

18/591 - Electoral Amendment Bill 2018

Summary of Impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Electoral Amendment Bill 2018 will amend the Electoral Act 1992 to implement the Government's parliamentary agreement commitment to ban political donations from property developers and to make other changes to strengthen the electoral funding and administrative system Support a fair, transparent and representative electoral system

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Social

Justice and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amendments made by the Bill will support a fair, transparent and representative electoral system that helps to prevent corruption, undue influence and enhance equal opportunity for participation in the Territory's political process. The rights of property developers to freedom of expression and political communication, and to take part in public life will be limited by the prohibition on political donations. The aim of the limitation is to improve the overall transparency, integrity, fairness and inclusivity of the electoral system. The limitation is justifiable and reasonable to support equal opportunity for the whole community to participate in public life either directly, or through freely chosen representatives. The ban may have an impact on parties' ability to fund community communication impacting on the implied constitutional freedom of political communication. However, this impact is for a legitimate purpose and is appropriate and adapted to achieve that purpose.
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Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amendments will have a financial impact on Elections ACT in regulating and enforcing the proposed ban on property developers' donations. There will be an increased administrative burden on Elections ACT in implementing the ban on donations from property developers which will in turn lead to resource implications for Elections ACT. Elections ACT will address any resourcing requirements in the future budget processes.
Productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ban might be argued to limit the ability of property developers to use donations to support parties or candidates that they believe will promote the interest of their industry, but it does not prohibit or prevent property developers from engaging in political activity that does not involve the making of donations.
Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reforms made by the Bill will improve confidence in the economy by reducing the risk of undue or distorting influences on the strategy and planning of economic development of the Canberra region.
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ban on property developer donations will improve competition in the release and sale of land by supporting a level playing field and reducing the perceived power of large corporations to influence outcomes of development decisions.

Environmental

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The policy will improve public confidence in the integrity and robustness of environmental protections built into the planning and land development approval process.
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