

To whom it may concern

I am writing this submission in response to your call for responses on the regulation of lobbying, access and influence in NSW.

I am a private citizen of NSW living in Coffs Harbour and I have lost faith in the democratic processes of not only the NSW Government but Australian democracy as a whole.

I am deeply concerned about the influence that private business interests are having on NSW Government policy.

I am concerned about NSW politicians and bureaucrats with links to fossil fuel & resource extraction industries.

I am concerned about the revolving door between elected NSW Government MPs and their future and/or previous employment in business sectors such as mining, gas, and agriculture, in particular cotton and irrigation.

I am disturbed at the amount of influence that lobbyists and the MPs who have a history in the above organisations may have in decisions made by NSW Government.

I am disturbed at the lack of transparency that often cloaks decisions made by NSW MPs in favour of the interests of lobby groups and that hides the details from us, the general public of NSW.

I am concerned that this lack of transparency carries the risk of inappropriate or improper decision-making and can encourage cronyism and even corruption.

I would like to see a robust, strong ICAC in place that is able to challenge any lack of transparency of NSW Government decisions and policy. An ICAC that makes sure that the NSW Government is representing its constituents and not the interests of lobbyists and the organisations they represent. An ICAC that can safeguard against the undue influence and self-interest of lobbyists and the business and organisations they represent.

Finally I would like to see trust and confidence in government and public administration restored to the citizens of NSW.

Yours sincerely

Kirsten Mackenzie