on political decisions.

Further details on this policy can be found on our website at <http://qld.greens.org.au/integrity-in-government>

Further elaboration of the Greens position on matters relating to the principles you have outlined can be found at found at:

- Our state policy on democracy:

<http://qld.greens.org.au/policies/qld/democracy>

- Our national initiative on accountability and integrity in government:

<http://greens.org.au/initiatives/vic/transparency-integrity-and-accountability>

- Our plan from the Victorian Greens for stronger misconduct laws against corrupt politicians:

http://greens.org.au/serious_misconduct_laws

- Our national policy on constitutional reform and democracy:

<http://greens.org.au/policies/constitutional-reform-and-democracy>

Thank you again for sending the views of the Greens on the important issues of accountability and democracy. Please get in touch if you would like further details or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bartlett
on behalf of the Queensland Greens