

February 7, 2020

Mr Pat Vidgen PSM  
Electoral Commissioner of Queensland  
Electoral Commission of Queensland  
GPO Box 1393  
Brisbane Q 4001

Dear Mr Vidgen,

**RE: Electoral Act and the Prohibited Donors Scheme**

The Australian Institute for Progress is a think tank based in Queensland. We do research and advocacy on both federal and state issues.

We frequently criticise political party policies and in the last federal election criticised both the ALP opposition and the government. As we take an ideological, rather than a political view, and describe ourselves as centre-right, our criticisms tends to favour parties of the right.

We are considering several Queensland issues, and intend to conduct research and run advocacy campaigns during the course of this year, including during the election period. Our funding sources are diverse, but do include some prohibited donors.

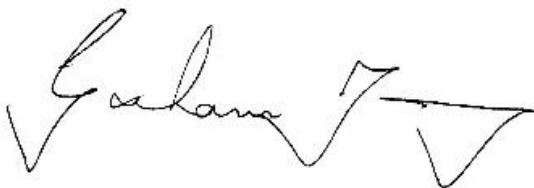
Our legal advice is that we are not a political party and are able to do this without breaching the Electoral Act, but some of our donors are aware of advice that you have given the Property Council which suggests this is not the case.

The sorts of activities that we intend to undertake would include:

- Research
- Seminars and public meetings
- Surveys and opinion polling
- Media
- Assessment of candidate and political party attitudes to specific issues
- Advertising
- Potentially recommend a vote for or against a particular candidate or party

Could you please advise whether it is legal for prohibited donors to donate to us if we conduct these activities?

Yours sincerely,



**Graham Young**  
Executive Director

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