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# Executive Summary

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# Defining the Problem

## What is happening

According to the 2019 Australian Election Study, public trust in democratic institutions in Australia is at the lowest it has been since the 1970s. Just 59% of Australian’s surveyed said they were satisfied with how democracy is working, down from a record high of 87% in 2007, and only 12% said they believed the government was run for ‘all the people’1. This displeasure with government institutions is described further in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Trends in Australian Trust in Politicians and Government Institutions

Stories of government corruption have filled news articles in recent years such as the now infamous Sports Rorts scandal, Barnaby Joyce’s $80M water buybacks and the Department of Infrastructure and Transports recent $30M purchase of land for the Western Sydney Airport which was valued at just $3M.

The trends above shows that public is becoming more sceptical of government, justified by these frequent corruption scandals. Corruption is not new but, with the availability of data in the modern era, the solutions to it can be. Rapidly exposing this corruption and informing voters is the most powerful way to discourage this behaviour.

## How will the problem be addressed

There are many forms of corruption in government; the type of corruption that this project aims to expose is pork barrelling – the use of public funds in a manner which is designed to win elections, regardless of the needs of the people. This first phase of the project will serve as a ‘proof of concept’, focussing on the use of Queensland state funds and state elections. The data collected will include electoral maps, electoral results, the Queensland State Infrastructure Plan and census data. With this information, seats will be categorised broadly into their parties and safe/marginal. From there, relationships between spending and other parameters will be explored using basic exploratory data analysis. Any potential correlations found in the data will have a model developed to determine if there is a statistically significant relationship. Finally, a web tool will be used to convey to voters what behaviour they can expect from their elected officials.

# Sourcing Methodology

## [Some name that relates to module 2]

## [Some name that relates to module 3]

# Modelling Methodology

# Outcomes and Insights

# Summary

## Response to Feedback

# Appendix A – References

## Literature

[1] <https://australianelectionstudy.org/> - REFERENCE TO BE CORRECTLY DETAILED

## Datasets

## Code Libraries and Tools