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VIC COALITION COMMITS TO LOBBYISTS REGISTER AND BAN ON SUCCESS FEES

- **John Brumby refuses to introduce lobbyists register or anti-corruption commission**
- **Coalition will step in where Labor has failed to act on corruption**

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will move to immediately establish a register of lobbyists and a ban on lobbyist success fees to ensure the highest standards of probity and integrity in Victorian public life.

The Coalition fears that Victoria, under John Brumby, now has some of the lowest standards of accountability and transparency in Australia, even lagging behind Queensland.

There is a danger of inappropriate influence when former ministers and Labor mates are revealed to have been secretly engaged to win public projects for private corporations.

Labor has paid lip service to the implementation of a lobbyists register, promising it at the 2006 election and again in 2007. Labor also promised a new all-party parliamentary committee at the 2006 election to investigate government integrity and recommend improvements.

In addition the Premier refuses to introduce the long-promised code of conduct for MPs or an independent broad-based anti-corruption commission.

Recent allegations of cabinet-level corruption in Queensland have underscored the incentive for corruption generated by cash bonuses paid to lobbyists after successful bids and tenders, and those allegations have forced the Queensland Government to act.

John Brumby's failure to act on key anti-corruption measures, despite reforms in other states and federally, highlights the lack of accountability for undue influence and potential corruption by Labor mates in Victoria.

By refusing to introduce an independent broad-based anti-corruption commission the Premier has ensured that the secret relationships between the Brumby Government and Labor mates are concealed from public scrutiny.

Policy

Under a Victorian Coalition Government a register will be established to identify all lobbyists and their clients and record all contact with ministers, advisers and public servants. It will be illegal for private companies to pay lobbyists cash bonuses in the form of “success fees” for public or state tenders or projects.

The Victorian Coalition is committed to implementing measures that will give Victoria the highest standards of probity, transparency and integrity in government.

That is why the Coalition in government will immediately move to establish a lobbyists register and ban success fees on the tendering or awarding of public projects.