

Hon Vickie Chapman MP Deputy Premier

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Political party office bearers to be banned from lobbying

The Marshall Government will introduce legislation to strengthen South Australia's lobbying laws, by prohibiting office bearers of registered political parties and associated entities from engaging in lobbying.

The legislation will prohibit office bearers of registered political parties and entities for the entire period the office bearer holds the relevant office, and also extends for 12 months after they no longer hold that role.

"The Marshall Government is delivering on its election commitments, and this legislation will be introduced into the Parliament to strengthen the laws governing lobbying activity," said Deputy Premier Vickie Chapman.

"The new legislation will ban any office bearer of an associated entity, such as a union, from becoming a registered lobbyist in South Australia.

"This is another step towards more accountable and open government here in South Australia."

Prescribed organisations under the Bill include those who are registered political parties or associated entities as defined in the *Electoral Act 1985* – a parliamentary party, or political party, including a Member of Parliament.

Associated entities include those who have a relationship to a registered political party, namely an incorporated or unincorporated body or the trustee of a trust:

- that is controlled by one or more registered political parties; or
- that operates wholly, or to a significant extent, for the benefit of one or more registered political parties; or
- that is a financial member of a registered political party; or
- on whose behalf another person is a financial member of a registered political party; or
- that has voting rights in a registered political party; or
- on whose behalf another person has voting rights in a registered political party.

"The current lobbying laws already prevent or restrict certain individuals from engaging in lobbying and from being a registered lobbyist," said Ms Chapman.

"For example, a former Minister cannot engage in lobbying for two years after ceasing to hold office, nor can they apply for or hold registration during that period. But we think it's prudent to strengthen these laws to prohibit political party office bearers and union office bearers from engaging in lobbying."