

## Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

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**From:** Chilla Bulbeck  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 April 2019 3:30 PM  
**To:** Estimates and Financial Operations Committee  
**Subject:** Submission: Inquiry into the Government's Local Projects Local Jobs Program

I wish to make a submission in relation to:

(3) The Committee is to also inquire into the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Office for the independent costing of election promises and related purposes.

An independent Parliamentary Budget Office is an important tool for strengthening our democracy through expanding the informed decision-making basis of voters.

- Because it is independent, its assessments can be relied on more than those provided by political parties with their own agendas to pursue.
- Because it is a public service, all parties can take advantage of this service and so smaller parties representing smaller constituencies can also have their proposals costed
- Because it is professional, it can assist parties in focusing their policies and adjusting their projects to realistic goals and costs.

It is important that all parties are required to submit All their election promises (or at least those above a certain cost threshold) to the PBO and in good time for them to be costed. Federally, some parties have chosen to hold back their submissions so they do not receive independent scrutiny before people vote.

I would recommend a submission deadline such that all substantial promises can be assessed prior to early voting commencing, and all promises assessed at least a week before election day.

With thanks for your consideration



**Chilla Bulbeck**