



TRUTH IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING

The community deserves better

The ACT Greens will ban lies in political ads

The community deserve to have confident in their political leaders, and political parties. That means holding them to account and demanding truth in political advertising.

When it comes to elections, the community deserves to know that they are hearing the truth from political candidates and parties.

The Greens understand that in political and public debate there are different views about issues, and different ideas about how to solve the challenges that we face. But that doesn't mean that the community should be peddled lies.

When people are bombarded with factually incorrect information, they lose faith in the democratic process and are left not knowing who to believe. This does nothing to improve the quality of public debate or how we work together to find the right solutions for our city.

> Truth in political advertising

The ACT Greens will put the community first, and implement Truth in Political Advertising legislation in the ACT, to stop factually incorrect information being used to influence voters in the lead up to elections.

The ACT Greens will:

» Legislate to require truth in political advertising. 'Truth in Advertising' laws will simply require there to be a ruling on the facts of the advertising.

It puts a higher obligation on candidates and political parties to check their facts before they authorise publications.

The onus on facts will make it much clearer for an independent adjudicator, in this case the Electoral Commissioner, to rule whether or not there are factual inaccuracies in a particular publication before polling day, and to require the publication to be withdrawn.

In South Australia, Truth in Advertising laws have uncovered 19 breaches where advertising was found to be "inaccurate and misleading to a material extent," which then had to be withdrawn during the campaign.

The Greens are committed to implementing Truth in Political Advertising laws to restore the community's confidence in the democratic process.

The community has a right to know that election candidates and political parties are not telling outright lies in the lead up to elections, and to have those inaccuracies challenged before they go to the polls on Election Day, which is when they really need to know.