

STATEMENT

By Chairperson, NSW Electoral Commission

4 July 2016

Country Labor Party eligible for public funding

The NSW Electoral Commission has authorised the payment of about \$90,000 to the County Labor Party (CLP) from the Administration Fund after receiving a claim for funding.

Following an audit by Commission compliance officers, the CLP's eligibility for funding was conditional on the party lodging outstanding disclosures for the period ending 30 June 2015.

“Confidence in the Commission’s role as the regulator of public electoral funding, including the distribution of public monies, is important. The administration of the election funding, expenditure and disclosure scheme promotes campaign finance transparency and compliance with the law is required,” said the Chairperson, the Hon Keith Mason AC QC.

The CLP’s amended declarations of disclosure for the period ending 30 June 2015 are available on the Commission’s website at <http://searchdecs.efa.nsw.gov.au/>

Claims from the Administration Fund can be made on a quarterly basis and can be claimed up to six months after the end of the calendar year.

The precise payment to the CLP was \$91,150 and was approved on 29 June 2016.

About the Administration Fund

Certain political parties and elected members of Parliament are eligible for funding from the Administration Fund. The *Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981* (the Act) prescribes the process for making claims for public funding and the rules concerning eligibility.

A recipient is entitled to payment when the relevant criteria prescribed in the Act have been met, including that the recipient does not have any outstanding declarations of political donations or electoral expenditure.

To account for the receipt and use of public money, political parties and elected members must submit a declaration with their funding claim, disclosing the type and amount of administrative expenditure incurred. NSW Electoral Commission officers may conduct a compliance audit of this declaration.

Where an error or omission has occurred a recipient is generally given the opportunity to comply or rectify the error or omission.

Claims for funding and accompanying declarations are available for public inspection at the offices of the NSW Electoral Commission.

More information about public funding claims is available at:
http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au/fd/public_funding

About the NSW Electoral Commission

The 3 member NSW Electoral Commission was constituted in December 2014. It is separate to the agency led by the Electoral Commissioner. The Commission is an independent, statutory authority. It approves public funding to political parties and others and enforces provisions of three NSW Acts. These Acts govern electoral funding, expenditure and disclosures, the conduct of State elections and the lobbying of government officials. The Commission cannot direct the Electoral Commissioner about the conduct of elections. The Commission's Chairperson is the Hon Keith Mason AC QC, a former President of the NSW Court of Appeal (1997-2008). More information about the Commission's work is at:
http://www.office.elections.nsw.gov.au/about_us/work_of_the_commission