Voters must be able to trust politicians. But we can't trust Labor or Tony Abbott to be honest unless it is in their interests, or in the interests of their big business mates, to do so. We need to restore honesty and integrity in politics.

The Australian Greens believe that integrity, accountability and openness in politics are vital to a healthy democracy. To have an engaged public, voters need to trust what their politicians are saying and have open access to information. The Australian community has made it clear – they trust the Greens to stand by their values through thick and thin.

We want trust to permeate through our political system. We want an end to the ‘deals-for-mates’ culture, with empowered citizens keeping a close eye on their government instead of the government keeping a secret eye on them. Only the Greens can be trusted to keep politicians honest.

**> KEEPING THEM HONEST**

To lift the standards of government, the Greens will:

- Establish an Anti-corruption Commission to crack down on wrong-doing in the Parliament and the public service
- Create a legally enforceable Lobbyist Code of Conduct and prohibit Ministers becoming Lobbyists within 5 years
- Impose a 2 year ban on Ministers being involved in private enterprise which is related to their Ministerial connections
- Extend whistleblower protection laws to cover the offices of Members of Parliament and employees in the private sector

**> ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION**

Every State now has an anti-corruption commission. The Federal government is now the only jurisdiction without the infrastructure to confront corruption. Every time wrongdoing is exposed, one-off reviews or ad-hoc investigations are launched. We need a permanent commission to prevent corruption occurring and investigate claims as they arise. The Greens already have a bill before the Parliament to create this office to crack-down on public sector corruption and promote integrity in our public institutions.

The case for MPs and the public service to be investigated by an independent commission is so obvious it hardly has to be made. But when Liberal and Labor parties get together to exclude MPs from the law of the land, it takes a huge public outcry to get them to change the status quo. The Greens are leading that charge.

We will establish the Office for a National Integrity Commissioner at a cost of $90m over 3 years. It would absorb the existing Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity that oversees the Australian Federal Police, customs and ACCC.

The Office would not only investigate misconduct and corruption, but prevent it by providing advice and support to government agencies, Ministerial and MP's offices.

**> CLAMP DOWN ON LOBBYISTS & MINISTERIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Ordinary citizens should be what influences government decisions, not "big money" from the “big end of town” or the former politicians they employ to use their connections to get what they want.

The Greens want to jam shut the revolving door between business and politics by imposing a 5 year ban on Ministers transforming into lobbyists.

Well financed lobbyists are granted access and influence above and beyond anything that would be extended to the ordinary Australian. Our weak, practically non-existent rules on lobbying distort our democracy in favour of established and powerful interests.
Last year, Senator Mark Arbib quit politics and went straight to work for James Packer’s Crown Casino. Arbib’s replacement in the Senate, Foreign Minister Bob Carr was then a lobbyist for top-tier bankers and lawyers like the Macquarie Group.

We want a code enshrined in law that requires the disclosure of lobbyists, who they work for, which MP or Minister they met and what they discussed. Following best practice models in Canada, the Greens have dedicated $15 million to establish the Independent Commissioner of Lobbying with auditing and investigating powers to maintain and enforce the register.

The Greens will also move to ensure that for a period of at least two years following their term, Ministers are not to be engaged in a private enterprise which raises a conflict or particular benefit from their role and connections developed as a Minister.

> WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

Working side-by-side with an anti-corruption commission are strong whistleblower laws so that people who become aware of wrongdoing in the workplace can reveal it and be legally protected from any retribution.

After four years of stalling, the Parliament finally passed comprehensive whistleblowing laws covering the public service. The Greens amended the bill to ensure threats to the environment are legitimate disclosures and to strengthen the bill.

Despite achieving these improvements, both major parties worked together to keep Members of Parliament and their staff outside the law – they don’t want the scrutiny they are applying to others.

The Greens want Members of Parliament included in the law so that their wrongdoing can be publicly exposed. We also want whistleblower protections as a workplace rights to cover employees in the corporate sector.

> OTHER PARTIES

It is clear that the Labor, Liberal and National parties like as little scrutiny on them as possible. The Greens are the only party that can be trusted to advocate for open governance and the law of the land applying to Members of Parliament.