

DEMOCRACY FOR SALE

A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US



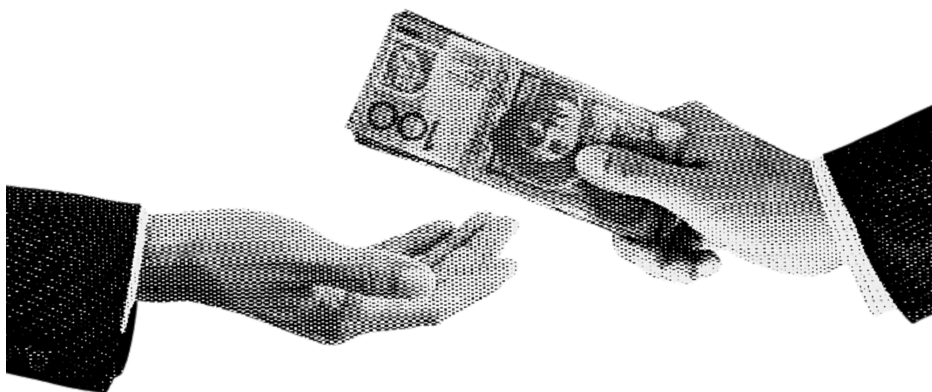
DEMOCRACY FOR SALE▲

Transparency and accountability in politics

Right now, our political system is stacked in favour of big corporate donors who buy access and outcomes through political donations and lobbying. For too long political parties have hidden the influence those large companies have on our political system.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Ban all donations from for-profit companies** including property developers, gambling, liquor and tobacco companies and the oil, gas and mining industries
- ▲ **We will cap all other donations and make sure every donation over \$1000 is disclosed publicly**, in real time
- ▲ **Ban Cash for Access Schemes** that let big business pay for direct access to a Minister or decision-makers
- ▲ **Ban the use of 'anonymous' donations to third parties** that are then funnelled to the major parties
- ▲ **Close the revolving door between Ministers' offices and lobbyists**
- ▲ **Open Ministerial diaries to scrutiny**



CLEAN UP CORPORATE INFLUENCE

BAN CORPORATE DONATIONS

Governments and political parties should be setting their policies based on the genuine present and future needs of all people in our community.

Right now, corporate influence in politics is getting in the way of progress on a range of important issues, including taking action on climate change.

Instead of delivering a better future for all of us, the Labor, Liberal and National parties take millions of dollars in donations from big corporations, host secretive fundraising functions, and organise cushy lobbyist jobs for ex-politicians, with no transparency or accountability.

We know that the mining, gas and fossil fuel industries spend huge amounts of money on politics. This money provides these industries with continued influence over government decision-making.

Under current regulations in WA, it is unclear which industries are donating the most money to political parties because the information is not readily available and transparent to the public.

For example, the property development industry is heavily dependent on both the strategic direction of government, and the regulatory environment set by Government. Unsurprisingly, the property development industry remains one of the biggest sectors donating to political parties.

Industries that are clearly responsible for public health harms, like the tobacco, liquor and gaming industries, should not be able to distort policy-setting through donating to political parties. They are already banned from donating in NSW.

Unlike the major parties **the Greens don't accept corporate donations** -- we can't be bought and we won't sell our communities out.

We have a plan to return integrity and transparency to the political system and hold politicians and major parties to account.



BAN CASH-FOR-ACCESS SCHEMES

Cash for access schemes involve fundraising activities where access to a Minister is part of the sales pitch. These types of events are usually expensive to attend and lock out the communities that would benefit most from speaking with the Minister - someone elected to represent their interests.

Cash for access schemes are a cynical distortion of the democratic process. They ensure that only the voices of those with the wealth and power are heard, while individuals and communities – whose only avenue of advocacy is often direct meetings with Ministers – are locked out.

Despite acknowledging that this is a failure of good governance, and also creates a relationship where favours are expected, once in power both of the major parties take advantage of industry's willingness to distort good process for the sake of putting money in the coffers of their political party.

CLOSE THE REVOLVING DOOR

Western Australia currently has no legislative protection from Ministers and their staff moving straight into industry lobbyist roles. Equally, we have no protection from lobbyists becoming Ministerial Advisors or taking up decision-making roles.

This clear conflict of interest is not tolerated in many jurisdictions. Canada, for example, imposes a five-year legal ban on revolving doors and has an independent Commissioner of Lobbying. The UK and US also have legal bans on revolving doors. NSW requires a two-year 'cooling-off' period between a lobbyist role and a decision-making role in the property development industry.

The influence of industry lobbyists turned staffers has long been an issue of concern for Western Australia due to our isolation, comparatively smaller pool of expertise and our heavy reliance on the mining industry for our economy.

The Greens will institute a three year ban on Ministers, Ministerial Advisors, and senior public servants taking up a lobbying role in the industry they have been regulating.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Ban donations from for-profit companies** including those from the mining, oil, gas and property development industries
- ▲ **Institute the requirement to report the industry from which a donation has been received**
- ▲ **Ban cash for access schemes** in Western Australia
- ▲ **Institute a three-year waiting period between regulating an industry and lobbying for that industry**

TRANSPARENCY MEASURES

THIRD-PARTY TRANSPARENCY

In WA, it is still possible to donate to a third party or a peak body who then donates that money to a political party without the name of the original donor attached.

WA needs an urgent review into political donations so we can ensure tighter regulations and transparency around donations for political purposes.

We need real time disclosure of donations so that the public can see where all funds coming in to our political parties ultimately come from, and that people who are donating in good faith to third parties are fully aware of where their donations are actually going.



NO MORE GREY MONEY

Where an individual or corporation has paid for a service from a political party, there is no requirement that the political party report that income to the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

This leads us to the alarming situation where up to 75% of a political party's income is from 'mysterious sources' – known as 'grey money'.

This is an easy way to hide income from dodgy donors, large corporates and others that the party may not wish to be associated with. It provides a way to dodge a number of the restrictions (such as accepting cash from foreign donors) that apply to accepting gifts.

Political parties must already keep a register for every payment they receive, regardless of purpose. **The Greens will ensure that all political party income is disclosed to the public in real time.**

OPEN MINISTERIAL DIARIES

An ongoing concern across WA is that we do not know who our Ministers are meeting.

Government is setting policy and making decisions – yet we do not know if Ministers are meeting with all affected parties, or only those with the money and power to force a meeting.

In Queensland, New South Wales and the ACT, the diaries of Ministers are published on a regular basis, so that the public knows who they are meeting with in their official capacity.

This transparency and public oversight improves community trust in the work Ministers are undertaking.

The Greens will:

- ▲ **Develop a regulatory framework for ensuring transparency** around donations to third party political agents
- ▲ **Require political parties report all income**
- ▲ **Publish Ministerial diaries every quarter**

