**Possible resolution about disclosure of political spending policy and spending**

This resolution is similar to those of the New York State comptroller. Similar resolutions have attracted 30 to 50% support in the USA.

**Proposed Constitutional change resolution to review and report on political spending**

To amend the Constitution of **NAB** to add a new sub- clause to state:

“The board must provide a report to shareholders posted on the company website, updated annually, disclosing the company’s:

1. Policies and procedures for expressing any political comment or statement or providing, with corporate funds or assets, any payment or benefit (direct or indirect) to:

(a) assist, participate or intervene in support of, or opposition to, any politician, candidate for political office or any political party or any associate of a politician, candidate or party; or

1. inform or influence the general public, or any segment thereof, with respect to an election or referendum;
2. inform or influence public policy or public or public decision maker support for, or attitudes to, a political or regulatory proposal or issue.
3. Monetary and non—monetary payments and benefits described in section 1 above including

(a) the identity of the recipient as well as the value of the payment or benefit provided to each; and

(b) the title(s) of the person(s) in the company responsible for decision making.

**Accompanying Statement**

**This statement is provided to all NAB shareholders at the request of the Australasian Centre for Corporate responsibility and other supportive shareholders.**

It deals with the content of the Annual Report.

We support transparency and accountability in all corporate spending on political activities.

These include direct and indirect: contributions (for example, donations, subscriptions, ‘excess’ over catering cost payments to attend events, benefits in kind) paid or provided to politicians, political candidates, parties, or associate organizations; independent expenditures; election related material; and lobbying costs and expenses.

Disclosure to shareholders is in the best interest of the company and its shareholders.

Gaps in transparency and accountability may expose the company to reputational and business risks that could threaten long-­term shareholder value.

We note that: our company completes the mandatory AEC declarations of our direct political expenditure and our board states “Our donations are not to express support for one side over another”. [[1]](#footnote-1)

We believe our board can and should do better. In regard each category of political expenditure our company should either: adopt a policy eschewing such expenditure; or provide shareholders with a detailed report on the use of their funds for political purposes.

The publicly available records show that NAB has contributed over

$0.5m of corporate funds in Australia in the past three financial years. Relying on publicly available data does not provide shareholders with a complete picture of the Company’s political spending.

This proposal asks our board to disclose policies as well as annual amounts of political spending, including lobbying and payments to trade associations. We are particularly concerned about our boards’ claim “Our donations are not to express support for one side over another” and the fact about three quarters of the money we have declared as paid to political parties in the last 3 financial years has been paid to the Liberal Party.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Shareholders need comprehensive disclosure to be able to fully evaluate the appropriateness of the political use of corporate assets.

We urge your support for this critical governance reform.

1. See [www.nab.com.au/content/dam/nabrwd/About-Us/nab-political-contract-communications-donaitons-policy.pdf](http://www.nab.com.au/content/dam/nabrwd/About-Us/nab-political-contract-communications-donaitons-policy.pdf) . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In 2012/13 we declared payments of $197k, in 13/14 $81k and in 14/15 $275k. Of those amounts in 12/13 $54k, in 13/14 $44k and in 14/15 $36k was paid to the ALP. The balance was paid to the Liberal Party – ie about three quarters. None was paid to the National Party nor the Greens. See <http://periodicdisclosures.aec.gov.au/Returns/56/TZPU1.pdf> , <http://periodicdisclosures.aec.gov.au/Returns/51/ROHR0.pdf> , & <http://periodicdisclosures.aec.gov.au/Returns/55/SUMU8.pdf> . [↑](#footnote-ref-2)