



**Australian Government**

**Department of Finance**

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Dear Ms Abhayaratna

**Certification as Impact Analysis Equivalent: Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) *Report into the conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters interim and final reports***

I am writing to certify that the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM) has undertaken a process and analysis equivalent to an Impact Analysis (IA) in relation to the Government's electoral expenditure and gift caps reforms. The JSCEM *Interim Report into the conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters* was tabled on 19 June 2023<sup>1</sup>, and the *Final Report into the conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters* was tabled on 27 November 2023<sup>2</sup>.

I certify that these reports adequately address all seven IA questions and are submitted to the Office of Impact Analysis (OIA) to support the Government's proposals for electoral reform, as the scope of the problems and areas for reform identified in the reports are substantially the same as the identified problems and reforms proposed by the Government.

The JSCEM's role is to inquire into and report on electoral events, electoral laws and practices. The JSCEM reviews the conduct of each federal election. In its interim and final reports into the conduct of the 2022 federal election made 36 recommendations for electoral reform.

I note that JSCEM's review process involved public consultations and a diverse range of views and proposals presented over 1,400 submissions, including many from individual voters, candidates, registered political parties and other stakeholders. The JSCEM also conducted 12 public hearings over a 15-month period.

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<sup>1</sup> Published at [Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Published at [Conduct of the 2022 federal election and other matters – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](#)

In addition to the JSCEM's consideration of a wide range of stakeholder views and policy proposals, I also note that pursuing electoral reform that includes reducing reliance on donations, introduces real-time donation reporting, and limits the level of federal campaign expenditure through the introduction of spending caps is a Government election commitment as well as a commitment made as part of the Australian Government's *Third Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2024-25*<sup>3</sup>.

Implementation will require legislation. The legislation will require the JSCEM, or another parliamentary committee, to evaluate the operation of the amendments within 12 months of the first general election after commencement and report the Committee's comments and recommendations to each House of the Parliament. I note that JSCEM reviews the conduct of elections and the electoral legislative framework after each general election and therefore these reforms will be regularly reviewed on an ongoing basis through that process.

The additional regulatory burden to business, community organisations or individuals in relation to electoral expenditure and gift caps is not expected to be material relative to current regulatory costs and has been quantified using the Government's Regulatory Burden Measurement framework below.

Regulatory burden estimate table				
Average annual regulatory costs (from business as usual) (\$ million)				
Change in costs	Business	Community organisations	Individuals	Total change
Total by sector (rounded to \$ million)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the analysis conducted in the JSCEM reports is consistent with the requirements of the *Australian Government Guide to Policy Impact Analysis* in relation to the electoral reforms proposed by the Government. A copy of the JSCEM reports are available on the Committee's website at: [Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](https://aph.gov.au/joint-standing-committee-on-electoral-matters)

Yours sincerely



Nathan Williamson  
Deputy Secretary  
Governance and Resource Management

3 September 2024

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<sup>3</sup> Published at [Australia's Third Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2024-2025 \(ag.gov.au\)](https://www.ag.gov.au)