

**ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (FINANCE AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2023**

*Question without Notice 1348 — Answer*

**HON MATTHEW SWINBOURN (East Metropolitan — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.05 pm]: I would like to provide an answer to Hon Tjorn Sibma's question without notice 1348 asked yesterday, which I seek leave to have incorporated into *Hansard*.

[Leave granted for the following material to be incorporated.]

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- (1) That information is subject to Cabinet in Confidence and cannot be released.
  - (2) The premise of this question is incorrect. The Ministerial Expert Panel was not established to evaluate the Electoral Act 1907 and inform the drafting of the Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Bill 2021. It was formed to review the electoral system of the Legislative Council and provide recommendations on how electoral equality could be achieved.
  - (3)–(4) Extensive consultation was undertaken with the WAEC, as the body responsible for administration of the Electoral Act, as well as with Electoral Commissions in other jurisdictions. The modernisation reforms were heavily informed by the recommended actions arising from the WAEC's review of the State General Election 2021. Drafting was also informed by the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Legislation's report on the Electoral Amendment Bill 2020, which included similar political finance reforms such as a reduced timeframe for disclosure of donations, a ban on foreign donations and the introduction of expenditure caps. That Committee held public hearings and heard from a panel of academics, as well as receiving submissions from political parties, academics and other stakeholders.
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