

# DOLLARS & DEMOCRACY

## A Debate on How Best to Regulate Money in Australian Politics



There is a widespread dissatisfaction with how money influences Australian politics. There is an 'arms race' amongst political parties with increasing amounts of money being spent on election campaigns, prompting claims that elections can be bought.

Politicians from all sides of politics are calling for reform of the existing system of political funding. A bipartisan New South Wales parliamentary committee has recommended a radical overhaul of the New South Wales system by proposing tough disclosure requirements and limits on political donations and election spending. The Federal Government has recently released a Green Paper on political funding, canvassing a fundamental reform of the federal funding and disclosure regime.

In a debate moderated by ABC Radio National presenter, Peter Mares, four different perspectives will examine how the current system should be changed in order to maintain the democratic integrity of Australian politics. The key question of this debate will be: How Best to Regulate Money in Australian Politics?

### SPEAKERS:

Mr Adem Somyurek MP

Mr Michael O'Brien MP

Ms Sue Pennicuik MLC

Mr John Roskam, Director of the  
Institute of Public Affairs

Moderated by ABC Radio National  
Presenter Mr Peter Mares

A version of the forum will be broadcast  
on RN program *The National Interest*.

Date: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2009  
5.30-7.00pm

Venue: Legislative Assembly Chamber  
Parliament House  
Spring St, Melbourne

RSVP essential as places are limited:

Selina Hughes  
Social Justice Initiative  
[s.hughes@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:s.hughes@unimelb.edu.au)



SWINBURNE  
\* NE \*

SWINBURNE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
TECHNOLOGY