POLITICAL DONATIONS AND ELECTORAL SPENDING — LEGISLATION

1043. Hon ALISON XAMON to the Minister for Electoral Affairs:

I refer to the recent legislation passed by the New South Wales Parliament to cap political donations and limit electoral spending.

(1) Will the minister consider introducing similar legislation for Western Australia?
(2) If yes to (1), when?
(3) If no to (1), why not?

Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1) No.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) The New South Wales legislation is a partisan measure supported by the Australian Labor Party in alliance with the New South Wales Greens that caps spending by candidates and political parties without placing limits on the spending by such third parties as trade unions. I would not regard this as equitable. The limiting of political donations to $5 000 per annum per individual or corporation could also be regarded as a restriction on freedom of political expression.