LS6374 Released Document No. 2

#54

6 [redacted]

7 [redacted]

DEC
Mr Courtney
AC FAD

Mr Tom Rogers
Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
PO Box 6172
Kingston ACT 2604

Draft response please.

5 [redacted]

6 May 2015

14/5

Dear Sir,

I am writing to request that the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) review and reverse its recent decision to deregister the Democratic Labour Party of Australia (DLP). I believe that the decision was based upon an unfair administrative testing process and that it does not take into account or give any consideration to the particularly unusual and unanticipated recent developments that have been detrimental to the morale of the party's membership.

The process taken to register a political party in New South Wales involves an application for membership submitted by a Registered Officer of the party which includes a list of at least 750 members who have completed a Declaration of Party Membership form. Upon receipt of the application, the New South Wales Electoral Commission (NSWEC) conducts a verification process through a survey sent to the people whose names have been listed as party members. If there are at least 750 positive responses to the survey, the party is deemed to have met the membership requirement for registration. Most people would accept that this is a fair and reasonable method of scrutiny to test the membership numbers.

In contrast, following the change of status of the DLP to that of non-parliamentary party, I understand that the process taken by the AEC to test the accuracy of the DLP's membership involved a much smaller sample of the party's list. I understand that contact was made with only twenty-six nominated members and, based upon a calculation advised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there only needed to be one negative response for the party to be deemed to be disqualified, which subsequently occurred. I believe that this administrative procedure for verifying the party's membership list is unfair due to the disproportionately limited test sample, particularly in comparison to the extensive surveys of membership that are conducted by the NSWEC as part of its verification process.

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The DLP has experienced a difficult period following the shock resignation from the party last year of its only senator in the Commonwealth Parliament. The members of the party understandably felt disappointed and aggrieved by the actions of Senator Madigan. Certain members of the party would undoubtedly feel a sense of confusion about the predicament in which the party found itself following the resignation and they would therefore be inclined to respond negatively to questions regarding their involvement or membership in the party. In light of these events, there would be a much greater likelihood that at least one member from the small sample tested would respond negatively. However, there are undoubtedly a large number of people who remain committed members and supporters of the DLP and this number would certainly exceed the requisite number for registration as a federal political party. For this reason and in the interests of a fair and reasonable administrative verification method, I believe the recent decision of the AEC to deregister the party should be reviewed and ultimately reversed.

Kind regards,

4 [redacted]

Paul McCormack

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RECEIVED
11 MAY 2015
Australian Electoral Commission
National Office

REDACTION CODES

1 Personal Information (name) redacted.

2 Personal Information (date of birth) redacted.

3 Personal Information (photograph) redacted

4 Personal Information (facsimile of signature) redacted.

5 Personal Information (facsimile of manuscript initialling) redacted.

6 Personal Information (Individual's address) redacted.

7 Personal Information (individual's telephone number) redacted.

8 Personal Information (individual's opinion) redacted.

9 Personal Information (opinion about individual) redacted.

10 Personal Information (employment history) redacted.

11 Personal Information (qualifications) redacted.

12 Personal Information (health) redacted.

13 Personal Information (identifying individual) redacted.

14 Business information (Bank Account details) redacted.

15 Business information (Billing Account details) redacted.

16 Legal Professional Communication redacted.

17 Deliberative material redacted.

18 Irrelevant material redacted.

19 Electoral Roll material redacted.

20 Tests, examinations or audits material redacted.

21 Management or assessment of personnel material redacted.

22 Proper and efficient conduct of the operations of AEC material redacted.\

23 Lawful methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law.

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