



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7

Allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region



Report 18

March 2023

7

Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment

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Allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Chair: Ms Sue Higginson, MLC



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Terms of reference

That Portfolio Committee No. 7 - Planning and Environment inquire into and report on matters in regards to the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region in particular:

- (a) any matters relating to integrity, processes of Council, employees and elected officials of Council,
- (b) the matters relating to The Hills Shire Council raised by the Member for Castle Hill in a speech to the Parliament on 23 June 2022,
- (c) the role and influence of developers and their interactions with councillors and members of parliament in the region, and
- (d) any other related matter.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 8 December 2022.¹

¹ *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 21 December 2022, p 4006.

Committee details

Committee members

Ms Sue Higginson MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
The Hon Mark Pearson MLC	Animal Justice Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
The Hon Scott Barrett MLC	The Nationals	
The Hon John Graham MLC*	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Rose Jackson MLC**	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Chris Rath MLC***	Liberal Party	
The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC	Australian Labor Party	

* The Hon John Graham MLC substituted for the Hon Rose Jackson MLC from 27 February 2023. The Hon John Graham MLC was a participating member to 27 February 2023.

** The Hon Rose Jackson MLC was a participating member from 27 February 2023 for the remainder of the inquiry.

*** The Hon Chris Rath MLC replaced the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC as substantive member of the committee from 1 February 2023. The Hon Lou Amato MLC substituted for the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC from 8 December 2022 to 1 February 2023.

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Chair's foreword

This has been an extraordinary inquiry – not so much for the information that has come to light – but for the gaping hole in evidence left by key witnesses who have gone to great lengths to avoid scrutiny.

The allegations that sparked this inquiry were made by an elected member of Parliament who is also a member of the Liberal Party. They were serious allegations of collusion between members of the Liberal party and a developer to replace elected members of The Hills Shire Council with new councillors who would be more amenable to that developer's interests. Revelations about branch-stacking activities in The Hills area that emerged in this inquiry are a related and additional source of concern. When branch stacking activities are linked to collusion with developers, they are not merely a distortion of democratic processes, they could amount to serious corruption.

The only way this committee could shed some light on these allegations is for those involved to come forward and give their account. Their co-ordinated, deliberate and serious efforts to evade scrutiny inevitably leave the perception that there is something to hide.

The lack of cooperation from key witnesses in this inquiry means that serious allegations of corruption by members of the Liberal Party in the Hills Shire have gone unanswered. Some have tried to justify their absence by questioning the integrity of this committee. The contempt shown for our role as an Upper House committee raises serious questions about the operation of the Liberal Party in NSW, and whether those seeking political power at local or state government level understand the principles of transparency and accountability that are central to a healthy democracy.

This inquiry has raised questions that are too serious to leave unanswered simply because this Parliament has run its course. For this reason, the committee has recommended that a new inquiry into these matters be established in the next Parliament. Essential to that will be the involvement of Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet, Jean-Claude Perrottet and Jean Nassif.

The committee has also recommended that the influence of property developers and others in political, legal and democratic processes in the Hills Shire region be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for investigation. This is based on the evidence received from one individual in this inquiry, who gave a frank account of how some members of the Liberal Party sought a donation from him to unseat a sitting federal member.

Faced with the non-cooperation of key witnesses, this committee has taken some unusual, and in some cases unprecedented, procedural steps. The use of private process servers in the effort to serve a summons to key witnesses was one of these. While many attempts were made to serve key witnesses with a summons to attend and give evidence, albeit unsuccessfully, the committee considered it was an appropriate course of action, owing mainly to the clear lack of co-operation and difficulty experienced when liaising with witnesses. We thank the process servers for assisting the committee in what can only be described as extraordinary circumstances.

To address these difficulties better in the future, the committee has recommended that the Legislative Council refer an inquiry into the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* to the Privileges Committee, with a view to identifying amendments to ensure it is fit for purpose and modernised, including in relation to the summoning of witnesses.

Finally, I would like to comment on the unauthorised disclosure of parts of the Chair's draft report. The disclosure was revealed on the day this report was tabled, literally hours before the expiration of the Legislative Assembly, which meant that the committee was unable to take the steps usually followed by committees to investigate and address such disclosures.

Unauthorised disclosure of committee information, such as a draft report, threatens the integrity of the committee system by reducing trust amongst members, as well as between the Parliament and the public. Such disclosures also demonstrate disrespect for the secretariat who make every effort to protect the confidentiality of committee proceedings. I urge the person responsible for this breach of the standing orders to reflect on the seriousness of their actions.

On behalf of the committee I sincerely thank those witnesses who did come forward and give evidence – even reluctantly – to this inquiry. Each witness had something important to contribute, and has shed some light on the issues in question. I also thank my fellow committee members, and acknowledge that this has not been an easy inquiry by any measure, especially given all the pressures associated with the end of a parliamentary term. Finally, I thank the secretariat for their extraordinary hard work and professionalism, and all of the other parliamentary staff who have assisted to support the important work of this committee.



Ms Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

Findings

- Finding 1** **21**
That, based on evidence to the committee, a meeting took place at which Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet asked a businessman to contribute \$50,000 to an operation to unseat Alex Hawke, federal member for Mitchell.
- Finding 2** **21**
That the finding of this committee about a request for \$50,000, combined with the behaviour of witnesses called to this inquiry, add weight to the allegations by Government MP Ray Williams in the parliament that 'Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were paid significant funds in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications'.
- Finding 3** **22**
That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to evade service: Christian Ellis, Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet.
- Finding 4** **22**
That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry, noting they were out of the jurisdiction: Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif.
- Finding 5** **22**
That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry: Jeff Egan, Jeremy Greenwood and Dylan Whitelaw.
- Finding 6** **23**
That a New South Wales parliamentary committee has never been faced with such serious, deliberate and co-ordinated attempts by witnesses to evade service of a summons.

Recommendations

- Recommendation 1** **20**
That the Legislative Council establish a new inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region in the 58th Parliament, referring all evidence from this inquiry to the relevant committee.
- Recommendation 2** **21**
That any future inquiry should call Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet to give evidence on the matters referred to in Finding 1.
- Recommendation 3** **21**
That any future inquiry should call Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif to give evidence on the matters referred to in Finding 2.
- Recommendation 4** **21**
That Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment refer the influence of property developers and others in legal, political and democratic processes in The Hills Shire region to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, along with this report and committee transcripts of evidence.
- Recommendation 5** **23**
That, at the beginning of the 58th Parliament, the NSW Legislative Council:
- refer an inquiry into the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* to the Privileges Committee, with a view to identifying amendments to ensure it is fit for purpose and modernised, including in relation to the summoning of witnesses; and
 - send a message to the NSW Legislative Assembly requesting that that House refer the same inquiry to its Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.
- Recommendation 6** **24**
That Legislative Council committees consider the use of professional process servers to serve a summons on a witness in extraordinary circumstances where the witness has demonstrated that they are not co-operating with the committee, and that this matter be considered by any future inquiry by the Privileges Committee into the operation of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* (as referred to in Recommendation 5).
- Recommendation 7** **24**
That the NSW Legislative Council refer the matter of anonymously authored documents being tabled under parliamentary privilege to the Privileges Committee for inquiry and report.
- Recommendation 8** **24**
That the Minister for Local Government undertake an investigation into The Hills Shire Council and consider what steps should be taken, including whether the Council should be put into administration.

Conduct of inquiry

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 8 December 2022.

The committee received 13 submissions and 1 supplementary submission. All but one submission were either name suppressed or confidential.

The committee held four public hearings: three at the State Library of New South Wales in Sydney and one at the UNSW City Campus in Sydney.

Inquiry related documents are available on the committee's website, including submissions, hearing transcripts, tabled documents, correspondence and answers to questions on notice.

Procedural issues

A number of significant procedural issues arose during this inquiry, many of which were related to the lack of information coming forward concerning the serious allegations before the committee.

Several key witnesses, including Councillor Virginia Ellis, Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, were issued with a summons to attend and give evidence at a public hearing. This step was taken after significant attempts had been made to contact these witnesses, and to secure their attendance at a hearing voluntarily.

After a number of unsuccessful attempts were made by parliamentary staff to personally serve the summons, as is the usual practice, the committee engaged professional process servers to take on this function. This appears to be the first time a committee in the Legislative Council has taken this step – and occurred as a result of the extraordinary and unprecedented circumstances the committee experienced with witnesses deliberately avoiding service.

Unfortunately though, despite many attempts to serve a summons on these witnesses, none were able to be personally served with the documents. This resulted in the committee being unable to ask important questions relating to the allegations made by Mr Ray Williams MP in his speech to the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 2022. It also affected the ability of the committee to test the evidence given by other witnesses. Unfortunately, without any other legal avenue available to the committee to serve the summons in an alternative manner, the committee was unable to pursue these witnesses further.

In addition to this challenge, several other key witnesses failed to co-operate with the committee in an appropriate manner. Mr Jean Nassif, a Sydney developer who owns the company Toplace, and Mr Charles Perrottet, declined to give evidence including by videoconference and were unable to be summoned due to being out of jurisdiction. Other witnesses, who likely would have been able to assist the committee with relevant information, also declined to assist, for various reasons. While several of these individuals engaged with the committee to some extent, they ultimately did not agree to provide evidence at a public hearing.

Some of these witnesses raised concerns about the committee continuing to operate during prorogation and the application of parliamentary privilege. In this regard, the committee notes that the position of the Legislative Council is that prorogation does not affect the operation of committees. Committees are

only unable to operate following the expiration or dissolution of the Legislative Assembly. This was affirmed in a legal opinion provided by Mr Bret Walker SC in 2011, and has been demonstrated by the fact that committees have continued to operate during prorogation over the last decade. Indeed, from 2011 until the present, many committee reports were tabled after prorogation and the government has routinely responded to these reports in subsequent Parliaments.

Therefore, as long as a committee is properly constituted (ie a quorum of members are in attendance), witnesses are protected by parliamentary privilege, and the committee rejects any view otherwise.

In this context, the committee resolved to publish several anonymous documents containing serious allegations relating to branch stacking in the NSW Liberal Party, including in the Hills Shire region. The publication of anonymous documents by a committee is highly unusual. Committees generally take a cautious approach to the publication of any document where the author is unknown and the credibility of the document cannot be tested with its author. However, given the committee's strenuous efforts to gain information from certain individuals were continually frustrated, a majority of members considered publication was appropriate, especially given the nature of the allegations being made and the need for transparency.

The committee notes that this decision was not made lightly, and was based on the fact that there were serious deficiencies being experienced in the inquiry due to the lack of co-operation of key witnesses. Opposition and cross bench members also noted that they were not in a position to perform the normal checks members can ordinarily undertake given certain individuals were un-cooperative. These members also felt that the level of detail in the documents seemed to indicate a level of veracity to the information.

Following the publication of this material, and in accordance with the Legislative Council's procedural fairness resolution, the committee resolved to provide certain individuals named in these documents with an opportunity to respond to the potential adverse mention the documents contained. A number of individuals wrote to the committee refuting the allegations made against them, and these responses were later published on the committee's webpage.

Another issue that arose in this inquiry related to the obligations of Legislative Council members in relation to conflicts of interest. The committee received a letter from Lou Amato MLC who had served on the inquiry in its early meetings. Mr Amato had written to the Premier indicating his concerns about being removed from the committee and relating to conflicts of interests in the committee. The letter is attached as an appendix to the report.

The standing orders do not require members to withdraw from an inquiry where there may be non-pecuniary conflicts of interest. Under the members Code of Conduct, it is up to members to disclose a conflict of interest and manage the situation appropriately. This does not necessarily mean that members should exclude themselves from a committee inquiry or its activities.

As elected representatives of the community, members of the Legislative Council are called upon to express views and make decisions on many matters. It would be too restrictive to expect them to disqualify themselves from any inquiry into matters in which they had expressed views or made decisions.

In this inquiry, two members of this committee, both being former members of the State Executive of the Liberal Party, appropriately declared a conflict of interest as they saw fit and recused themselves from meetings, including hearings, where they felt this was required.

Chapter 1 Background

This chapter sets out the background to the inquiry, noting the allegations made in Parliament by Mr Ray Williams MP, and related coverage by the ABC's *Four Corners* program. It also notes reports that have been made of a referral to ICAC of similar matters.

Mr Ray Williams MP's speech to Parliament

- 1.1 This inquiry had its origins in a speech made to Parliament by Mr Ray Williams MP, Liberal member for Castle Hill, on 23 June 2022.²
- 1.2 In that speech, Mr Williams raised issues about the preselection of Liberal Candidates for The Hills Shire Council for the local government election in December 2021. Specifically, he alleged:
- Shortly before the December 2021 local government elections, the Liberal Party State Executive chose to endorse new Liberal councillors, some living outside the area, to replace six sitting councillors and the serving mayor.
 - Allegations had been raised with him that senior people in the New South Wales Liberal Party, a member of the Liberal Party State Executive, and a former Hills Shire councillor were supported financially at the time by a large developer, Jean Nassif, owner of Toplace Group, a company with a record of producing faulty apartments with serious building defects, including in Castle Hill.
 - Prior to the council elections, Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis – a member of the Liberal Party State Executive – and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were 'paid significant funds' in order to put new councillors on the Hills Shire Council who would be more supportive of future Toplace development applications.
 - Mr Ellis was the owner of a lobbyist company that listed Toplace as one of its major clients.
 - Toplace had purchased a number of properties in Castle Hill and was seeking a planning permit through The Hills Shire Council to build thousands of new high-rise apartments on this land.
 - This proposal sparked community objections and was refused by council officers of The Hills Shire Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment local planning panel, but was supported by certain councillors at the time.
 - One previous councillor, now a member of the NSW Parliament, actively supported the Toplace development proposal, including arranging meetings between The Hills Shire Council staff and Toplace consultants, speaking in favour of the proposal at council meetings and caucusing with Liberal councillors to obtain support for Toplace.
 - One of the newly elected Hills Shire councillors was employed as an electorate officer of that Member of Parliament, and is also the mother of Mr Christian Ellis.
- 1.3 Noting the seriousness of these claims, Mr Williams called for an external investigation into the substance of the allegations.

² NSW Legislative Assembly, *Hansard*, 23 June 2022, pp 76-77.

***Four Corners* report – 'The War Within'**

- 1.4 An ABC *Four Corners* report entitled 'The War Within', broadcast on 4 July 2022, contained material relevant to the allegations raised by Ray Williams MP. Assertions aired in that program included:
- A dossier had been provided to ICAC in 2021 by a member of the Liberal Party alleging that Liberal party figures offered to carry out a branch stacking operation to overthrow a local council to benefit an 'infamous' property developer, Jean Nassif, owner of the Toplace property development firm.
 - Mr Nassif started buying land worth more than \$200 million around the new Cherrybrook metro station in around 2014, aiming to build thousands of new apartments. However, he was struggling to convince The Hills Shire Council to support the project.
 - The dossier provided to ICAC alleges that Mr Nassif met two 'right faction Liberal party identities' to discuss his frustrations: Christian Ellis and Charles Perrottet. At that meeting, it is alleged, Charles Perrottet proposed that, before the next council election, he and others could stack branches to influence the preselection of Liberal candidates supportive of Nassif's development, if Nassif could fund the operation.
 - Before the 2021 Hills Shire Council election, the NSW Liberal State Executive chose a new group of candidates.
- 1.5 The *Four Corners* program noted that, while it could establish that a meeting between Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif did take place at Toplace's office, what was discussed is hotly disputed. It noted it could not establish whether an offer to influence preselection of Liberal candidates for The Hills Shire Council election in exchange for financial support was made to Mr Nassif.
- 1.6 The *Four Corners* program aired a separate, but related allegation about branch stacking in the Hills Shire area. It reported that the dossier provided to ICAC alleged that, in 2018, Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet had approached a North Sydney businessman and Liberal Party member, Frits Maré and asked him for \$50,000 'to bankroll branch stacking in the Hills district.' Mr Maré did not comment to *Four Corners*, and the program noted there was no evidence any money was paid by him.

Referral to ICAC

- 1.7 The *Four Corners* program reported that ICAC had in March 2022 declined to investigate the allegations provided to it in the 'Hawke faction dossier'.³
- 1.8 Subsequent to this, on the day following Mr Williams' speech to Parliament, the New South Premier, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, told the media he had referred the matters raised to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for its consideration.⁴

³ The Australian Broadcasting Corporation, *Four Corners* – 'The War Within', 4 July 2022, Transcript.

⁴ *The Guardian*, 'NSW Liberal MP uses parliament privilege to accuse party members of corruption', 24 June 2022, <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/24/nsw-liberal-mp-uses-parliamentary-privilege-to-accuse-party-members-of-corruption>

- 1.9 ICAC is an independent investigatory agency which is not required to publicly disclose current investigations. The committee does not have direct knowledge as to whether or not there is a current ICAC investigation into the matters raised in Parliament by Mr Ray Williams MP.

Key stakeholders

- 1.10 Based on the allegations put forward and the people named or referred to by Mr Ray Williams MP in his speech, the committee invited the following key witnesses to give evidence to the inquiry:

- Mr Jean Nassif – owner and managing director of Toplace, who is alleged to have colluded with senior Liberals to install new councillors on The Hills Shire Council
- Mr Christian Elliot – who is alleged to have met with Jean Nassif and discussed a possible branch-stacking operation to replace sitting members of the Hills Shire Council with new members
- Mr Charles Perrottet – a senior Liberal Party member, who is alleged to have met Jean Nassif with Christian Elliot
- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet – who is alleged to have sought \$50,000 from Mr Frits Maré for a branch-stacking operation in the Hills area to unseat sitting federal MP Alex Hawke
- Councillor Virginia Ellis – Christian Elliot's mother, and one of the new Hills Shire Councillors installed at the 2021 local government election
- Ms Robyn Preston MP – former Hills Shire Councillor, now Member for Hawkesbury, referred to by Mr Williams as actively supporting the Toplace proposal.

- 1.11 None of these key witnesses made themselves available to answer questions of this committee. In fact three of these witnesses – Councillor Ellis, Christian Elliot and Jean-Claude Perrottet – deliberately avoided co-operating with this inquiry. Jean-Claude Perrottet also advised the committee, in an unsigned letter, that he was overseas and would not assist the committee with its inquiry.

- 1.12 Mr Jean Nassif wrote to the committee to advise he was overseas at the time of the hearings. He also rejected any suggestion of impropriety and influence he had on Liberal Party members.⁵ Mr Charles Perrottet wrote to the committee to advise he lived in Victoria and declined to participate in the inquiry.⁶

- 1.13 Mr Ray Williams MP, whose speech to Parliament instigated this inquiry, was invited twice to give evidence at a hearing, but declined, citing scheduling commitments. Ms Robyn Preston MP, who was referred to in Mr Williams' speech, declined to give evidence to the inquiry. Mr David Elliot MP, Member for Baulkham Hills and Minister for Transport, Veterans and Western Sydney, also declined due to other commitments.

⁵ Correspondence from Mr Jean Nassif to Chair, 7 February 2023.

⁶ Correspondence from Mr Charles Perrottet to Chair, 20 February 2023.

- 1.14** A range of other witnesses were identified to assist the inquiry, not because there were allegations against them, but because they could provide some contextual detail or aid the committee's understanding of the allegations. They included:
- Mr Michael Edgar – General Manager of The Hills Shire Council
 - Dr Michelle Byrne – former mayor of The Hills Shire, who was dropped from the Liberal ticket suddenly before the 2021 election
 - Mr Alan Haselden – former deputy mayor of The Hills Shire, who was dropped from the Liberal ticket suddenly before the 2021 election
 - Mr Frits Maré – a businessman and Liberal party member who was allegedly approached by Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet to fund a branch stacking operation in the Hills area
 - Ms Shirlee Burge – an individual and long term Liberal party member in Deniliquin.⁷
- 1.15** The evidence of those witnesses is covered in the next chapter. The NSW Building Commissioner and representatives of the Office of Fair Trading and Department of Customer Service were also invited to give evidence, particularly in relation to the revocation of Jean Nassif's Toplace licence. This occurred following serious defects being found in a number of the company's residential construction developments. Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons, including the fact that there are ongoing legal proceedings, the committee was unable to hear from relevant representatives about this matter.
- 1.16** In December 2022, NSW Fair Trading moved to suspend Jean Nassif's building licence for 10 years and permanently revoke Toplace's licence over improper conduct. Mr Nassif and the company successfully argued for a stay on the bans before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which heard the suspensions exposed the parties to breaching contracts worth tens of millions of dollars. Legal action is ongoing.
- 1.17** On 28 February 2023, a police operation was conducted in four locations including the headquarters of Toplace following allegations about the falsification of a \$10.5 million pre-sale contract relating to the Skyview Apartments development in Castle Hill.
- 1.18** The committee also invited, and later summoned, other individuals connected to the Liberal Party at the time of these allegations. One was Mr Jeremy Greenwood, who was a former business partner of Christian Ellis. Another two - Mr Robert Assaf and Mr Dylan Whitelaw – were alleged to have been connected to the Reformers, a group within the NSW Liberal Party who allegedly had the sole purpose of installing their own people into Council and Parliament.
- 1.19** These three individuals – while engaging to some extent with the committee – ultimately cited various reasons as to why they were unable to attend a public hearing and be questioned. Mr Greenwood denied any claims that he had been uncooperative with the committee, although he was aware a summons had been issued and did not make himself available to receive the summons or give evidence. Mr Assaf and Mr Whitelaw also disputed any allegations of

⁷ The committee received evidence from Ms Burge in its fourth hearing on 2 March 2023. This was after the report was adopted by the committee and on the last day of the Parliamentary term. The transcript is available on the committee's webpage.

impropriety made in relation to them, and could not be brought before the committee to be questioned.

- 1.20** The committee also invited, and later attempted to summons, Mr Jeff Egan, an employee of Toplace, to give evidence, particularly in relation to Toplace's dealings in the Hills region, given Jean Nassif was unavailable and unwilling to appear before the committee. Mr Egan declined to give evidence to the committee. He denied having ever spoken with any of the current or former Liberal Party Councillors on the Hills Shire Council since being employed by Toplace about any matters relating to the Hills Shire Council, or ever being a member of any of the Liberal Party branches in the Hills Local Government Area.⁸

⁸ Correspondence from Mr Jeff Egan to secretariat, 22 February 2023.

Chapter 2 Evidence from inquiry witnesses

All of the people named or referred to by Mr Williams were invited to make a submission and give evidence to this inquiry under parliamentary privilege. None of them chose to do so. The witnesses who did give evidence to the committee could not be expected to have direct knowledge of the issues under investigation, but were able to provide contextual information from their perspective. This chapter outlines the key points of evidence contributed by these witnesses.

Mr Frits Maré

- 2.1** Mr Frits Maré, a successful businessman, managing director of Mainmark Australia, gave evidence to the committee on 15 February 2023.⁹ Mr Maré is a Liberal party member who had been involved in meetings on re-writing the party's constitution.¹⁰
- 2.2** The key evidence Mr Maré provided to the committee was of a meeting in about 2019 at which Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet asked him to contribute \$50,000 to an operation to unseat Alex Hawke MP, federal member for Mitchell.
- 2.3** According to Mr Maré's account, the meeting was initiated by a phone call from Jean-Claude Perrottet, took place at Mr Maré's personal office, and lasted about 15 minutes.¹¹ At the meeting, Jean-Claude Perrottet introduced Christian Ellis. Then, as Mr Maré described:
- They sat down at my conference table. They told me that they wanted to unseat a sitting member of Parliament – a Federal member in the seat of Mitchell – and that they were raising money for that and they thought that I'd be a prime candidate to contribute to that.¹²
- 2.4** The 'contribution' Mr Maré was asked for was \$50,000, to 'get rid of Alex Hawke...to stack his seat'.¹³ Mr Maré said he had no direct knowledge of what the \$50,000 would be used for, but he understood it was about funding branch recruitment and that a 'call centre' was discussed.¹⁴
- 2.5** Mr Maré said one of the men thought he might be willing to contribute the funds as Alex Hawke had helped unseat a former Prime Minister that Mr Maré was friends with.¹⁵
- 2.6** Mr Maré was clear that he did not provide any money to Mr Perrottet or Mr Ellis, did not know what entity would receive the money if he paid it, and that he had not seen Christian Ellis since the meeting. He said he received a few phone calls from Jean-Claude Perrottet a couple of weeks after the meeting asking him to come for coffee in Martin Place, but 'I avoided that'.¹⁶

⁹ Evidence, Mr Frits Maré, 15 February 2023, pp 2-10.

¹⁰ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 8

¹¹ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 4.

¹² Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 4.

¹³ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, pp 4-5.

¹⁴ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 5.

¹⁵ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 4.

¹⁶ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 6.

- 2.7 He also noted that 'The Hills' and 'The Hills Shire' were not mentioned in the conversation.¹⁷
- 2.8 Upon request, Mr Maré tabled a text message from an acquaintance that was referred to in the *Four Corners* program. The message was received on 6 October 2021, and the relevant section reads:
- Btw still can't believe that approach to you by Christian Ellis and JC Perrottet. Was thinking, \$50k would stack more than Alex Hawke's seat. I reckon it would actually ne [sic] to supplement their incomes. I understand Ellis has been buying up property.¹⁸
- 2.9 Mr Maré said he was unaware of the current whereabouts of Jean-Claude Perrottet, but agreed with the proposition it would be appropriate for him to turn up and answer questions, noting: 'If you have nothing to hide, that's what you do, yes. Simple.'¹⁹

Dr Michelle Byrne, Former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council

- 2.10 Dr Michelle Byrne gave evidence to the committee on Thursday 16 February. Dr Byrne was a Councillor on the Hills Shire Council for 13 years, between 2008 and 2021. During that time she served three terms as mayor, between 2012 to 2014, between 2015 and 2016, and between 2017 and 2021.²⁰ Dr Byrne also served as the deputy mayor between 2014 and 2015.²¹
- 2.11 Dr Byrne's evidence to the committee centred on the process by which the Liberal Party ticket for The Hills Shire Council was determined ahead of the 2021 local government election. She also discussed the demographics and future growth of the Hills region, including development activity in the area.
- 2.12 Regarding the Liberal Party ticket for the local government election, Dr Byrne told the committee that nominations for preselection opened around May 2021.²² She reported that she submitted a nomination, and then heard 'silence'.²³ Subsequently, she became aware that there would not be a preselection, and that instead the Liberal Party candidates would be determined by the Party State Executive.²⁴ She 'got a feeling' that she would not be on the ticket, which was eventually confirmed by an email from the Liberal Party State Director.²⁵
- 2.13 Dr Byrne was asked whether she accepted a reason, apparently given by the Liberal Party at the time, that a preselection could not occur for the Hills Shire Council because there was not enough time.²⁶ Dr Byrne responded 'I don't think that's true at all. I think that's probably an

¹⁷ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, pp 5, 10.

¹⁸ Tabled document, text message, tabled by Mr Frits Maré, 15 February 2023.

¹⁹ Evidence, Mr Maré, 15 February 2023, p 10.

²⁰ Evidence, Dr Michelle Byrne, Former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council, 16 February 2023, p 2.

²¹ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former, 16 February 2023, p 2.

²² Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 6.

²³ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, p 6.

²⁴ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, p 6.

²⁵ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, p 6.

²⁶ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, pp 7-8.

excuse'.²⁷ She remarked that nominations for a neighbouring council, Hornsby Shire Council, opened on the same day, saying 'Hills and Hornsby opened the same day, shut the same time. Hornsby got their preselection. The Hills didn't, so I don't believe that argument'.²⁸

2.14 Dr Byrne expressed the view that instead, 'untoward developer pressure' may have contributed to the decisions not to hold a preselection and not to include her in the final Liberal Party ticket.²⁹ While emphasising that she did not 'have any evidence of money changing hands or anything like that,' she remarked that her 'gut feeling' was that the allegations in the speech by Ray Williams MP were right, saying there is 'no other explanation or conclusion I can draw'.³⁰

2.15 Dr Byrne said that she was well known as being less supportive of development in the Hills region, and that over the last two years of her mayoralty, 'I started to feel pressure that if I didn't change my stance on development, if I didn't become more "yeah, that's okay" and less vocal that at some point it was going cost me'.³¹

2.16 In questioning from the committee, Dr Byrne said that ultimately, her stance on development was likely why she was not included on the ticket:

The Hon. John Graham: Clearly, you were concerned that the delay in the preselection was really about changing the result in the preselection.

Michelle Byrne: Absolutely.

The Hon. John Graham: There's no doubt in your mind about that.

Michelle Byrne: No doubt.

The Hon. John Graham: Are you concerned that one of the motives for those delays—one of the motives for changing the team—was really about development in The Hills Shire Council?

Michelle Byrne: Yes. Get the pain-in-the-butt mayor out of the way, who is perceived as anti-development, and have a better chance of getting things through without me in the way, jacking up and fighting against it.³²

2.17 Dr Byrne, however, reiterated on a number of occasions she had no evidence of such allegations including stating; 'I don't have any evidence. I don't want to speculate that certain people did X, Y and Z without any evidence'.³³

²⁷ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, p 8.

²⁸ Evidence, Dr Byrne, Former Mayor, 16 February 2023, p 8.

²⁹ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 8.

³⁰ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 7.

³¹ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 5.

³² Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 10.

³³ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 7.

- 2.18** Dr Byrne said one of the people who made her feel she was seen as too anti-development was Ms Robyn Preston MP, formerly a Hills Shire Councillor, now the Member for Hawkesbury. Dr Byrne said Ms Preston told her that: 'my problem is that I am too anti-development'.³⁴
- 2.19** Asked about her knowledge of mass recruitment into the Liberal Party in the Hills district, Dr Byrne noted that she had heard of 'the Reformers' trying to do mass recruitment 'to gain control of the area', adding that members joining and leaving a party is not necessarily unusual.³⁵ Asked about Christian Ellis's involvement with the Reformers, she said that 'everyone knew that...he [Christian Ellis] was recruiting through the Reformers and it was not a secret.' She continued:
- Everyone knows about Beckington, his company, and Toplace was a client at one point. So of course you think there's something suspicious going on there. Why wouldn't you?³⁶
- 2.20** Dr Byrne noted she was not invited to meetings of the Reformers, and had no direct knowledge of their recruitment practices. She said: 'I have no evidence other than most people think there was something going on there.'³⁷

Mr Alan Haselden, Former Councillor, The Hills Shire Council

- 2.21** Mr Alan Haselden gave evidence to the committee on Thursday 23 February. Mr Haselden was a Councillor on the Hills Shire Council for nine years, between 2012 and 2021.³⁸ He also served as deputy mayor between 2018 and 2019.³⁹
- 2.22** As with Dr Byrne, Mr Haselden's evidence to the committee centred on the process by which the Liberal Party ticket for The Hills Shire Council was determined ahead of the 2021 local government election. He also discussed development in the Hills region, including proposals by Toplace he considered while serving on the Council.
- 2.23** Mr Haselden told the committee that prior to the 2021 local government election, he expected 'that there would be a normal preselection process' for the Liberal Party ticket for The Hills Shire Council and nominated accordingly.⁴⁰
- 2.24** However, he reported that preparations for the preselection 'just dragged' and 'there was little communication'.⁴¹ 'Late in the day', he was told via email that there 'was insufficient time for a normal preselection process' and that the Liberal Party State Executive 'had endorsed a list of candidates without going through preselection'.⁴² Mr Haselden said that of the ten existing

³⁴ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 5.

³⁵ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 9.

³⁶ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 9.

³⁷ Evidence, Dr Byrne, 16 February 2023, p 10.

³⁸ Evidence, Mr Alan Haselden, Former Councillor, The Hills Shire Council, 23 February 2023, p 2.

³⁹ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 3.

⁴⁰ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, pp 3, 6.

⁴¹ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 3.

⁴² Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 3.

Liberal Party Councillors on The Hills Shire Council, all but a 'couple' were excluded from the ticket of endorsed candidates for the 2021 election.⁴³

- 2.25** Mr Haselden said that he was never given an explanation to his satisfaction about why this occurred.⁴⁴ However, he remarked it was not a shock because there had been 'a subtle build-up to the ultimate email' and 'dawning realisation that there was going to be a change in the candidates'.⁴⁵ When questioned why he came to this view, Mr Haselden said:

The sentiment that I held was that the process was being delayed because there were discussions within the party organisation that were difficult to resolve and, as a result of that, the sand in the hourglass just slipped away. I could see this coming ... It was clear to me that there were factional arrangements within the party that were finding it difficult to agree on a group of candidates.⁴⁶

- 2.26** When asked if he considered councillors' attitudes to development as being one of the reasons why a preselection did not occur, Mr Haselden responded that 'I didn't feel that at the time ... the issue of development-pro or anti-development didn't cross my mind'.⁴⁷ He reiterated that he considered the 'underlying issues' to be factional disputes within the Liberal Party.⁴⁸

- 2.27** Mr Haselden was also questioned about a meeting he had with Mr Jean Nassif, Managing Director of Toplace, while serving as deputy mayor. In the meeting, Toplace presented plans for a development near Cherrybrook metro.⁴⁹ Mr Haselden told the committee that prior to the meeting he was aware that Toplace had been buying land along Castle Hill Road, however, 'when I saw these drawings ... the magnitude of what was proposed staggered me'.⁵⁰ Mr Haselden remarked that they were 'colossal structures' and that he was 'stunned at the enormity of what I was seeing'.⁵¹

- 2.28** However, when asked how he thought Council would manage this proposal, Mr Haselden advised that he was confident that 'whatever any developer was going to put around the Cherrybrook metro station within The Hills Shire would be subject to the same sorts of appraisal, scrutiny, criticism and observation that all similar developments would have'.⁵²

Preselection matters

- 2.29** The committee received evidence that the selection of candidates for the Hills Shire Council exhibited a number of irregularities:

⁴³ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, pp 3–4.

⁴⁴ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 4.

⁴⁵ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 4.

⁴⁶ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, pp 4–5.

⁴⁷ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 8.

⁴⁸ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 8.

⁴⁹ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 11.

⁵⁰ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 11.

⁵¹ Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 11.

⁵² Evidence, Mr Haselden, 23 February 2023, p 11.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I'm looking at the electronic ballot form, which was issued on 15 October 2021.

...

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: One of the things that this indicates is that it should be noted that—I'll quote from the document: "It should also be noted that other candidates listed above, who did not originally nominate for these positions, will need to confirm in writing with the State Director, that they are happy for their nominations to be amended to include the ward and/or position listed above."

Are you aware that some of these candidates who were selected, including in place of you, had not even nominated?

ALAN HASELDEN: No.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: That's the first you've heard that—

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes. That's the first I've heard of that.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: —as seven councillors were swept aside, some of the councillors who replaced you hadn't nominated for The Hills Shire Council.

ALAN HASELDEN: That's news to me.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: This was the position put in the electronic ballot to those who voted to replace you. Up till now, no-one has put that to you.

ALAN HASELDEN: I'm bewildered.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Thank you.

ALAN HASELDEN: I would have just assumed that everybody went through a normal nomination process that I went through.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Were you aware that the candidates who replaced you had not been vetted by the party?

ALAN HASELDEN: No. Again, that's news to me today. No, I didn't know that. I mean, we were advised that our nominations would be scrutinised by an independent organisation. I think, from memory, it may have even been an American domiciled organisation that would vet the veracity of our nominations.

...

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: But, in summary, you lived here.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: You nominated. You were vetted.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: But other candidates didn't live there, didn't nominate, weren't vetted, but they were selected.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

- 2.30** In relation to this, broadcaster Ray Hadley received text messages that go to the evidence of Mr Haselden (see Appendix 11).

Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council

- 2.31** Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council gave evidence on 15 February 2023.⁵³ Mr Edgar is an experienced professional in local government, and spoke on behalf of the council and its staff.
- 2.32** Mr Edgar stressed the skill and professionalism of Council's planning staff, and robust processes for supporting and dealing with planning applications.⁵⁴ He noted that the New South Wales Audit Office included The Hills Shire Council in a performance audit of three councils in 2022 and its report found that the council has established processes to support compliant and effective assessment and determination of development applications.⁵⁵
- 2.33** Mr Edgar provided some detail on the limits of councils' role in determining planning proposals, noting powers of the Minister and Department of Planning and local planning panels. He pointed out that, while councillors have some powers, they are not the only decision-maker.⁵⁶
- 2.34** Mr Edgar said he did not have any direct knowledge of the allegations raised in Parliament by Mr Ray Williams.⁵⁷
- 2.35** With regard to the change-over of Liberal party councillors in 2021, Mr Edgar noted that as a council general manager he works with councillors delivered through the election process, and has no involvement in preselection of candidates for any party.⁵⁸ While noting he knew nothing more than was in the media for reasons about the change-over of councillors, Mr Edgar described it as 'extraordinary'. Nevertheless, in unusual circumstances, he stressed the role of the council was to keep doing their job in managing the day to day operations of council.⁵⁹
- 2.36** Mr Edgar was able to provide some context about the acquisition of land in Castle Hill by Mr Nassif's company Toplace, as referred to by Mr Williams. He noted:
- The announcement of the Metro in 2011, and the NSW Government 'corridor strategy' in 2013 triggered a lot of land property speculation around development precincts near metro stations, of which Cherrybrook was one.

⁵³ Evidence, Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, 15 February 2023, pp 12-.

⁵⁴ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 12.

⁵⁵ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 12.

⁵⁶ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, pp 12-13.

⁵⁷ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 14.

⁵⁸ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 14.

⁵⁹ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 16, p 17.

- Council received a planning proposal for the Cherrybrook precinct in 2015 by a consultant firm Mecone, believed to be working on behalf of Toplace.
- At that point the landowners were the original landowners, and it wasn't until later that the ownership started to change.
- The planning proposal was different to the corridor strategy. Where the corridor strategy proposed a three to six-storey height limit, the Toplace proposal had elements that were 15 to 20 storeys.
- This planning proposal was stopped not only by the council but also by the planning panel in 2019.⁶⁰

2.37 A number of submissions to this inquiry raised issues about the former IBM Business Park site at 55 Coonara Avenue, West Pennant Hills. Mr Edgar answered questions about the rezoning and planning proposal for that site. His evidence noted:

- The planning proposal was given Gateway approval from council and government to proceed to exhibition after it went through several re-iterations.
- There was strong community opposition, with over 4,000 community submissions received.
- When it went to Council for vote, the council narrowly voted not to proceed to finalisation of the proposal.
- The NSW Government listed the proposal for fast-tracking as part of a measure to reboot the economy post-COVID. Council was not the decision-maker, but 'informed of the result'.
- Local councillors have a limited role in the development approval process.⁶¹

2.38 Mr Edgar was also asked about the whereabouts of Councillor Virginia Ellis, one of the new Liberal councillors installed in 2021, and a person the committee was interested in questioning. Information provided by Mr Edgar and other council staff is that:

- Councillor Ellis was present at a council meeting on 7 February, but did not attend the subsequent meeting on 21 February 2023.⁶² No apology was received or leave of absence granted for the 21 February meeting.⁶³
- The last contact council staff had from Councillor Ellis was on 10 February 2023, which was a response to an email sent to all councillors.⁶⁴
- Councillor Ellis holds a council phone, iPad and laptop. The email addresses and phone numbers held by council for Councillor Ellis, as provided on the Council website, are the same as those used by the committee to contact her.

⁶⁰ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, pp14- 17.

⁶¹ Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, pp 17-18.

⁶² Evidence, Mr Edgar, 15 February 2023, p 20; Correspondence from Mr David Reynolds, Acting General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 22 February 2023.

⁶³ Correspondence from Mr David Reynolds, Acting General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 22 February 2023.

⁶⁴ Answers to questions on notice, Mr Edgar, received 17 February 2023, p 1.

- Councillor Ellis lives in the Hills Shire, but has requested her address not be made public. Council papers delivered in hard copy are sealed in a plastic bag and placed 'over a gate' and not delivered to the front door.⁶⁵

Key witnesses who did not assist the inquiry

2.39 A number of key witnesses did not assist the committee with its inquiry, as this section will outline.

Christian Ellis

2.40 It appears that Christian Ellis is a central figure in, and a founder of, the group 'The Reformers'. The committee has had no correspondence from Mr Ellis throughout this inquiry, despite extensive efforts to reach him. Christian Ellis's evidence would be central to an account of the known meetings that have occurred in this matter.

2.41 The information obtained in the process of attempting to serve a summons on Christian Ellis suggest that he has taken strong measures to avoid being served.

2.42 Christian Ellis was first asked to make a submission to the inquiry on 14 December 2022.

2.43 The following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Christian Ellis:

- 14 December 2022, emailed invitation to make submission
- 14 December 2022, message left on mobile phone
- 14 December 2022, verbal contact by phone confirming email address was correct
- 30 January 2023, email and verbal contact by phone in which Mr Ellis said he would get back to the secretariat
- 3 February 2023, letter from Chair via email
- 6 February 2023, phone call, left message
- 8 February 2023, notification of summons sent via email. Phone call, left message requesting response. No response received.
- 10 February 2023, two attempts to serve a summons at a residential address in regional New South Wales
- 13 February 2023, one attempt to serve a summons at a Sydney residence.
- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
- 19 February 2023, process server attempts to serve at residential addresses
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential addresses
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address

⁶⁵ Answers to questions on notice, Mr Edgar, received 17 February 2023, p 1; Correspondence from Mr David Reynolds, Acting General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 22 February 2023.

- 25 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
- 26 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

Virginia Ellis

- 2.44** The committee has had no correspondence from Councillor Ellis throughout this inquiry, despite extensive efforts to reach her.
- 2.45** Councillor Ellis is a public official in the Hills Shire Council and also a full-time employee as an electorate officer for the member for Hawkesbury, Ms Robyn Preston MP.
- 2.46** Councillor Ellis did not attend the council meeting on 21 February 2023.
- 2.47** Council staff reported they had not had contact or responses from Councillor Ellis since 10 February 2023.
- 2.48** Councillor Ellis was first asked to make a submission to the inquiry on 13 December 2022.
- 2.49** Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Councillor Ellis:
- 13 December 2022, emailed invitation to make submission to council address.
 - 30 January 2023, email to council address.
 - 1 February 2023, phone call to council mobile, message left.
 - 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
 - 6 February 2023, phone call, left message.
 - 7 February 2023, email invitation re-sent to Clr Ellis's NSW Parliament address (delivery receipt received but no response). 7 February, Clr Ellis present at ordinary Council meeting.
 - 8 February 2023, email summons sent to council and parliament addresses. Phone call to council mobile, left message requests a response.
 - 10 February 2023, "read receipt" from email sent to council address received.
 - 10 February 2023, 2 service attempts at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
 - 13 February 2023, 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
 - 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at place of work
 - 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
 - 17 February 2023, letter from chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP, Member for Hawkesbury requesting assistance as Clr Ellis's employer.
 - 19 February 2023, process server attempts to serve at residential addresses.
 - 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

- 21 February 2023, attempt to serve at Hills Shire Council ordinary meeting, Clr Ellis was not in attendance (no apology received, as per Council minutes of meeting)
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

Charles Perrottet

- 2.50** The committee received a letter from Charles Perrottet indicating that he no longer lived in New South Wales and that he was not required to give evidence. The committee reiterated its request but Mr Perrottet was not willing to assist.
- 2.51** Charles Perrottet has played a central role in the preselection matters canvassed in this inquiry due to his role as the Deputy Chair of the Local Government Oversight Committee, alongside Chair Peter Poulos.
- 2.52** Charles Perrottet's evidence would be central to an account of a known meeting that has occurred in this matter.
- 2.53** Charles Perrottet was first called to give evidence to the inquiry on 30 January 2023.
- 2.54** Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Charles Perrottet:
- 30 January 2023, verbal contact with receptionist at place of work, request for call back.
 - 30 January 2023, email invitation sent.
 - 1 February 2023, mobile called, message left.
 - 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
 - 6 February 2023, phone call, left message.
 - 8 February 2023, email notification of summons ('out of office' automatic reply received)
 - 8 February 2023, phone called, message left.
 - 10 February 2023, 1 service attempt at residential address in Sydney
 - 15 February 2023, Invitation from chair sent by email and express post to Victorian address.
 - 16 February 2023, mobile called, message left.

Jean-Claude Perrottet

- 2.55** Attempts to serve a summons at Jean-Claude Perrottet's work led to indications that he had taken 'long leave'.
- 2.56** Jean-Claude Perrottet's evidence would be central to an account of a known meeting that has occurred in this matter.
- 2.57** The committee received an unsigned and hand delivered letter from Jean-Claude Perrottet on 28 February 2023 indicating that he was overseas and could not assist the inquiry.

2.58 Jean-Claude Perrottet was first called to give evidence to the inquiry on 30 January 2023.

2.59 Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Jean-Claude Perrottet:

- 30 January 2023, verbal contact via phone at place of work during which a personal email address was supplied.
- 30 January 2023, email invitation sent.
- 1 February 2023, mobile called, message left.
- 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
- 6 February 2023, phone call, message left.
- 8 February 2023, notification of summons sent via email.
- 8 February 2023, phone called, message left.
- 10 February 2023, 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
- 13 February 2023, 1 service attempt at residential address.
- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 17 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at work address.
- 19 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 20 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at work address.
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 23 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

Committee comment

2.60 The committee sincerely thanks those witnesses who shed some light on the issues under investigation. All but one came at the committee's second invitation to answer questions put to them based on their knowledge and perspective. None of them sought to engage in political stone-throwing.

2.61 The committee has no reason to doubt the veracity of Mr Frits Maré's core evidence that Jean-Claude Perrottet and Christian Ellis in 2019 approached him seeking \$50,000 to conduct a branch-stacking operation to unseat the Federal Member for Mitchell, a seat which covers much of the Hills district. While Mr Maré was unable to provide detail on the intended use and mechanism for transferring the funds because he was 'not interested' in supporting the operation, important questions are raised that only Jean-Claude Perrottet and Christian Ellis can answer.

2.62 We note Mr Frits Maré was a reluctant witness to the inquiry, putting on record that he saw it as a 'fishing expedition'. Nevertheless, he answered questions put to him in a straightforward

way. We stress there is no suggestion that Mr Maré actually contributed money to a branch stacking operation, or has been otherwise involved in any of the matters under investigation in this inquiry. The committee found him a credible witness.

- 2.63** Dr Byrne's evidence provided a key insight into the preparation of the Liberal Party ticket for the 2021 election of The Hills Shire Council. The dumping of several experienced councillors, including Dr Byrne, justifiably raised questions. The committee acknowledges Dr Byrne's view that the reason given for not holding a preselection – that there was insufficient time – was merely an excuse.
- 2.64** Dr Byrne was careful to emphasise that she had no concrete evidence of property developers playing a part in the development of the Liberal Party ticket. However, the committee found her conclusion that the allegations by Ray Williams MP were likely to be true to be compelling. Dr Byrne was a credible and frank witness and her assessment of the reasons behind the decision to replace the Liberal Party Councillors, as someone who experienced these events first-hand, should be given significant weight.
- 2.65** Mr Haselden's evidence provided further detail on the events leading up to the 2021 election of The Hills Shire Council. The fact that an experienced councillor was removed from the Liberal Party ticket, with no explanation given to him, casts further questions about the preselection process. In the committee's view, Mr Haselden's evidence clearly demonstrated that there were significant factional disputes undermining the proper processes of the Liberal Party at the time.
- 2.66** The committee found evidence that some of the successful candidates who were imposed in The Hills Shire Council had not nominated for the relevant position or ward, and that some candidates were not vetted.
- 2.67** The committee appreciates the cooperation of Mr Michael Edgar and other staff at The Hills Shire Council with its inquiry. We stress that none of the allegations raised in this inquiry reflect on the professionalism and integrity of council staff, who are required to work with whichever councillors are elected.
- 2.68** The issues under investigation in this inquiry are extremely serious. It is alleged that senior members of a political party colluded with a developer to replace elected members of a local council with a new set of councillors who would be more favourable to that developer's interests. This is a serious allegation of corruption that needs to be examined.
- 2.69** In order to investigate the matter, the committee would need to question Jean Nassif, Christian Ellis and Charles Perrottet. None of these men came forward to give evidence, despite multiple invitations and attempts to reach them.
- 2.70** The evidence that emerged in this inquiry of senior Liberals soliciting funds for branch stacking operations in The Hills area raises further questions. There is something deeply troubling when political operatives are seeking large amounts of cash behind the scenes to recruit new party members for the purpose of unseating an elected factional rival. It is even more disturbing when those involved are linked to the allegations of collusion with developer interests. This cannot be dismissed as an internal party matter.

- 2.71** To properly test the evidence, the committee would need to question Christian Ellis, Jean-Claude Perrottet, and potentially a range of other witnesses linked to the 'Reformers' group in the NSW Liberal Party.
- 2.72** Many of these men have sought to deflect attention from the seriousness of the allegations by questioning the integrity of this inquiry. They have actively sought to avoid accountability for their actions by not coming forward to give evidence. Their unwillingness to cooperate with this inquiry shows an astonishing disregard for the transparency and accountability that are essential for a functioning democracy.
- 2.73** The committee also sought the assistance of Jeremy Greenwood, Dylan Whitelaw and Robert Assaf, who were alleged to be part of the 'NSW Reformers' group within the Liberal Party. These three individuals would have likely had information relevant to the alleged activities of the NSW Reformers, but all could not be brought before this committee for a hearing due to a variety of reasons. While the committee acknowledges that these individuals refute all claims of their involvement in these matters, it is disappointed they did not cooperate to a greater extent and attend a hearing to be questioned more openly.
- 2.74** Councillor Virginia Ellis, who appears to have been 'missing in action' since receiving notice that she had been summoned to give evidence to this inquiry, is also key, given arguments she was parachuted as a Liberal candidate on to the Hills Shire Council as a result of alleged branch stacking. Councillor Ellis' deliberate efforts to evade the committee, which went so far as skipping a Council meeting to avoid being seen in public, raise serious questions about her role as a member of local government and parliamentary employee. We would have expected her to demonstrate greater respect for the role of the Legislative Council as a House of review.
- 2.75** Noting that necessary information was not forthcoming, and that the committee was unable to question key witnesses during this inquiry, the committee is recommending that a further inquiry be conducted into these issues in the next Parliament.

Recommendation 1

That the Legislative Council establish a new inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region in the 58th Parliament, referring all evidence from this inquiry to the relevant committee.

Finding 1

That, based on evidence to the committee, a meeting took place at which Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet asked a businessman to contribute \$50,000 to an operation to unseat Alex Hawke, federal member for Mitchell.

Recommendation 2

That any future inquiry should call Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet to give evidence on the matters referred to in Finding 1.

Finding 2

That the finding of this committee about a request for \$50,000, combined with the behaviour of witnesses called to this inquiry, add weight to the allegations by Government MP Ray Williams in the parliament that 'Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were paid significant funds in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications'.

Recommendation 3

That any future inquiry should call Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif to give evidence on the matters referred to in Finding 2.

- 2.76** Taking into account the evidence of Mr Maré, and the fact that the committee is unclear to what extent the matters before it have already been investigated by the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the committee is also recommending that the influence of property developers and others in legal, political and democratic processes in The Hills Shire region be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, along with this report and committee transcripts of evidence.
-

Recommendation 4

That Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment refer the influence of property developers and others in legal, political and democratic processes in The Hills Shire region to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, along with this report and committee transcripts of evidence.

- 2.77** As noted earlier, to explore the serious allegations involved in this inquiry, the committee invited several key witnesses to give evidence, including Councillor Virginia Ellis, Christian Ellis, Jean-Claude Perrottet, Jean Nassif and Charles Perrottet. While two of these witnesses could not be pursued, due to being outside of New South Wales, three of the witnesses – Councillor Virginia Ellis, Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet– all took steps to deliberately avoid attempts by both parliamentary staff and professional process servers to serve a summons. These witnesses showed a blatant disregard for parliamentary processes.
-

- 2.78** The committee also does not accept that Jean-Claude Perrottet was not aware of this inquiry or the attempts the committee made to contact or summons him, despite the claims he made in his correspondence to the committee, received at the secretariat's office two days before tabling. We note that this correspondence was in hard copy, and that Mr Perrottet must have been in contact with another potential witness to even know the office address. Indeed, it is clear to the committee that many witnesses involved in this inquiry – including Mr Perrottet - were taking active steps to frustrate the committee's processes and avoid scrutiny. If they did not have anything to hide, and were rejecting any allegations of impropriety, one must question why they would just not come forward and answer the committee's questions.
-

Finding 3

That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to evade service: Christian Ellis, Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet.

Finding 4

That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry, noting they were out of the jurisdiction: Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif.

Finding 5

That the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry: Jeff Egan, Jeremy Greenwood and Dylan Whitelaw.

- 2.79** Under the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, a summons is required to be personally served on a witness. Unlike other legal proceedings, there is no provision for other means of service, such as by electronic means or via court-ordered substituted service. Indeed, the person being served must be sighted at the time of service. This strict requirement – which usually does not present a problem as most witnesses co-operate – meant that despite repeated attempts the summonses could not be served on these key witnesses. The Act fails to provide any solution to circumstances where a witness deliberately avoids service. It is old legislation – first enacted in 1881 - and its update in 1901 did not make any changes to the provisions relating to summoning and the attendance of witnesses.⁶⁶
- 2.80** The committee is also aware of other deficiencies in the operation and interpretation of the Act,⁶⁷ and believe the legislation would benefit from a thorough review and amendment. To that end, the committee recommends that in the 58th Parliament, the House refer an inquiry to

⁶⁶ Frappell, S and Blunt, D (eds), *New South Wales Legislative Council Practice*, Second Edition (2021) p 79.

⁶⁷ Duffy, B and Ohnesorge, S (2016) *Out of Step? The New South Wales Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, Public Law Review, https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/articles/Documents/Out%20of%20Step_NSW%20Parliamentary%20Evidence%20Act%201901.pdf

the Privileges Committee into the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, with a view to identifying amendments to ensure it is fit for purpose and modernised, particularly with respect to the summoning of witnesses. We also recommend that the House send a message to the Legislative Assembly to request a similar inquiry be referred to the Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Committee.

- 2.81** In this regard, we note Standing Order 226 which allows a committee of the House to join a committee of the Legislative Assembly to take evidence, deliberate and make joint reports on matters of mutual concern.

Recommendation 5

That, at the beginning of the 58th Parliament, the NSW Legislative Council:

- refer an inquiry into the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* to the Privileges Committee, with a view to identifying amendments to ensure it is fit for purpose and modernised, including in relation to the summoning of witnesses; and
 - send a message to the NSW Legislative Assembly requesting that that House refer the same inquiry to its Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.
-

- 2.82** As to our decision to use external professional process servers in this matter, the committee notes that this would appear to be the first time the Legislative Council has taken this extraordinary step. Usually, staff from the Black Rod's Office or another senior officer of the Department, take on the role of serving a summons on a witness. Most witnesses tend to cooperate, and indeed some even request a summons, believing this offers some greater form of protection in terms of parliamentary privilege. Never has a committee been faced with such serious, deliberate and co-ordinated attempts to evade service.

- 2.83** These serious, deliberate and coordinated attempts raise concerns about the obstructing or impeding of the work of the committee in its inquiry. This matter deserves further examination. The committee was not able to answer the question – who was responsible for co-ordinating such activity?

Finding 6

That a New South Wales parliamentary committee has never been faced with such serious, deliberate and co-ordinated attempts by witnesses to evade service of a summons.

- 2.84** In the committee's view, the use of professional process servers was entirely appropriate in this context. Parliamentary staff tried to serve the documents but were unsuccessful after a number of attempts. Witnesses were deliberately not co-operating with the inquiry and avoiding service, and it simply became impracticable to attempt service on witnesses on multiple occasions and in regional areas.

- 2.85** Private process servers routinely deal with the service of legal documents. They can provide cheques for conduct money as needed, and offer an efficient, professional and cost effective service. Process servers – being commercial agents – are also licensed and regulated by the

Office of Fair Trading. They can provide comprehensive reports on attempts made to serve documents, and an affidavit of service as required.

- 2.86** The committee agrees that there is merit in using private process servers in the future, particularly in circumstances where witnesses are not co-operating and/or there are other resource, time or practical constraints. In this regard, we note that the core role of secretariat staff is to provide administrative support to committees, not service processes. Using trained process servers, who are licensed in their field and deal with serving documents day in and day out, seems entirely reasonable in this context. Using the Sheriff's Office to serve documents can also be an option – although in this instance was not feasible due to time pressures and other practicalities. The committee therefore makes the following recommendation.
-

Recommendation 6

That Legislative Council committees consider the use of professional process servers to serve a summons on a witness in extraordinary circumstances where the witness has demonstrated that they are not co-operating with the committee, and that this matter be considered by any future inquiry by the Privileges Committee into the operation of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* (as referred to in Recommendation 5).

- 2.87** The committee also recommends that the Legislative Council refer the matter of anonymously authored documents being tabled under parliamentary privilege to the Privileges Committee for inquiry and report.
-

Recommendation 7

That the NSW Legislative Council refer the matter of anonymously authored documents being tabled under parliamentary privilege to the Privileges Committee for inquiry and report.

- 2.88** Given the evidence the committee has received, the Minister for Local Government should undertake an investigation into the Hills Shire Council and consider what steps should be taken, including whether the Council should be put into administration.
-

Recommendation 8

That the Minister for Local Government undertake an investigation into The Hills Shire Council and consider what steps should be taken, including whether the Council should be put into administration.

- 2.89** The committee thanks the parliamentary committee staff for their efforts during this inquiry. The unprecedented procedural issues that were raised by the inquiry were dealt with at all times in a professional and diligent manner.
-

Appendix 1 Submissions

No.	Author
1	Name suppressed
2	Confidential
3	West Pennant Hills Valley Progress Association
5	Name suppressed
6	Name suppressed
7	Name suppressed
8	Confidential
9	Name suppressed
10	Name suppressed
11	Name suppressed
12	Name suppressed
13	Confidential
13a	Confidential

Appendix 2 Witnesses at hearings

Date	Name	Position and Organisation
Wednesday 15 February 2023 Dixson Room State Library of NSW, Sydney	Mr Frits Maré	Individual
	Mr Michael Edgar	General Manager, The Hills Shire Council
Thursday 16 February 2023 Dixson Room State Library of NSW, Sydney	Dr Michelle Byrne	Former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council
Thursday 23 February 2023 S1/S2, UNSW CBD Campus Sydney	Mr Alan Haselden	Former Councillor, The Hills Shire Council
Thursday 2 March 2023 Gallery Room State Library of NSW, Sydney	Ms Shirlee Burge	Private individual

Appendix 3 Minutes

Minutes no. 90

Thursday 8 December 2022

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Webex, Parliament House, Sydney, at 2.00 pm

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Pearson, *Deputy Chair*

Mr Amato (participating for the purposes of the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023, then substituting for Mr Mallard for the duration of the inquiry into Hills Shire Council)

Mr Barrett

Ms Jackson

Mrs MacDonald

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Mallard (for the purposes of the inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023)

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes nos. 82, 83, 84 and 89 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 19 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 19 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, to Chair clarifying evidence given in a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 21 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 25 August 2022
- 23 September 2022 – Letter from the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, to Budget Estimates secretariat returning post hearing responses for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022
- 23 September 2022 – Correspondence from Mr Simon Newport, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, to Budget Estimates secretariat clarifying evidence given in a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022.
- 2 December 2022 – Letter from Hon Penny Sharpe MLC, Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Hon Sue Higginson MLC and Hon Mark Pearson MLC, requesting a meeting of Portfolio Committee 7 – Planning and Environment to consider a proposed self-reference into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region
- 6 December 2022 – Email from the Office of the Government Whip advising that the Hon Lou Amato MLC will substitute for the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC for the duration of the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council, should it proceed.

Sent:

- 29 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 23 August 2022
- 31 August 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 25 August 2022
- 2 September 2022 – Email from Budget Estimates secretariat to the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, issuing uncorrected transcript, questions on notice, and supplementary questions for a Budget Estimates 2022-2023 hearing held on 29 August 2022.

5. Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2022-2023 – initial hearings**5.1 Clarification of evidence**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That the committee, as previously agreed via email, authorise the publication of the following items of correspondence, and the insertion of footnotes in the relevant Budget Estimates transcripts, noting receipt of correspondence clarifying the evidence given and providing a hyperlink to the published correspondence:

- correspondence from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, received 19 September 2022, clarifying evidence given at the Budget Estimates Environment and Heritage hearing held on 23 August 2022
- correspondence from Mr Simon Newport, Acting Chief Executive, NSW Land and Housing Corporation, received 23 September 2022, clarifying evidence given at the Budget Estimates Planning, Homes hearing held on 29 August 2022.

5.2 Answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions

The committee noted the following answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions were published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution establishing the inquiry:

- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon James Griffin MP, Minister for Environment and Heritage, received 19 September 2022
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP, Minister for Local Government, received 21 September 2022
- answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions from the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, Minister for Planning, and Minister for Homes, received 23 September 2022.

5.3 Consideration of Chair's draft report

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

The draft report be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

The transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;

Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions, and correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;

The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;

That the report be tabled on 16 December 2022.

6. Consideration of terms of reference

The Chair tabled a letter proposing the following self-reference:

That Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment inquire into and report on matters in regards to the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region in particular:

- (a) any matters relating to integrity, processes of Council, employees and elected officials of Council,
- (b) the matters relating to The Hills Shire Council raised by the Member for Castle Hill in a speech to the Parliament on 23 June 2022,
- (c) the role and influence of developers and their interactions with councillors and members of parliament in the region, and
- (d) any other related matter.

Ms Sharpe moved: That the committee adopt the terms of reference.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson, Mr Pearson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Amato, Mr Barrett, Mrs MacDonald.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

7. Conduct of the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

7.1 Proposed timeline

Ms Sharpe moved: That the committee adopt the following timeline for the administration of the inquiry:

- Sunday 22 January 2023 – Call for submissions closes
- Monday 30 January 2023 – Meeting (via Webex) to determine witnesses
- Wednesday 15 February 2023 – Public hearing
- Thursday 16 February 2023 – Reserve public hearing day
- Tuesday 28 February 2023 – Report deliberative
- Thursday 2 March 2023 – Report tabled.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson, Mr Pearson, Mr Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Amato, Mr Barrett, Mrs MacDonald.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

7.2 Declarations of interest

Noting the inclusion of the Liberal Party State Executive on the proposed stakeholder list, Mrs MacDonald declared a conflict of interest, having been a member of the State Executive until 30 June 2022, which includes the period referred to by the Member for Castle Hill, Mr Ray Williams MP in Parliament on 23 June 2022.

Mr Amato declared that he has a prior association with a number of individuals listed on the proposed stakeholder list.

7.3 Stakeholder list

The Chair noted the proposed list of stakeholders previously circulated to members.

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs Sharpe: That the following list of stakeholders be invited to make a submission to the inquiry:

- Mr Ray Williams MP, Member for Castle Hill

Individuals/bodies referred to in Mr Williams' speech to Parliament of 23 June

- Dr Michelle Byrne, former Mayor, the Hills Shire Council
- The Liberal Party State Executive

- Mr Jean Nassif, Managing Director, founder and owner, Toplace Group
- Mr Christian Ellis
- The Hills Shire Council
- The former Hills Shire Councillor, now a member of NSW Parliament
- The councillors replaced at the 2021 local government election
- Cr Virginia Ellis, Councillor, The Hills Shire
- Department of Planning and Environment

Other relevant organisations

- Office of Local Government NSW
- Local Government NSW
- Office of the NSW Building Commissioner

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That members send any additional stakeholders to the secretariat within 2 days, and that the committee agree to these by email, unless a meeting of the committee is required to resolve any disagreement.

7.4 Approach to submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Pearson: That, to enable significant efficiencies for members and the secretariat while maintaining the integrity of how submissions are treated, in the event that 200 or more individual submissions are received, the committee may adopt the following approach to processing short submissions:

- All submissions from individuals 250 words or less in length will:
 - have an individual submission number, and be published with the author's name or as name suppressed, or kept confidential, according to the author's request
 - be reviewed by the secretariat for adverse mention and sensitive/identifying information, in accordance with practice
 - be channelled into one single document to be published on the inquiry website.
- All other submissions will be processed and published as normal.

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.21 pm, *sine die*.

Allison Stowe and Peta Leemen

Committee Clerks

Minutes no. 91

30 January 2023

Portfolio Committee no 7 – Planning and Environment

Via videoconference, 10 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, Chair

Mr Amato (*substituting for Mr Mallard for the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council*)

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (*participating member for the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council*)

Ms Jackson – from 10.04 am

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mrs MacDonald (*apology for the duration of the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council*)

Mr Pearson

3. Participating member

The committee noted that Mr Graham will be a participating member for the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council and in accordance with SO 218 will be provided with all inquiry documents.

4. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Amato: That draft minutes no. 90 be confirmed.

5. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 19 December 2022 – email from Mr William Lieu, A/Manager, Strategy and Parliamentary Services, Department of Planning and Environment, to the secretariat advising that DPE will not be making a submission to the inquiry
- 19 January 2023 – email from _____, Protecting Your Suburban Environment, to the secretariat asking for an extension of time to lodge a submission and indicating willingness to give verbal evidence to the inquiry
- 23 January 2023 – email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC, advising that the Hon John Graham MLC will be a participating member for the duration of the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council
- 26 January 2023 – email from the author of Submission 13 to the Chair regarding the publication of their submission, requesting their identity be kept confidential, but indicating willingness to give evidence to the committee if invited
- 27 January 2023 – email from the author of Submission 11 to the secretariat requesting their submission be treated as 'name suppressed' but indicating willingness to give further information if requested
- 27 January 2023 – email from Ms Bo Ok, office of the Hon Scott Farlow MLC, to the secretariat advising that the Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC will be an apology for the duration of the inquiry into The Hills Shire Council

Sent

- 19 January 2023 – email from the secretariat to _____, Protecting Your Suburban Environment, giving an extension of time to lodge a submission until 26 January 2023.

6. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**6.1 Public submissions**

The committee noted that submission 3 was published by the committee clerk under the resolution appointing the committee.

6.2 Partially confidential submissions (name suppressed)

The committee noted that submissions 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were partially published by the committee clerk under the authorisation of the resolution appointing the committee.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee keep confidential the names and identifying information of the authors of submissions no. 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10.

6.3 Partially confidential submissions (identifying and/or sensitive information)

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee keep the following information confidential:

- identifying and sensitive information in submission no. 11, as per the recommendation of the secretariat
- identifying and sensitive information in submission no. 12, as per the request of the author

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of submissions 11 and 12 with the identifying and/or sensitive information redacted.

6.4 Confidential submissions

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Barrett: That submissions no. 2 and 8 be kept confidential as per the request of the author.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That submission no. 13 be kept confidential at this stage, pending a decision to invite the author as a witness.

6.5 Procedural fairness

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That, in accordance with the Procedural Fairness Resolution, Mr Alan Haselden be invited to provide a written response in relation to potential adverse mention contained in submissions 9, 11 and 12.

6.6 Witnesses for public hearing on 15 and 16 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the following witnesses be invited to give evidence on 15 and/or 16 February 2023:

- representatives of The Hills Shire Council
- the Hon David Elliot MP
- Mr Alan Haselden
- Mr Ray Williams MP
- Ms Robyn Preston MP
- Mr Jean Nassif
- Mr Charles Perrottet
- Mr Christian Ellis
- Cr Virginia Ellis
- Dr Michelle Byrne
- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet
- Mr Frits Mare
- Mr Jeremy Greenwood
- Mr Ronnie Wardan

The committee noted that the number of witnesses meant the reserve hearing day of 16 February would be required.

The committee noted the short time for organising hearings and requested that:

- the secretariat advise relevant witnesses other than members of the Legislative Assembly of its powers under the Parliamentary Evidence 1901 to summon witnesses
- witness invitations be sent out as a priority, with the order and schedule of witnesses to be determined once availability is known
- the committee be kept informed by email of progress contacting potential witnesses.

7. Timeline for inquiry

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe, that:

- witnesses be requested to return answers to questions on notice and/or supplementary questions within three days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witnesses by the committee clerk
- members be provided with the chair's draft report on the afternoon of Friday 24 February (less than seven days required under the standing orders).

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.27am until 15 February 2023

Peta Leemen

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 92

Wednesday 8 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 10.00 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, Chair

Mr Fang (substituting for Mr Barrett)

Mr Graham (participating member for the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council)

Ms Jackson

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

3. Previous minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 91 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received

- 7 February 2023 – email from Mr Frits Mare to the Chair responding to the committee's second invitation to attend a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023
- 7 February 2023 – email from the Office of the Government Whip to the secretariat advising that Mr Fang will substitute for Mr Barrett for part of the meeting on 8 February 2023
- 7 February 2023 – email from Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, to the Chair accepting the committee's re-invitation to attend a public hearing on 15 February 2023
- 6 February 2023 – email from Dr Michelle Byrne, former Mayor of The Hills Shire, to the secretariat indicating availability to attend a public hearing on the afternoon of 16 February 2023
- 6 February 2023 – email from the office of the Hon Mark Pearson MLC advising that Mr Pearson will be an apology for the 15 February and 28 February 2023
- 6 February 2023 – email from Ms Helen Russell, electorate office of the Hon David Elliott MP advising Mr Elliott is unable to attend a hearing on an alternate date in February
- 5 February 2023 – email from Ms Robyn Preston MP to the secretariat declining to attend a public hearing for the inquiry
- 3 February 2023 – letter from Mr Alan Haselden to the Chair responding to potential adverse mention in submissions to the inquiry
- 2 February 2023 – email from Mr Bo Ok, Office of the Government Whip, to the secretariat advising that Mrs MacDonald will no longer be an apology for the Inquiry into The Hills Shire Council
- 2 February 2023 – email from Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, Hills Shire Council, to the

secretariat declining the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023, noting a possible ICAC investigation

- 1 February 2023 – email from the office of Mr David Elliott MP advising that he is unable to appear at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023 due to other commitments
- 1 February 2023 – letter from the Leader of the Government in the House to the Acting Clerk advising of a change of government membership of Portfolio Committee no. 7
- 31 January 2023 – email from Mr Alan Haselden to the secretariat advising he is unable to accept the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February as he is overseas
- 30 January 2023 – email from the office of Mr Ray Williams MP to the secretariat advising he is unable to appear at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023 due to a prior commitment.

Sent

- 4 February 2023 – letter from the Chair to Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, re-issuing an invitation to Council representatives to attend and give evidence at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023
- 3 February 2023 – letter from the Chair to the following individuals re-issuing an invitation to attend and give evidence at a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023:
 - Dr Michelle Byrne
 - Mr Jean Nassif
 - Mr Christian Ellis
 - Cr Virginia Ellis
 - Mr Charles Perrottet
 - Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet
 - Mr Frits Mare.
- 3 February 2023 – letter from the Chair to the following members of Parliament noting their unavailability on 15 and 16 February and inviting them to nominate a date in February on which they would be able to give evidence at a public hearing:
 - The Hon David Elliot MP
 - Mr Ray Williams MP
- 1 February 2023 – letter from the Chair to Mr Alan Haselden inviting a response to possible adverse mention in submissions to the inquiry.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr Alan Haselden, dated 3 February 2023, responding to potential adverse mention in submissions.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

5.1 Witnesses for public hearings on 15 and 16 February

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- Mr Frits Mare be re-invited to give evidence on 15 or 16 February 2023, at a time to be determined by the Chair; and
- if Mr Mare declines the invitation or requests to be summoned, the committee issue, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on 15 or 16 February 2023, at a time to be determined by the Chair.

Ms Sharpe moved: That, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue a summons to the following individuals to attend and give evidence before the committee on 15 or 16 February 2023, at a time to be determined by the Chair:

- Mr Jean Nassif
- Mr Christian Ellis
- Cr Virginia Ellis
- Mr Charles Perrottet

- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson, Ms Sharpe

Noes: Mr Fang, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Rath.

Question resolved in the affirmative, on the casting vote of the Chair.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Rath: That Dr Peter Gangemi, Mayor of Hills Shire Council, be re-invited to give evidence on 15 or 16 February 2023.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That Mr Tony Merhi be invited to give evidence on 15 or 16 February 2023.

The committee noted the secretariat would continue efforts to contact Mr Jeremy Greenwood.

5.2 Schedule for public hearings on 15 and 16 February

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the secretariat liaise with the Chair on the hearing schedule as witnesses respond.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.40 am until Wednesday 15 February 2023 (public hearing).

Peta Leemen

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 93

Friday 10 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 1.01 pm

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Graham (participating)

Ms Jackson

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Barrett

Mr Pearson

3. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

3.1 Witnesses for public hearings on 15 and 16 February

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That:

- the committee no longer, for the time being, proceed with summoning Mr Nassif to attend and give evidence before the committee on 15 or 16 February given he is out of jurisdiction
- the Chair invite Mr Nassif to appear at the hearings on 15 or 16 February via Webex; and
- the correspondence from Mr Nassif dated 9 February 2023 be published on the committee website, with sensitive personal information redacted.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That:

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Merhi to attend the public hearings on 15 or 16 February, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Merhi does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on 15 or 16 February 2023, at a time determined by the Chair.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee authorise the secretariat to continue attempts to personally serve summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on 15 or 16 February 2023 on:

- Mr Christian Ellis
- Cr Virginia Ellis
- Mr Charles Perrottet
- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

4. **Other business**

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to contact and serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis, Mr Charles Perrottet and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the Chair publish a media release noting that:

- the hearings for the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region are going ahead on 15 and 16 February
- the committee thanks witnesses who have agreed to give evidence at the hearings
- the committee has resolved to summon Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis, Mr Charles Perrottet and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet to attend and give evidence before the committee, but, despite ongoing efforts to contact them, attempts to serve the summons on the individuals has so far been unsuccessful.

5. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 1.21 pm until Wednesday 15 February 2023 (public hearing).

Peta Leemen

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 94

Tuesday 14 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 11.03 am

1. **Members present**

Ms Higginson, *Chair*
Mr Barrett
Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Sharpe)
Ms Jackson
Mrs MacDonald (from 11.06 am)
Mr Rath

2. **Apologies**

Mr Pearson
Ms Sharpe

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That draft minutes no. 92 and no. 93 be confirmed.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence received:

- 14 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jean Nassif, Managing Director, Toplace to Chair, raising concerns about the inquiry into Hills Shire Council.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- a response be prepared to Mr Nassif to address the concerns raised in his correspondence, dated 14 February 2023, with the proposed letter to be circulated and agreed to via email, and
- the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr Nassif, regarding concerns about the inquiry into Hills Shire Council, dated 14 February 2023.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**5.1 Attempts to summons witnesses – next steps**

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to contact and serve summons on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis, Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet and Mr Tony Merhi, and to contact Mr Jeremy Greenwood.

Mr Graham moved: That:

- the committee hold a further public hearing in the week commencing 20 February, on a date to be determined by the Chair
- under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee re-issue summons to the following individuals to attend and give evidence before the committee in the week commencing 20 February, at a time determined by the Chair:
 - Mr Christian Ellis
 - Cr Virginia Ellis
 - Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet
- the committee authorise the secretariat to retain a private process server to effect service of summons documents for the above individuals, and
- the Chair write to Mr Charles Perrottet and invite him to attend a public hearing in the week commencing 20 February, at a time to be determined by the Chair.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson.

Noes: Mr Barrett, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Rath.

Question resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of the Chair.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Greenwood to attend a public hearing in the week beginning 20 February, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Greenwood does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee in the week beginning 20 February, at a time determined by the Chair.

6. Publication of minutes and distribution of a further media release

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 91, subject to the redaction of one individual's name who has requested their details be kept confidential
- the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 92 and no. 93, and

- the Chair publish another media release outlining efforts to summon witnesses so far.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.25 am until Wednesday 15 February 2023 (public hearing).

Peta Leemen

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 95

Wednesday 15 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Dixson Room, State Library of NSW, Sydney at 9.16 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett (via Webex)

Mr Graham (participating)

Ms Jackson

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath (from 9.18 am)

Ms Sharpe (from 9.18 am)

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That draft minutes no. 94 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee authorise publication of minutes no. 94.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 8 February 2023 – Email from Mr Frits Maré, Managing Director, Mainmark Australia to secretariat, accepting invitation to appear at public hearing on 15 February.
- 9 February 2023 – Email from Ms Kara Dempsey, Toplace to secretariat, advising Mr Jean Nassif is currently overseas and will be for at least one month.
- 10 February 2023 – Letter from the Hon Lou Amato MLC to the Premier, copied to the committee, regarding possible conflict of interest of committee members.

Sent:

- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Dr Peter Gangemi, Mayor, Hills Shire Council, issuing personal invitation to attend public hearing on 15 or 16 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Frits Maré, Managing Director, Mainmark Australia, advising attendance is still required at public hearing on 15 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jean Nassif, Managing Director, Toplace, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 15 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Christian Ellis, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 15 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Councillor Virginia Ellis, Councillor, Hills Shire Council, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 15 February.

- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, Private Client Advisor, Medallion Financial Group, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 15 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Charles Perrottet, General Manager, Global Mining Decarbonisation, BP, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 15 February.
- 8 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Tony Merhi, Founder and Managing Director, Merc Capital, issuing invitation to attend public hearing on 15 or 16 February and advising he may be summoned if he declines.
- 10 February 2023 – Letter from the chair to Mr Tony Merhi, Founder and Managing Director, Merc Capital, re-issuing an invitation to attend public hearing on 15 or 16 February.
- 10 February 2023 – Letter from the chair to Mr Jean Nassif, noting his response to the committee's summons and inviting to appear via videoconference from Lebanon.
- 13 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Tony Merhi, Founder and Managing Director, Merc Capital, advising committee has resolved to issue summons for attendance at public hearing on 16 February.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Hon Lou Amato MLC, regarding possible conflict of interest of committee members, dated 10 February 2023.

5. **Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**

5.1 **Confidential submission**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee keep submission no 13a confidential, as per the request of the author.

5.2 **Public hearing**

Allocation of questioning

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the timing of questioning for today's hearing be left in the hands of the Chair.

Deputy Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the Deputy Chair for the public hearings on 15 and 16 February, in the absence of Mr Pearson.

Mrs MacDonald moved: That Ms Sharpe be elected Deputy Chair of the committee for the public hearings on 15 and 16 February.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Ms Sharpe elected Deputy Chair for the public hearings on 15 and 16 February.

Timeframe for return of questions on notice

The committee noted that it has previously resolved that witnesses be asked to return answers to questions on notice within three days of receipt of the transcript.

Public hearing

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

Mrs MacDonald declared a conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive until 30 June 2022.

Mr Rath declared a conflict of interest, having previously been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive.

Mr Graham tendered the following document: 'The men who stole the Hills: Chapter Two: The Hills Shire', undated.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Frits Maré, Private individual.

Mr Maré tendered the following document: a text message regarding a meeting with Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, sent 6 October 2021.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 11.07 am. The public and the media withdrew.

Tendered documents

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Jackson: That the committee accept and publish the following document(s) tendered during the public hearing, with certain identifying information redacted:

- Text message regarding a meeting Frits Mare had with Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, sent 6 October 2021t, tendered by Mr Frits Maré.

Ms Jackson moved: That the committee accept and publish the following document tendered during the public hearing, with certain identifying information redacted:

- 'The men who stole the Hills: Chapter Two: The Hills Shire', undated, tendered by Mr Graham
- Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Ms Higginson, Ms Jackson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Rath.

Question resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of the Chair.

6. Other business

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of:

- correspondence from Mr Frits Maré, regarding the committee's second invitation to attend a public hearing on 15 or 16 February 2023, dated 7 February 2023, and
- correspondence from Mr Frits Maré, confirming his attendance at the public hearing on 15 February 2023, dated 8 February 2023.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.39 am until Thursday 16 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 96

Thursday 16 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Dixson Room, State Library of NSW, Sydney at 1.16 pm

1. Members presentMs Higginson, *Chair*Ms Sharpe, *Deputy Chair* (for the public hearings on 15 and 16 February)

Mr Barrett (via Webex)

Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson) (via Webex from 2.28 pm)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

Ms Jackson

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Sent:

- 15 February 2023 – Letter from the Chair to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, re-issuing invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February 2023
- 15 February 2023 – Letter from the Chair to Mr Charles Perrottet, re-iterating invitation to appear at public hearing on 23 February

4. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**4.1 Answers to questions on notice**

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following answers to questions on notice be published, subject to redactions of contact details:

- answers to question on notice from Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 16 February 2023

4.2 Declarations of interest

Mrs MacDonald declared that she would recuse herself from today's hearing on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the same time as the witness, Dr Michelle Byrne.

Mr Rath declared that he would recuse himself from today's hearing on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the same time as the witness, Dr Michelle Byrne.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Rath: That the advice from the Committee Clerk to the Chair, endorsed by the Acting Clerk, regarding management of potential conflicts of interest by committee members, and the publication of tabled documents with an unknown source, be circulated to committee members and published.

4.3 Attempts to contact and serve summons on witnesses

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the Chair write to Ms Robyn Preston MP in relation to Cr Virginia Ellis, noting that the committee has been informed she is an electorate officer, inquiring about her whereabouts and asking for Ms Preston's assistance in seeking her co-operation.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee publish written reports of the activities of committee staff to date in attempting to contact and serve summons on witnesses to this inquiry, subject to

redactions of the names and contact details of committee staff and the contact details of witnesses and their staff.

4.4 Witnesses for public hearing on Thursday 23 February

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That Mr Jeff Egan be invited to give evidence on Thursday 23 February 2023.

4.5 Public hearing

Timeframe for return of questions on notice

The committee noted that it has previously resolved that witnesses be asked to return answers to questions on notice within three days of receipt of the transcript.

Public hearing

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings, the recusal of Mrs MacDonald and Mr Rath, and other matters.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Dr Michelle Byrne, Former Mayor, The Hills Shire Council.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 2.32 pm. The public and the media withdrew.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 2.39 pm until Thursday 23 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 97

Monday 20 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 4.03 pm

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (participating)

Ms Jackson (from 4.20 pm)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 95 and 96 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 95 and 96.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 1 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 2 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 3 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to the Chair, declining the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, providing report on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, received 20 February 2023

Sent:

- Letter from the Chair to Mr Jean Nassif responding to issues raised and inviting him to appear via videoconference on 23 February, sent 15 February 2023
- Letter from the Chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP requesting her assistance to locate Cr Virginia Ellis, who works in her electorate office, sent 17 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, subject to proposed redactions of sensitive information and personal contact details being circulated and agreed to by the committee:

- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 1 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 2 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 3 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, providing report on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, received 20 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Chair to Mr Jean Nassif inviting him to appear via videoconference, sent 15 February 2023
- Letter from the Chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP requesting her assistance to locate Cr Virginia Ellis, sent 17 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, subject to redaction of sensitive information:

- Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to the Chair, declining the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February, received 20 February 2023

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

5.1 Update on attempts to serve summons on witnesses for hearing on 23 February

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made by private process servers to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

The committee noted that members are able to still provide contact details of the above witnesses to assist the secretariat in effecting service of the summons.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in continuing to make reasonable efforts to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, including through the use of private process servers.

5.2 Update on other potential witnesses for hearing on 23 February

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to serve summons on Mr Jeremy Greenwood and to contact Mr Jeff Egan.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- the committee authorise the secretariat to retain a private process server to effect service of summons documents on Mr Greenwood, and
- Mr Greenwood be advised that he can give evidence before the committee via videoconference if he wishes.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in continuing to make reasonable efforts to contact Mr Egan and invite him to appear and give evidence at the hearing on Thursday 23 February as a matter of priority, and
- Mr Egan be advised that, if he declines the invitation, the committee has the power to summon witnesses under the *Parliamentary Evidence 1901*.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.34 pm until Thursday 23 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 98

Wednesday 22 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 9.31 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Ms Jackson
Mr Pearson

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 97 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 97.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 20 February 2023 – Email from Mr Charles Perrottet to Chair, declining invitation to appear at public hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr Charles Perrottet, declining invitation to appear at public hearing, dated 20 February 2023.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**5.1 Answers to questions on notice**

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs MacDonald: That the following answers to questions on notice be published, subject to redaction of personal contact details:

- answers to questions on notice from Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 17 February 2023.

5.2 Reports from private process servers

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following:

- Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving reports 1 to 3 to secretariat, received 20 February 2023, providing updates on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential
- Report from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, received 20 February 202, providing an update on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the publication of report 4 from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis, Jean-Claude Perrottet and Jeremy Greenwood when it is received by the secretariat, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential.

5.3 Update on attempts to serve summons on witnesses for hearing on 23 February

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis, Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet and Mr Jeremy Greenwood.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise publication of written reports of the activities of committee staff in attempting to serve summons on Mr Jeremy Greenwood on 17 and 20 February, subject to redactions of the names and contact details of committee staff and the contact details of witnesses.

5.4 Update on other potential witnesses for hearing on 23 February

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to contact Mr Jeff Egan.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Egan to attend the public hearing on 23 February 2023, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Egan does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee, at a time determined by the Chair.

5.5 Other witnesses for hearing on 23 February

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following individuals be invited to appear as witnesses at the public hearing on 23 February:

- Mr Alan Haselden
- Ms Emma Hogan and Ms Natasha Mann, Department of Fair Trading
- Mr David Chandler, NSW Building Commissioner
- Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, Hills Shire Council
- Mr Robert Assaf
- Mr Dylan Whitelaw.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.04 am until Thursday 23 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 99

Thursday 23 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

UNSW CBD Campus, Level 6, 1 O'Connell St Sydney at 9.47 am

1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Ms Jackson

Mr Pearson

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 98 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 98.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 23 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to secretariat, sending apologies for public hearing

- 22 February 2023 – Email from Mr David Reynolds, Acting General Manager, The Hills Shire Council to secretariat, declining the invitation to give evidence at a hearing and providing information on contact with Councillor Virginia Ellis
- 22 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeff Egan, Toplace, declining the invitation to give evidence at a hearing
- 22 February 2023 – Email from Mr Rob McAskill, Executive Assistant to NSW Building Commissioner, to secretariat, declining the invitation for the Building Commissioner to give evidence at a hearing
- 22 February 2023 – Email from Ms Natasha Mann, Deputy Secretary, Better Regulation and Commissioner for Fair Trading NSW, to secretariat, declining the invitation to give evidence at a hearing
- 22 February 2023 – Email from Ms Carlie Bitz, Executive Officer to the Secretary, Department of Customer Service, to secretariat, advising that Ms Emma Hogan is declining the invitation to give evidence at a hearing
- 21 February 2021 – Email from Usher of the Black Rod to secretariat, providing an update on the attempt to serve Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet

Sent:

- 22 February 2023 – Letter from the Chair to Mr Jeff Egan, re-issuing the invitation to give evidence and noting the committee's powers to issue a summons

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from the Usher of the Black Rod, regarding an attempt to serve Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, dated 21 February 2023, subject to the redaction of identifying information.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr Jeremy Greenwood, regarding apologies for the public hearing, dated 23 February 2023.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr David Reynolds, Acting General Manager, The Hills Shire Council regarding contact with Councillor Virginia Ellis, dated 22 February 2023.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

5.1 Conflict of interest

Mrs MacDonald declared that she would recuse herself from today's hearing on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the time when the Hills Shire Council ticket for the 2021 local government election was determined.

Mr Rath declared that he would recuse himself from today's hearing on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the time when the Hills Shire Council ticket for the 2021 local government election was determined.

5.2 Public hearing

Mr Graham tabled the document titled 'The Men who Stole the Hills: Chapter One: The Reformers'.

The committee noted that it has previously resolved that witnesses be asked to return answers to questions on notice within three days of receipt of the transcript.

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings, the recusal of Mrs MacDonald and Mr Rath, and other matters.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Mr Alan Haselden, Former Councillor, The Hills Shire Council

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 10.58 am. The public and the media withdrew.

Tendered documents

Mr Graham moved: That:

- the committee accept and publish the document titled 'The Men who Stole the Hills: Chapter One: The Reformers', tendered during the public hearing, and
- in accordance with the Procedural Fairness Resolution, private individuals named in the above document be invited to provide a written response in relation to potential adverse mention.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett, Mrs MacDonald, Mr Rath.

Question resolved in the affirmative on the casting vote of the Chair.

5.3 Report timeline

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following timeline for the inquiry be adopted:

- Chair's report to be distributed to members late Tuesday 28 February 2023 (less than 7 days under the standing orders)
- Report deliberative in the afternoon of Wednesday 1 March 2023 (via Webex)
- Report tabled late Thursday 2 March 2023.

5.4 Further public hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee hold a further hearing on Thursday 2 March 2023, and that efforts continued to serve a summons on those witnesses previously resolved.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee put questions on notice to the Office of Fair Trading and NSW Building Commissioner regarding the matters that led to Jean Nassif's licence being cancelled.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Dylan Whitelaw to attend the public hearing on 2 March 2023, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Whitelaw does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on 2 March 2023.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe:

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Robert Assaf to attend the public hearing on 2 March 2023, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Assaf does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on 2 March 2023.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11.22 am until Wednesday 1 March 2023 (report deliberative).

Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 100

Monday 27 February 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 4.31 pm

1. Members presentMs Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson for the remainder of the inquiry)

Ms Jackson (participating for the remainder of the inquiry)

Mrs MacDonald

Mr Rath

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

3. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 27 February – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair asserting he is not being uncooperative with the inquiry, re-stating concerns about use of private process servers to serve summons, and questioning whether the committee can legally sit after prorogation of Parliament
- 27 February – email from Mr Robert Assaf asking for an extension of time until 10.00 am tomorrow to respond to the committee's invitation to attend a public hearing on 2 March

4. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**4.1 Witnesses for public hearing – update**

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, and recent contact with Mr Robert Assaf, Mr Dylan Whitelaw, Mr Jeremy Greenwood, and Mr Jeff Egan.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the committee authorise the secretariat to respond to Mr Assaf and grant him an extension until 10.00 am Tuesday 28 February to reply to the invitation to give evidence at the public hearing on Thursday 2 March
- that if Mr Assaf does not agree to give evidence at the public hearing on Thursday 2 March, the committee authorise the secretariat to arrange a time for service of the summons, and
- that if Mr Assaf does not cooperate with this request, that a private process server be engaged to serve the summons on Mr Assaf.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That if Mr Whitelaw does not respond to the invitation to give evidence at the public hearing on Thursday 2 March, the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in arranging a summons to be served on Mr Whitelaw, including through the use of a private process server.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the committee authorise the secretariat to contact Mr Greenwood to arrange a time for service of the summons, and
- that if Mr Greenwood does not cooperate with this request, that a private process server be engaged to serve the summons on Mr Greenwood.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in continuing to progress attempts to serve summons on relevant witnesses, with discretion in determining the utility of efforts.

Ms Higginson left the meeting.

The Clerk noted the absence of both the Chair and Deputy Chair for the meeting.

The Clerk called for nominations for a member to act as Chair for the purpose of the meeting.

Mr Graham moved: That Ms Sharpe be elected Chair of the committee for the remainder of the meeting or until Ms Higginson returns.

There being no further nominations, the Clerk declared Ms Sharpe elected Chair for the remainder of the meeting or until Ms Higginson returns.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in organising witnesses for the public hearing on Thursday 2 March.

4.2 Tabled documents

Mr Graham tabled:

- Document titled 'The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter Two: The Hills Shire'
- Document titled 'The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter Three: The Lobbyists'

Mr Rath advised that he would recuse himself for the remainder of the inquiry, on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the time when the Hills Shire Council ticket for the 2021 local government election was determined.

Mr Rath left the meeting.

Mrs MacDonald advised that she would recuse herself for the remainder of the inquiry, on the basis of a potential conflict of interest, having been a member of the Liberal Party State Executive at the time when the Hills Shire Council ticket for the 2021 local government election was determined.

Mrs MacDonald left the meeting.

Ms Higginson re-joined the meeting.

Ms Higginson took the Chair.

Mr Graham moved: That the documents tendered by Mr Graham be published, subject to the redaction of any personal and identifying information, which the secretariat will circulate via email for member agreement.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

5. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 5.28 pm until Wednesday 1 March 2023 (report deliberative).

Arizona Hart
Committee Clerk

Minutes no. 101

Wednesday 1 March 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Via Webex at 2.03 pm

1. Members presentMs Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett

Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson for the remainder of the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region)

Ms Jackson (participating until 3.35)

Ms Sharpe

2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 99 and no. 100 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 99 and no. 100.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 20 February 2023 – Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates to secretariat, attaching photos obtained during attempts to serve Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis
- 20 February 2023 – Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet
- 21 February 2023 – Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Jeremy Greenwood
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 23 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, declining invitation to appear at hearing on 23 February
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, responding to potential adverse mention and raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, responding to potential adverse mention and raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from anonymous to secretariat, regarding Mr Matthew Hana
- 27 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, reiterating concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Email from Ms Cara Punch, Office of the Hon. Mark Buttigieg MLC to secretariat, advising that the Hon. John Graham will be substituting for the Hon. Rose Jackson for remainder of the inquiry into The Hills Shire Council, and the Hon. Rose Jackson will be a participating member
- 27 February 2023 – Email from Sydney Process Servers to secretariat, attaching reports of attempts to serve summons on Jean-Claude Perrottet, Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis
- 27 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, raising concerns about conduct of inquiry and requesting confirmation that parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 27 February 2023 – Emails from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to secretariat, maintaining concerns about whether parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 3 March

- 27 February 2023 – Email from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, raising concerns about application of parliamentary privilege
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates to secretariat, providing report on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates to secretariat, attaching photos obtained during attempts to serve Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, declining to attend public hearing on 2 March and raising concerns about publication of anonymously authored documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, declining to attend public hearing on 2 March, raising questions about the application of parliamentary privilege, and raising concerns about publication of anonymously authored documents
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, reiterating concerns about application of parliamentary privilege to hearing on 3 March and declining to cooperate with issuing of summons
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to secretariat, raising concerns about application of parliamentary privilege to hearing on 2 March
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, requesting information on attendance time at hearing and advising he is seeking legal advice
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, advising he cannot attend hearing on 2 March and maintaining concerns about whether parliamentary privilege would apply
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet to Chair, raising concerns about conduct of inquiry and declining to give evidence at public hearing
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Sydney Process Servers to secretariat, attaching reports of attempts to serve summons on Dylan Whitelaw, Robert Assaf and Jeff Egan.

Sent:

- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Charles Perrottet, providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Christian Ellis, providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 24 February – Letter from Chair to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeff Egan, advising committee has resolved to summon him and requesting an address to receive the summons
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Robert Assaf, advising committee has agreed to grant him an extension to provide a response to the invitation to appear at the hearing

- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising committee is holding a hearing on 2 March and requesting to arrange time to serve summons
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 28 February 2023 – Emails from secretariat to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, advising committee has resolved to summon him and requesting a time and address to receive the summons
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March and re-confirming that summons is to be issued to him
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat on behalf of Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, responding to concerns regarding participating in public hearing
- 28 February 2023 – Emails from secretariat on behalf of Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, requesting he propose a suitable time to give evidence to committee and responding to concerns regarding parliamentary privilege
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, confirming parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Charles Perrottet, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Christian Ellis, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Dallas McInerney, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Ms Cecile Piat, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Rob Macaulay, Chief Executive Officer, Greyhound Racing NSW, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Cr Verity Greenwood, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Ms Anita Perrottet, providing opportunity to respond to tabled documents.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information, which is to remain confidential, as per the request of the author:

- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February – Letter from Chair to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, reiterating concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising committee is holding a hearing on 2 March and requesting to arrange time to serve summons
- 27 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, raising concerns about conduct of inquiry and requesting confirmation that parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 27 February 2023 – Emails from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to secretariat, maintaining concerns about whether parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 3 March
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jeremy Greenwood, advising parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March and re-confirming that summons is to be issued to him

- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, reiterating concerns about application of parliamentary privilege to hearing on 3 March and declining to cooperate with issuing of summons
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence:

- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention (attached)
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, responding to potential adverse mention and raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Email from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, raising concerns about application of parliamentary privilege
- 28 February 2023 – Emails from secretariat to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, advising committee has resolved to summon him and requesting a time and address to receive the summons
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, declining to attend public hearing on 2 March and raising concerns about publication of anonymously authored documents
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to secretariat, raising concerns about application of parliamentary privilege to hearing on 2 March
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Dylan Whitelaw, confirming parliamentary privilege would apply to hearing on 2 March
- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Dylan Whitelaw to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information, which is to remain confidential, as per the request of the author:

- 23 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, declining invitation to appear at hearing on 23 February
- 23 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and providing opportunity to respond to potential adverse mention
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, responding to potential adverse mention and raising concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 24 February 2023 – Letter from Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, re-issuing invitation to appear at hearing and responding to concerns about conduct of inquiry
- 27 February 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Robert Assaf, advising committee has agreed to grant him an extension to provide a response to the invitation to appear at the hearing
- 28 February 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, declining to attend public hearing on 2 March, raising questions about the application of parliamentary privilege, and raising concerns about publication of anonymously authored documents
- 28 February 2023 – Email from secretariat on behalf of Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, responding to concerns regarding participating in public hearing
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, requesting information on attendance time at hearing and advising he is seeking legal advice
- 28 February 2023 – Emails from secretariat on behalf of Chair to Mr Robert Assaf, requesting he propose a suitable time to give evidence to committee and responding to concerns regarding parliamentary privilege
- 28 February 2023 – Email from Mr Robert Assaf to secretariat, advising he cannot attend hearing on 2 March and maintaining concerns about whether parliamentary privilege would apply

- 1 March 2023 – Letter from Mr Robert Assaf to Chair, providing evidence to the committee and responding to tabled documents.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- the committee write to Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet and seek confirmation that the correspondence from him to the Chair, regarding concerns about conduct of inquiry and declining to give evidence at public hearing, dated 28 February 2023, was written by him, seeking a response by 10.00 am, Thursday 2 March
- that if Mr Perrottet does not provide confirmation by this time, the committee publish this correspondence and a photograph of the envelope it was contained in, with a note stating 'this document is unsigned and the committee is unable to verify that it is from Jean-Claude Perrottet'.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, with the exception of identifying and/or sensitive information, which is to remain confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat:

- Correspondence from Sydney Process Servers, regarding attempts to serve summons on Jean-Claude Perrottet, Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis, dated 27 February 2023
- Correspondence from Tim Tierney & Associates to secretariat, regarding attempts to serve summons on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, dated 28 February 2023
- Correspondence from Sydney Process Servers regarding attempts to serve summons on Dylan Whitelaw, Robert Assaf and Jeff Egan, dated 1 March 2023.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Graham: That the committee keep the following correspondence confidential, as per the recommendation of the secretariat, as they contain identifying and/or sensitive information:

- Correspondence from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving, regarding current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, dated 20 February 2023
- Correspondence from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving, regarding current contact details for Jeremy Greenwood, dated 21 February 2023
- Correspondence from Tim Tierney & Associates, regarding photos obtained during attempts to serve Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis, dated 20 February 2023
- Correspondence from Tim Tierney & Associates, regarding photos obtained during attempts to serve Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis, dated 28 February 2023.

The committee noted the anonymous correspondence regarding Mr Matthew Hana, dated 24 February 2023, and that due to there being insufficient time to provide Mr Hana with a right of reply, this information would not be published on the committee's webpage.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

5.1 Tabled documents

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Barrett: That the personal addresses of individuals named in company extracts within the document tabled by Mr Graham on 27 February 2023 titled 'The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter Three: The Lobbyists' be redacted and kept confidential.

5.2 Consideration of Chairs draft report

The Chair submitted her draft report entitled *Allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region* which, having been previously circulated, was taken as being read.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That page ix be amended by omitting 'two anonymous documents' and inserting instead 'several anonymous documents'.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the following new paragraphs be inserted on page ix:

'Some of these witnesses raised concerns about the committee continuing to operate during prorogation and the application of parliamentary privilege. In this regard, the committee notes that the position of the Legislative Council is that prorogation does not affect the operation of committees. Committees are only

unable to operate following the expiration or dissolution of the Legislative Assembly. This was affirmed in a legal opinion provided by Mr Bret Walker SC in 2011, and has been demonstrated by the fact that committees have continued to operate during prorogation over the last decade. Indeed, from 2011 until the present, a number of committee reports were tabled after prorogation and the government has routinely responded to these reports in subsequent Parliaments.

Therefore, as long as a committee is properly constituted (ie a quorum of members are in attendance), witnesses are protected by parliamentary privilege, and the committee reject any view otherwise.'

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That page x be amended by omitting 'recused themselves from hearings' and inserting instead 'recused themselves from meetings, including hearings'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new paragraph be inserted after 'Another issue that arose in this inquiry related to the obligations of Legislative Council members in relation to conflicts of interest' on page x:

'The committee received a letter from Lou Amato MLC who had served on the inquiry in its early meetings. He had written to the Premier indicating his concerns about being removed from the committee and relating to conflicts of interests in the committee. The letter is attached as an appendix to the report.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That paragraph 1.11 be amended by inserting at the end:

'Jean-Claude Perrottet also advised the committee by an unsigned letter that he was overseas and would not assist the committee with its inquiry. The committee was unable to verify if he was the author of this document.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham, that the following new sentence and paragraph be inserted after paragraph 1.15:

'In December 2022, NSW Fair Trading moved to suspend Jean Nassif's building licence for 10 years and permanently revoke Toplace's licence over improper conduct.

Nassif and the company successfully argued for a stay on the bans before the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, which heard the suspensions exposed the parties to breaching contracts worth tens of millions of dollars. Legal action is ongoing.

On 28 February 2023, a police operation was conducted in four locations including the headquarters of Toplace following allegations about the falsification of a \$10.5 million pre-sale contract relating to the Skyview Apartments development in Castle Hill.'

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the secretariat draft an amendment to paragraph 1.17 and circulate the paragraph to members for agreement over email.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That paragraph 1.18 be amended by omitting 'later summoned, Mr Jeff Egan,' and inserting instead 'attempted to summons, Mr Jeff Egan'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Barrett: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.16:

'Dr Byrne, however, reiterated on a number of occasions she had no evidence of such allegations including stating; "I don't have any evidence. I don't want to speculate that certain people did X, Y and Z without any evidence."

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new headings and text be inserted after paragraph 2.35.

Key witnesses who did not assist the Inquiry

Christian Ellis

It appears that Christian Ellis is a central figure in, and a founder of, the group "The Reformers". The committee has had no correspondence from Mr Ellis throughout this inquiry, despite extensive efforts to reach him. Christian Ellis's evidence would be central to an account of the known meetings that have occurred in this matter.

The information obtained in the process of attempting to serve a summons on Christian Ellis suggest that he has taken strong measures to avoid being served.

Christian Ellis was first asked to make a submission to the inquiry on the 14th December 2022.

The following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Christian Ellis:

- 14 December 2022, emailed invitation to make submission
- 14 December 2022, message left on mobile phone
- 14 December 2022, verbal contact by phone confirming email address was correct
- 30 January 2023, email and verbal contact by phone in which Mr Ellis said he would get back to the secretariat
- 3 February 2023, letter from Chair via email
- 6 February 2023, phone call, left message
- 8 February 2023, summons sent via email. Phone call, left message requesting response. No response received.
- 10 February 2023, two attempts to serve a summons at a residential address in regional New South Wales
- 13 February 2023, one attempt to serve a summons at a Sydney residence.
- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
- 19 February 2023, process sever attempts to serve at residential addresses
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential addresses
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
- 25 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

Virginia Ellis

The committee has had no correspondence from Councillor Ellis throughout this inquiry, despite extensive efforts to reach her.

Councillor Ellis is a public official in the Hills Shire Council and also a full-time employee as an electorate officer for the member for Hawkesbury, Ms Robyn Preston MP.

Councillor Ellis did not attend the council meeting on the 21st of February.

Council staff reported they had not had contact or responses from Councillor Ellis since the 10th of February.

Councillor Ellis was first asked to make a submission to the inquiry on the 13th December 2022.

Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Councillor Ellis:

- 13 December 2022, emailed invitation to make submission to council address.
- 30 January 2023, email to council address.
- 1 February 2023, phone call to council mobile, message left.
- 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
- 6 February 2023, phone call, left message.
- 7 February 2023, email invitation re-sent to Clr Ellis's NSW Parliament address (delivery receipt received but no response). 7 February, Clr Ellis present at ordinary Council meeting.
- 8 February 2023, email summons sent to council and parliament addresses. Phone call to council mobile, left message requests a response.
- 10 February 2023, "read receipt" from email sent to council address received.
- 10 February 2023, 2 service attempts at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
- 13 February 2023, 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at place of work

- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address
- 17 February 2023, letter from chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP, Member for Hawkesbury requesting assistance as Clr Ellis's employer.
- 19 February 2023, process server attempts to serve at residential addresses.
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 21 February 2023, attempt to serve at Hills Shire Council ordinary meeting, Clr Ellis was not in attendance (no apology received, as per Council minutes of meeting)
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.

Charles Perrottet

The committee received a letter from Charles Perrottet indicating that he no longer lived in New South Wales and that he was not required to give evidence. The committee reiterated its request but Mr Perrottet was not willing to assist.

Charles Perrottet has played a central role in the preselection matters canvassed in this inquiry due to his role as the Deputy Chair of the Local Government Oversight Committee, alongside Chair Peter Poulos.

Charles Perrottet's evidence would be central to an account of a known meeting that has occurred in this matter.

Charles Perrottet was first called to give evidence to the inquiry on the 30th January 2023.

Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Charles Perrottet:

- 30 January 2023, verbal contact with receptionist at place of work, request for call back.
- 30 January 2023, email invitation sent.
- 1 February 2023, mobile called, message left.
- 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
- 6 February 2023, phone call, left message.
- 8 February 2023, email notification of summons. ('out of office' automatic reply received)
- 8 February 2023, phone called, message left.
- 10 February 2023, 1 service attempt at residential address in Sydney
- 15 February 2023, Invitation from chair sent by email and express post to Victorian address.
- 16 February 2023, mobile called, message left.

Jean-Claude Perrottet

Attempts to serve a summons at Jean-Claude Perrottet's work led to indications that he had taken "long leave".

Jean-Claude Perrottet's evidence would be central to an account of a known meeting that has occurred in this matter.

The committee received an unsigned and hand delivered letter from Jean-Claude Perrottet on the 28th of February indicating that he was overseas and could not assist the inquiry.

Jean-Claude Perrottet was first called to give evidence to the inquiry on the 30th January 2023.

Following is a summary of key attempts to contact key witness Jean-Claude Perrottet:

- 30 January 2023, verbal contact via phone at place of work during which a personal email address was supplied.
- 30 January 2023, email invitation sent.
- 1 February 2023, mobile called, message left.
- 3 February 2023, letter from chair via email.
- 6 February 2023, phone call, message left.

- 8 February 2023, notification of summons sent via email.
- 8 February 2023, phone called, message left.
- 10 February 2023, 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
- 13 February 2023, 1 service attempt at residential address.
- 16 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 17 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at work address.
- 19 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 20 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at work address.
- 21 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 23 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.
- 24 February 2023, process server attempt to serve at residential address.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That paragraph 2.38 be amended by adding the following sentence: 'The committee found him a credible witness'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That paragraph 2.41 be amended by omitting 'unceremoniously dumped' and inserting instead 'removed'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new paragraphs be inserted after the evidence of Mr Haselden or Mr Edgar:

Preselection matters

The committee received evidence that the selection of candidates for the Hills Shire Council exhibited a number of irregularities.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: I'm looking at the electronic ballot form, which was issued on 15 October 2021.

...

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: One of the things that this indicates is that it should be noted that—I'll quote from the document: "It should also be noted that other candidates listed above, who did not originally nominate for these positions, will need to confirm in writing with the State Director, that they are happy for their nominations to be amended to include the ward and/or position listed above."

Are you aware that some of these candidates who were selected, including in place of you, had not even nominated?

ALAN HASELDEN: No.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: That's the first you've heard that—

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes. That's the first I've heard of that.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: —as seven councillors were swept aside, some of the councillors who replaced you hadn't nominated for The Hills Shire Council.

ALAN HASELDEN: That's news to me.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: This was the position put in the electronic ballot to those who voted to replace you. Up till now, no-one has put that to you.

ALAN HASELDEN: I'm bewildered.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Thank you.

ALAN HASELDEN: I would have just assumed that everybody went through a normal nomination process that I went through.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: Were you aware that the candidates who replaced you had not been vetted by the party?

ALAN HASELDEN: No. Again, that's news to me today. No, I didn't know that. I mean, we were advised that our nominations would be scrutinised by an independent organisation. I think, from memory, it may have even been an American domiciled organisation that would vet the veracity of our nominations.

...

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: But, in summary, you lived here.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: You nominated. You were vetted.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

The Hon. JOHN GRAHAM: But other candidates didn't live there, didn't nominate, weren't vetted, but they were selected.

ALAN HASELDEN: Yes.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new committee comment be added at an appropriate location to be determined by the secretariat: 'The committee found evidence that some of the successful candidates who were imposed in the Hills Shire council had not nominated for the relevant position or ward, and that some candidates were not vetted.'

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That paragraph 2.36 be amended by omitting 'All came at the committee's second invitation' and inserting instead 'All but one came at the committee's second invitation'.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That paragraph 2.47 be amended by omitting 'All of these men have' and inserting instead 'Many of these men have'.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the following new paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.47:

'The committee sought the assistance of Jeremy Greenwood, Dylan Whitelaw and Robert Assaf, who were alleged to be part of the NSW Reformers group within the Liberal Party. These three individuals would have likely had information relevant to the alleged activities of the 'NSW Reformers, but all could not be brought before this committee for a hearing due to a variety of reasons. While the committee acknowledges that these individuals refute all claims of their involvement in these matters, it is disappointed they did not cooperate to a greater extent and attend a hearing to be questioned more openly.'

Mr Barrett moved: That Recommendation 1 be omitted: 'That the Legislative Council establish a new inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region in the 58th Parliament, referring all evidence from this inquiry to the relevant committee.'

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Barrett.

Noes: Mr Graham, Mr Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Question resolved in the negative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That paragraph 2.45 be amended by omitting 'On the face of it'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That paragraph 2.48 be amended by inserting a full stop after 'employee'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: that the following new committee comment and recommendation be inserted after 2.49:

'Taking into account the evidence of Mr Mare, and the fact that the committee is unclear to what extent the matters before it have already been investigated by the Independent Commission Against

Corruption, the committee is also recommending that the influence of property developers and others in legal, political and democratic processes in The Hills Shire region be referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, along with this report and committee transcripts of evidence.

Recommendation x

That Portfolio Committee no. 7 – Planning and Environment refer the influence of property developers and others in legal, political and democratic processes in The Hills Shire region to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, along with this report and committee transcripts of evidence.'

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That paragraph 2.50 be amended by inserting at the end:

'The committee does not accept that Jean-Claude Perrottet was not aware of this inquiry or the attempts the committee made to contact or summons him, despite the claims he made in his correspondence to the committee, received at the secretariat's office two days before tabling. We note that this correspondence was in hard copy, and that Mr Perrottet must have been in contact with another potential witness to even know the office address. Indeed, it is clear to the committee that many witnesses involved in this inquiry – including Mr Perrottet - were taking active steps to frustrate the committee's processes and avoid scrutiny. If they did not have anything to hide, and were rejecting any allegations of impropriety, one must question why they would just not come forward and answer the committee's questions'.

Mr Graham moved: That the following finding and recommendation be inserted after paragraph 2.49:

Finding x

Based on evidence to the committee, a meeting took place at which Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet asked a businessman to contribute \$50,000 to an operation to unseat Alex Hawke, federal member for Mitchell

Recommendation x

That any future inquiry, as referred to in Recommendation 1, should call Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet to give evidence as to these matters.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mr Graham moved: That the following finding and recommendation be inserted after paragraph 2.49:

Finding x

The finding of this committee about a request for \$50,000 combined with the behaviour of witnesses called to this inquiry add weight to the allegations by Government MP Ray Williams in the parliament that "Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were paid significant funds in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications."

Recommendation x

That any future inquiry should call Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif to give evidence as to these matters.'

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new finding be inserted after paragraph 2.50:

'Finding x

The committee finds the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to evade services: Christian Ellis, Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new finding be inserted after paragraph 2.50:

'Finding x

The committee finds the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in serious and deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry, noting they were out of the jurisdiction: Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new finding be inserted after paragraph 2.50:

'Finding x

The committee finds the following witnesses for whom summons were issued to assist the inquiry engaged in deliberate attempts to avoid giving evidence to the inquiry: Jeff Egan, Jeremy Greenwood and Dylan Whitelaw.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham, that paragraph 2.54 be amended by:

- omitting 'serious and deliberate' and inserting instead 'serious, deliberate and co-ordinated' before 'attempts to evade service'
- inserting at the end: 'These serious, deliberate and coordinated attempts raise concerns about the obstructing or impeding of the work of the committee in its inquiry. This matter deserves further examination. The committee was not able to answer the question – who was responsible for co-ordinating such activity?'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following new finding be inserted after paragraph 2.54:

'Finding x

That never has a New South Wales parliamentary committee been faced with such serious, deliberate and co-ordinated attempts to evade service of a summons.'

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That recommendation 3 be amended by:

- inserting 'in extraordinary circumstances' after 'where'.
- omitting the second dot point: 'there are certain time and/or resource constraints which affect the ability of parliamentary staff to take on the role of serving a summons.'
- inserting: 'This matter should be considered by any future inquiry by the Privileges Committee into the operation of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*.'

Mr Barrett moved: That the following new recommendation be inserted after paragraph 2.57:

'Recommendation x

That the Legislative Council refer the matter of the anonymously authored documents being tabled under Parliamentary Privilege to the Privileges Committee for inquiry and report.'

Mr Graham moved: That the motion of Mr Barrett be amended by omitting 'the' before 'anonymously authorised documents'.

Amendment of Mr Graham put and passed.

Original question of Mr Barrett, as amended, put and passed.

Ms Sharpe moved: That the following new comment and recommendation be inserted in an appropriate location in the report, as to be determined by the secretariat:

'Given the evidence the committee has received, the Minister for Local Government should undertake an investigation into the Hills Shire Council and consider what steps should be taken, including whether the Council should be put into administration'.

'Recommendation x

That the Minister for Local Government should undertake an investigation into the Hills Shire Council and consider what steps should be taken, including whether the Council should be put into administration'.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Mr Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following paragraph be inserted after paragraph 2.57:

'The committee thanks the parliamentary committee staff for their efforts during this inquiry. The unprecedented procedural issues that were raised by the inquiry were dealt with at all times in a professional and diligent manner.'

Mr Graham moved: That the following documents be attached as appendices to the report:

- The Hansard of Ray Williams speech to the Parliament
- The transcript of the 4 Corners episode
- The correspondence in both directions relating to the seven witnesses who were summonsed to appear at the inquiry, as well as correspondence relating to Jean Nassif and Charles Perrottet
- The reports relating to efforts to serve these witnesses, both from the parliament staff and the private process servers
- The letter from Lou Amato MLC relating to conflicts of interest
- The Hansard from the final public hearing of the inquiry on Thursday 2nd March
- The three chapters of 'The Men who Stole the Hills'
- Text from Frits Mare
- Correspondence from Dylan Whitelaw, Jeremy Greenwood and Robert Assaf to the Chair received 1 March 2023.

Mr Barrett moved: That the motion of Mr Graham be amended by omitting "The three chapters of 'The Men who Stole the Hills'".

Amendment of Mr Barrett put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Barrett.

Noes: Mr Graham, Ms Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Amendment of Mr Barrett resolved in the negative.

Original question of Mr Graham put and passed.

Ms Sharpe moved: That:

- The draft report as amended be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;

- The transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- Upon tabling, all unpublished attachments to submissions be kept confidential by the committee;
- Upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, and answers to questions on notice relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- Upon tabling, all unpublished correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee and subject to the redaction of identifying and/or sensitive information;
- The committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- The committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;
- Dissenting statements be provided to the secretariat by 10.00 am, Thursday 2 March;
- The secretariat is tabling the report at 4.00 pm, Thursday 2 March;
- The Chair to advise the secretariat and members if they intend to hold a press conference, and if so, the date and time.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Mr Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

6. **Adjournment**

The committee adjourned at 3.58 pm until 10.45 am Thursday 2 March 2023 (public hearing).

Peta Leemen and Arizona Hart

Committee Clerk

Draft minutes no. 102

Thursday 2 March 2023

Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment

Gallery Room, State Library of New South Wales at 10.52 am

1. **Members present**

Ms Higginson, *Chair*

Mr Barrett (via videoconference)

Mr Graham

Ms Sharpe

2. **Apologies**

Ms Jackson

Mr Pearson

3. **Draft minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 101 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 101.

4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 1 March 2023 – Email from Ms Anita Perrottet, requesting that identifying information be redacted from the tabled document titled 'The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter Three: The Lobbyists'
- 1 March 2023 – Email from Ms Olivia Wilbury, Executive Producer – The Ray Hadley Morning Show, 2GB Sydney to Chair, enclosing screenshots of text messages from Charles Perrottet to a Liberal Party member in October 2021
- 2 March 2023 – Email from Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet to secretariat, confirming he was the author of correspondence sent to the committee, dated 28 February 2023.

Sent:

- 1 March 2023 – Email from secretariat to Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, seeking confirmation that the correspondence dated 28 February was sent by him
- 1 March 2023 – Email from secretariat to Ms Anita Perrottet, confirming that identifying information has been redacted from the tabled document titled 'The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter Three: The Lobbyists'.

5. Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

5.1 Public hearing

The committee noted that it previously agreed via email to invite Ms Shirlee Burge to give evidence at the hearing today.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee does not require witnesses for today's hearing to provide answers to question on notice or submit supplementary questions.

Witnesses, the public and the media were admitted.

The Chair made an opening statement regarding the broadcasting of proceedings and other matters.

The following witness was sworn and examined:

- Ms Shirlee Burge, Private individual.

The evidence concluded and the witness withdrew.

The public hearing concluded at 12.09 pm. The public and the media withdrew.5.1

5.2 Transcript of the hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That references to the name of Christian Ellis' property be redacted from the transcript of today's hearing and, if possible, be removed from the video recording.

5.3 Unauthorised disclosure

The Chair made a statement regarding the unauthorised disclosure of the Chair's draft report.

5.4 Re-consideration of Chair's draft report

The Chair made a statement regarding the unauthorised disclosure of the Chair's draft report.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee re-consider the Chair's draft report entitled *Allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region*, as amended at the meeting on 1 March 2023.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the screenshots of text messages from Charles Perrottet to a Liberal Party member in October 2021 provided by Ms Olivia Wilbury, Executive Producer – The Ray Hadley Morning Show, 2GB Sydney, dated 1 March 2023, be included as an appendix to the report

- the following new paragraph be inserted in an appropriate location in the report, as to be determined by the secretariat:
 'In relation to this, broadcaster Ray Hadley received text messages that go to the evidence of Mr Haselden'.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the following new paragraph be inserted in an appropriate location in the report, as to be determined by the secretariat:
 'The committee received evidence from Ms Shirlee Burge in its fourth hearing on 2 March 2023. This was after the report was adopted by the committee'.

Mr Graham moved: That:

- the draft report as amended be the report of the committee and that the committee present the report to the House;
- the transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, answers to questions on notice, and correspondence relating to the inquiry be tabled in the House with the report;
- upon tabling, all unpublished attachments to submissions be kept confidential by the committee;
- upon tabling, all unpublished transcripts of evidence, submissions, tabled documents, and answers to questions on notice relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee;
- upon tabling, all unpublished correspondence relating to the inquiry, be published by the committee, except for those documents kept confidential by resolution of the committee and subject to the redaction of identifying and/or sensitive information;
- the committee secretariat correct any typographical, grammatical and formatting errors prior to tabling;
- the committee secretariat be authorised to update any committee comments where necessary to reflect changes to recommendations or new recommendations resolved by the committee;
- the secretariat table the report at 4.00 pm, Thursday 2 March.

Question put.

The committee divided.

Ayes: Mr Graham, Mr Higginson, Ms Sharpe.

Noes: Mr Barrett.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 12.23 pm, *sine die*.

Arizona Hart
Committee Clerk

Appendix 4 NSW Legislative Assembly Hansard, 23 June 2022, pp 76-77

THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL LIBERAL PARTY COUNCILLORS

Mr RAY WILLIAMS (Castle Hill) (17:43): An issue that I have raised previously in this House concerns the undemocratic political processes of the Liberal Party regarding the choice of candidates for the local government elections held in The Hills shire during December 2021 last year. At these council elections, the former popularly elected mayor Michelle Byrne and six sitting Liberal councillors were replaced by the Liberal Party State Executive without the usual preselection processes normally afforded to such positions. Given that no response by the Liberal Party has to date been provided to these former good community representatives, and the general community, I again raise this matter.

The previous mayor, Michelle Byrne, and the former councillors of The Hills shire were held in extremely high regard by my community, so their removal came as a complete shock. By way of background, the Liberal Party State Executive chose to endorse new Liberal councillors, some living outside the area, to run at The Hills council elections last December without a reason or excuse ever provided to those six sitting councillors and mayor, who were subsequently replaced. Allegations have been raised with me that senior people within the New South Wales Liberal Party, a member of the Liberal Party State Executive and former Hills councillor, were supported financially at the time by a large developer by the name of Jean Nassif, who owns Toplace. Toplace has one of the worst records in the residential building industry. According to media reports, Toplace continues to produce faulty apartments with serious building defects across the Sydney metropolitan area, including in my electorate of Castle Hill.

Apparently prior to the council elections Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal Party, who were paid significant funds in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications. Christian Ellis is the owner of a lobbyist company and at the time a Liberal Party State Executive member who listed Toplace as one of his major clients. It has been well documented that Jean Nassif of Toplace had purchased a number of properties between Highs Road and Glenhope Road, Castle Hill, for the amount of \$250 million. Once purchased by Toplace, the company then sought a planning proposal through The Hills Shire Council for thousands of new high-rise apartments to be constructed on this land, with some apartments to be above 20 storeys in height. The proposal raised the ire of the community and was quite rightly refused by both the council officers on The Hills Shire Council and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment local planning panel, but the proposal was wholeheartedly supported by certain councillors at the time.

Hills councillors have raised with me that one previous councillor—who is now a member of the New South Wales Parliament—actively supported the Toplace development proposal during this time, apparently arranging meetings with The Hills Shire Council staff together with Toplace consultants, speaking favourably during council meetings on behalf of the Toplace planning proposal and caucusing with Liberal councillors in order to obtain support for Toplace. The former councillor was also mentioned on the Ray Hadley 2GB radio program as organising some of the new councillors for The Hills Shire Council. One of the newly elected councillors,

Virginia Ellis, is employed as the electorate officer on behalf of this member of Parliament, and incidentally is the mother of Christian Ellis. Needless to say, these are very serious allegations.

If Christian Ellis, senior members of the Liberal Party, a former councillor and now member of the New South Wales Parliament, received financial benefit from Jean Nassif of Toplace in order to put new councillors on The Hills Shire Council who would subsequently be supportive of development applications on behalf of Toplace, then my community has good reason to be very concerned. This issue must be investigated. However, due to the inherent conflict of interest that currently exists with members of the Liberal Party State Executive, only an external investigation will substantiate these allegations, or ultimately refute them. I will have more to say about these matters in the future.

Appendix 5 Transcript: 'The War Within', Four Corners, 4 July 2022

“The War Within”

4 July 2022

Four Corners

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: On the evening of March 29 while all eyes were on parliament house for the federal budget, a Liberal warrior was preparing to drop a bombshell.

It was a critical night for Scott Morrison’s government, hoping for a political reset before its re-election campaign in a few weeks’ time.

Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells had other plans.

She’d recently learned she’d been put in an unwinnable spot on the Liberal ticket for the upcoming election, ending a 17-year political career.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005- 2022: I knew that my time in the Senate was coming to an end. And there were certain matters that I wished to put on the record. And this afforded me the opportunity to have my say.

The leading conservative hadn’t come to praise Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

She’d come to bury him.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005- 2022: In order to understand the man, it is best to look at his past actions. He is adept at running with the foxes and hunting with the hounds, lacking a moral compass and having no conscience.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: Sour grapes is certainly what was prominent in my mind as I listened to the whole download.

ANDREW BRAGG, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW: I don’t think dropping bombs on your own party just before an election is the right thing to do.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022: I think Alex and the movement that he’s built, is a cancer that’s infected the party. And it needs to be excised. This cancer needs to be cut out. I’m speaking out because many, many people inside the Liberal party aren’t able to speak.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Tonight on Four Corners, we expose the factional infighting being blamed for fomenting the Coalition’s devastating election loss ... with Liberal party insiders speaking out for the first time. We investigate extraordinary allegations about backroom party operatives and how they tried to wield their power. And reveal how, on the brink of a federal election, the internal warfare was deliberately escalated, driven by deep-set hatred and a hunger for revenge.

TITLE: THE WAR WITHIN

ANNOUNCER: This is Ray Hadley in the morning, right across Australia.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Every weekday morning at just after 9 o’clock one of Australia’s best-known radio hosts hits the airwaves.

Ray Hadley is a powerful voice in national politics, with particular influence inside the Liberal party.

Days after Concetta Fierravanti-Wells' speech, he told his audience exactly what he thought of it.

ANNOUNCER: On the way out the door, Connie Fierravanti-Wells tosses a hand grenade.

RAY HADLEY, BROADCASTER: Well, I think that what Connie said on that Budget night would suggest to me, as was the case with many others within the Liberal party, they were venting about their unhappiness with the Party generally. And I thought it was less than helpful, heading to a federal election, to have people with inside the party, fighting with - I'm sure that Anthony Albanese was sitting back, thinking, "How good is this?"

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Hadley had been intensely focused on a factional war unfolding in the Liberal party that threatened to derail its re-election chances.

RAY HADLEY, BROADCASTER: The Prime Minister is on the line. Prime Minister, good morning.

SCOTT MORRISON, PRIME MINISTER 2018-2022: G'day Ray.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: As the election loomed, candidates had still not been chosen in more than a dozen New South Wales seats.

RAY HADLEY, BROADCASTER: We are getting closer to May. When are we going to have some definitive answer in NSW as to who's going to stand and get rid of this nonsense?

SCOTT MORRISON, PRIME MINISTER 2018-2022: Well, it is very frustrating and there are some childish games going on there. But those playing games in the NSW Liberal Party, the organisation, need to ensure they focus on winning this election for the goodness of the Australian people and forget their factional rubbish.

RAY HADLEY, BROADCASTER: I've sat through a lot of federal elections having done this job for a lot of times. And I can't remember another time where there was such confusion about pre-selection for either the Labor Party, the Liberal Party or anyone else. It just seemed to me that it was ridiculous.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: In the preselection crisis, the stakes were high for one of Scott Morrison's political lieutenants: then Immigration Minister Alex Hawke.

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: Scott Morrison and Hawke got into parliament the same time, 2007, they were very, very close. They put together a little group of people in that party room that were loyal to them. That weren't part of the left wing faction, weren't part of the right wing faction, part of the Scomo faction. Scomo was the face, Alex was the numbers man. It was a very, very successful team.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Hawke and others were facing challenges to their preselection from candidates backed by the hard right faction.

To head off the threat, Hawke is accused of not being available for the vetting meetings that would allow the pre-selections to go ahead.

He had a crucial role in those meetings as the Prime Minister's representative.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: There was World War 3 between the factions in terms of the candidates who had been nominated. It then became a standoff, which explains Alex Hawke's absence from a series of meetings where he should have been present. He was the Prime Minister's representative. He wasn't there, certain things didn't happen, and the whole preselection process derailed.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: One man was determined to not let Alex Hawke get his way ... I'm about to meet him. Matthew Camenzuli is an avowed conservative and a bitter factional enemy of

Hawke. He put his own political future at risk by taking on the Liberal Party, and until now he's never spoken about it.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022:
Hi Sean, how are you?

SEAN NICHOLLS: Good thanks, how are you?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI: Good thanks, come in.

SEAN NICHOLLS: Matthew, why are you choosing to speak out about this now?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022:
I'm speaking out because many, many people inside the Liberal party aren't able to speak. And I'm not in the Liberal party anymore. They threw me out.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Matthew Camenzuli was a member of the NSW Liberal party's governing body, the State Executive and a key player in the hard right faction.

He wanted to take down Alex Hawke and his allies, to get his own people into parliament.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022:
I think the reason that Alex didn't go to the various meetings was in order to build pressure in order to build a situation where a deal had to be struck, a transaction had to be done cross-factionally in order to help Alex get the candidates that he wanted in the seats that he wanted.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Former Liberal party member John Ruddick is a strong supporter of Matthew Camenzuli.

He's since joined the rival Liberal Democrats.

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: So they can't have a meeting without the prime minister's representative, and they just wear down the clock. Then we get to, it's the eve of the election, they say, "Oh, well, let's stop these factional games. Let's just appoint them. And that's what happened. And I believe it cost them the election.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Alex Hawke declined to be interviewed, but in a statement said:

MALE VOICE: "The specific allegation made by some that I delayed or had any ability to delay nomination review by not attending is false ... As per party requirements I have no role in deciding matters in relation to my own preselection."

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Just weeks before the federal election was called, Scott Morrison used the party rules to head off the challenge by the right by installing his own candidates, including Alex Hawke and then Cabinet Minister Sussan Ley.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Why did you need the intervention of Scott Morrison and indeed Alex Hawke to protect you?

SUSSAN LEY, DEPUTY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: I don't blame Scott Morrison. I don't blame Alex Hawke. I blame the factional games and the infighting that led to this point and would have seen good cabinet ministers, good first term members of parliament and good marginal seat members ousted potentially. And that's the thing that we needed to address, and we continue to need to address within the New South Wales division.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Matthew Camenzuli hit back with an extraordinary move: he took his own party to court.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022: There were a number of us on the executive and broadly in the party that thought that this process that was being imposed upon the members, which was a federal intervention, because Alex wasn't getting his own way, was essentially a bad thing and bad for democracy and bad for any future opposition or government. So, we asked the courts whether or not they thought what was going on was a good idea. Essentially, we just went to the court.

SEAN NICHOLLS: Your cousin, Charles Camenzuli was trying to get pre-selected for Parramatta for the Liberal Party. You say you were doing it for the right reasons but wasn't there a degree of self-interest there as well?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI: There are much, much easier ways to get the candidates that you want into parliament. And most specifically, we don't know who would've won the selection in Parramatta. We just wanted a pre-selection

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: So Matthew, what have we got here?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI: Well, this is one of the many documents from when we sued the Liberal party in order to try and get democratic preselections across the board. So you can see here I was the first plaintiff and Scott Morrison being the first defendant, among others.

SEAN NICHOLLS: So you lost this case. What did you do then?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI: Well, we went on to the high court.

SEAN NICHOLLS: And how did the party respond to that?

MATTHEW CAMENZULI: Well, they sent me this letter. And this letter is my expulsion letter. They threw me out of the party. And they threw me out of the party simply for going to court.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Camenzuli's court action failed, but damage had been done.

The internal divisions were now on public display.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: Look, if a party gets involved in a litigation or what is basically a litigation about an internal matter, again, you're in strife. Now he did what was his right to pursue a legal outcome, but it's a pretty poor alternative and paints a picture correctly about what an appalling state of affairs it was in relation to those preselections.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: It wasn't the first time Morrison had to save one of his political allies from conservative challengers.

A year earlier western Sydney MP Melissa McIntosh was under attack from forces aligned with Matthew Camenzuli.

She'd won the seat of Lindsay from Labor in 2019.

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: While I was working with my community, there were people that were working hard to take me out, and they were working hard to build branches, build their membership. These were people that I'd never met before in my life, that people that worked with me on the 2019 election, local people, had never met before. They were from out of the area.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: At the annual meeting of her branches at a local club, McIntosh says she was ambushed when 20 new people suddenly arrived.

Matthew Camenzuli was also there.

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: And I turned up to a local Liberal Party meeting and they aggressively took over that meeting, every single executive spot that belonged to local people. They shouted over the then-Minister for Women, Marise Payne. They shouted over me. They shouted over anyone that disputed their claim for positions. These were people we'd never met before in our lives. A bunch of blokes who were working specifically to take me out.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Four Corners has obtained an email that McIntosh later sent to the party leadership, in which she says: "Matthew Camenzuli appeared to be orchestrating much of the events that took place ..." and "even yelling from the back of the room."

He denies this.

Shortly afterwards, Melissa McIntosh went to a meeting of Liberal MPs in Canberra, where she was confronted by a key ally of Matthew Camenzuli.

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: Senator Connie Fierravanti-Wells pulled me out of that meeting and told me it was in my best interest to go along with the people that were doing this to me within my branches. I'm really disappointed. I think it's really unacceptable behaviour.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: She feels it was inappropriate for you to be supporting the people she claims were trying to ambush her and challenge her preselection. What do you say to that?

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005- 2022: I understood that there was some tension between Melissa and other members of her conference, and I wanted to assist because I knew the people. For that reason, I offered my assistance to Melissa to see if I could introduce them and to ensure that they could work together towards the common objective of Melissa winning the next federal election.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Melissa McIntosh demanded that the party investigate what went on.

She was shocked at the response.

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: I addressed State Executive, and I felt like I was treated in a disrespectful way, and it was unacceptable behaviour. At this particular State Executive meeting one of the people who are on State Executive stood up and acted in an intimidating way in front of me, walked, paced in front of me. He was intimidating so much that someone at the back of the room, another State Executive member, stood up and asked for him to sit down and stop behaving in that way. I made this request 14 months ago to State Executive. I have not heard back from state executive once about my request for them to investigate my local branch meeting on that occasion and the behaviour that took place.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: And why do you think that is?

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: That state executive is made up of factional warlords who have nothing better to do than to act in a thuggish way towards members of parliament like myself, first term, marginal MPs like myself, who just were wanting to work hard for their community. That's what being a member of parliament's about.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Scott Morrison eventually convinced the right to drop the challenge.

At this year's election, Melissa McIntosh was returned in Lindsay with a swing towards her.

MELISSA MCINTOSH, LIBERAL MP: We need to change our culture. We can have all the quotas in the world, but it will be a revolving door of women if we don't address the culture within the Liberal party to make it a more supportive culture where complaints or issues or concerns are taken seriously. It is unacceptable that the Liberal party is allowing this type of behaviour to happen. I don't think it's

acceptable and I can't encourage other women professional women to leave their careers, to spend time away from their families to pursue a career where there is this type of thuggish behaviour happening within the Liberal party.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: In the Liberal Party there are three major factions: the left, or moderate faction, led by Simon Birmingham.

The Hard Right or Conservative faction, led by Peter Dutton.

Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and Matthew Camenzuli are aligned to this group.

And the Centre Right, run by Alex Hawke and led nationally by Scott Morrison when he was Prime Minister.

Sussan Ley is closest to this group.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: The factions are very powerful. That's not something that's happened overnight. It has evolved certainly in the 40 years that I've been involved in the Liberal Party. And to the point that the factions in the Liberal Party today are not dissimilar in terms of the power that they wield compared with the Labor party.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: And why is that problematic?

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: It's problematic because you end up with the spectre of a party within a party that for a lot of people becomes the reason they belong to the party. In other words, not to compete in the marketplace of ideas, not to compete against other parties and candidates or sitting members in the context of an election, but really to make sure that your faction has the numbers is on the ascendancy and basically has its way.

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: They are mafia without the violence. Now they will break rules, party rules. It's question about whether they break other rules. But they are gangs fighting over turf. Now the mafia fights over turf to control streets and to control, stand over businesses, et cetera. The turf war, these mafia light gangs, is who's going to be in parliament.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The origins of the factional brawl over preselections began years earlier.

In 2015, Malcolm Turnbull, backed by the moderates, removed the hard right leader Tony Abbott as Prime Minister.

Two years later the conservatives took revenge.

A wounded Tony Abbott led the charge to give each branch member more power in candidate selection, a process known as a plebiscite.

Abbott's motion succeeded, weakening the moderate faction bosses that had removed him from power.

TONY ABBOTT, PRIME MINISTER 2013-2015: Look, this has been a very important convention; it's been a very significant outcome. It's a clear road ahead to one member, one vote preselections. A clear road ahead to a democratic political party which is controlled by its members. Not by lobbyists, not by factionalists, not by string pullers. But by ordinary, decent Australians.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: It took several years for the rules to be implemented.

They were in full force in time for this year's federal election, sparking the preselection crisis.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA Well, I think the word is debacle. There is nothing more important in the day to day life of a political

organisation than preselection, it's core business. It was two minutes to midnight in the lead up to the federal election before those preselections took place. And when they took place, they were really a forced captain's call that involved the Prime Minister.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Why is protecting you and your colleagues in that situation more important than giving local branch members a democratic say in who their candidate is?

SUSSAN LEY, DEPUTY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: Plebiscites are a good thing, but they need to be managed. They need to be managed in a way that produces an outcome that's good for our party and good for the nation. Because remember at the end of all this, I've got constituents, over a hundred thousand that are voting for the person they want to see take their messages to Canberra and fight for them. When they look at us fighting amongst ourselves, they turn away.

Despite being virtually unknown to the public, Alex Hawke strategically built his power behind the scenes, not only inside the federal Liberals but in NSW as well.

His first political home was the hard right faction.

In the early 2000s, Hawke seized the presidency of the NSW Young Liberals from the moderates.

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: It was pretty extraordinary. And only about two years after that, the state executive also fell to the right, thanks to Alex, the energy that he brought. So that was impressive.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Hawke was named as a central player in the downfall of moderate NSW Liberal leader John Brogden, who resigned after reports that he made a racist remark at a function.

Hawke was accused of spreading the story.

JOHN BROGDEN, NSW LIBERAL PARTY LEADER, 2002-2005: The federal president of the Young Liberal movement, Alex Hawke, has been named as pushing it. He needs to take a long, hard look at himself.

JOURNALIST: And why were they doing it?

JOHN BROGDEN, NSW LIBERAL PARTY LEADER, 2002-2005: Well, it's pretty obvious that everyone in politics has people out to get them.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Hawke issued a statement at the time saying the allegation was false.

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: Four or five years later, Alex, and a small number of others break away from the right, badge themselves as the Centre Right. But go into business with the left and bring the left back into power, that created an enormous amount of animosity, created this new situation, where there was three factions.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The breakaway faction infuriated the hard right.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005- 2022: When I first met Hawke, he was ostensibly a part of the conservative movement and I thought that he stood up for a set of values and beliefs. However, over the years, it has become clear that for Alex, politics has become more of very much a factional winner-take-all attitude. I think that once you cross that line where politics is no longer about values and beliefs and simply becomes about visceral ends, it's no longer staying true, I think, to yourself as a good parliamentarian and as a good politician.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019 – 2022: Alex has been a political staffer, a political operative, a factional hack for many, many years. Alex was somebody who's caused much division inside of the Liberal Party.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Since his election to parliament in 2007, Alex Hawke has further consolidated his power through a fundraising body called the Mitchell Club, run by local party officials.

Four Corners can reveal that donors to the Mitchell Club have been invited to pay up to \$12,000 a year in return for access to government ministers, including the prime minister.

The membership fee sits just below the level where the money needs to be publicly disclosed.

MICHAEL YABSLEY, FORMER FEDERAL TREASURER, LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA: Fundraising organisations that hang off political parties basically invite people who are interested in politics mainly within the corporate world to attend lunches or dinners or other functions. That provides access. It also provides influence or at least the opportunity for influence, the truth is that most politicians get their hands dirty with fundraising.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Alex Hawke's seat of Mitchell covers the increasingly wealthy suburbs of northwest Sydney.

An area known to locals like broadcaster Ray Hadley as 'The Hills'.

RAY HADLEY, BROADCASTER: I've been a resident in the Hills for 30 years, a ratepayer in the Hills, and I've taken a keen interest in various things that have happened out there. The Hills is a very conservative area. A mix of population, a large population of people have come from different parts of the world. The development in the Hills is white-hot.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: It's an event here in the Hills that led to one of the most damning allegations against Alex Hawke by Concetta Fierravanti-Wells in her speech to the Senate.

She dredged up a three-and-a-half-year-old dispute about a Liberal party branch meeting held at this funeral home in Baulkham Hills.

On the agenda was the admission of new members, which could have threatened Hawke's power in the area.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005- 2022: Hawke was present at the meeting. He saw what went on. After the meeting the minutes were falsified to show that the ten members were not accepted. Despite clear evidence of fraud, Hawke's role in this process has never been fully disclosed.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: One of the rejected members complained to police that fraud may have occurred.

NSW police told Four Corners that "based on what has been received - police do not see any evidence of a criminal offence."

Alex Hawke said the Liberal party has stated no MP has been investigated over the dispute.

Six months out from the federal election, the factional fighting escalated to a whole new level, with extraordinary claims and counter claims, many of which are impossible to prove.

The players, many motivated by power and revenge, present different versions of events.

We've obtained this dossier sent to the NSW corruption watchdog late last year by a senior member of Alex Hawke's faction.

One of its most stunning allegations is that Liberal party figures offered to carry out a branch stacking operation to overthrow a local council to benefit an infamous property developer, Jean Nassif.

Jean Nassif owns the property development firm, Toplace.

He rocketed to prominence after this social media post of him presenting his wife with a luxury car went viral.

JEAN NASSIF, PROPERTY DEVELOPER: Congratulations Mrs Nassif, you like?

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: But it's his buildings that have drawn the most attention, some have been widely criticised for their defects.

Around 2014, Nassif embarked on one of his most ambitious projects.

He started buying up land worth more than \$200 million around the new Cherrybrook metro station to build thousands of new apartments.

Alan Haselden was Liberal deputy mayor of The Hills Shire council when he met Jean Nassif to discuss the proposal.

ALAN HASELDEN, HILLS SHIRE LIBERAL COUNCILLOR 2012-2021: The Mayor and I attended the meeting, Mr Nassif and his Chief Executive, or one of his senior executives whose name I don't recall, attended, showed us some proposed layouts. And I guess at that point, the magnitude of the proposal became apparent and I hadn't really, personally as a ward councillor, I hadn't even really considered that scale of development around the Cherrybrook Station.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Toplace was struggling to convince the council to support the project.

One claim in the Hawke faction dossier sent to the NSW corruption watchdog, ICAC, is that Nassif met two right faction Liberal party identities to discuss his frustrations.

Christian Ellis and Charles Perrottet, the brother of future Premier Dominic Perrottet.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The dossier alleges that at this meeting, Charles Perrottet put forward a remarkable proposal: that before the next council election, he and others could stack branches to influence the preselection of Liberal candidates supportive of Nassif's development, if Nassif could fund the operation.

Four Corners has been unable to establish that this offer was made to Jean Nassif.

Last year, before The Hills Shire Council election, the NSW Liberal state executive chose a new group of candidates.

Alan Haselden was dumped.

ALAN HASELDEN, HILLS SHIRE LIBERAL COUNCILLOR 2012-2021: Well, I received an email from the State President, which said, "Thank you for your..." I think it said, "Thank you for your contribution, this is the list of endorsed candidates for the various wards," and of course my name wasn't on them and nor were the names of most of my former colleagues, including the Mayor.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: And what did that make you think?

ALAN HASELDEN, HILLS SHIRE LIBERAL COUNCILLOR 2012-2021: Well, I was stunned.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The new Hills Shire council was elected late last year.

It hasn't reconsidered the Toplace proposal.

Just two weeks ago, an Alex Hawke ally, NSW state MP Ray Williams, weaponised this allegation against the hard right faction by making it public under parliamentary privilege.

RAY WILLIAMS, NSW LIBERAL MP: Apparently prior to the council elections Jean Nassif of Toplace met with Christian Ellis and other senior members of the Liberal party, who were paid significant funds

in order to arrange to put new councillors on The Hills Shire council who would be supportive of future Toplace development applications.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Toplace said there's no substance to Ray Williams' allegations.

NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet referred them to ICAC.

But Four Corners can reveal that in March, ICAC declined to investigate these allegations when they were raised in the Hawke faction dossier.

FEMALE VOICE: Despite the alleged political manoeuvring within the NSW Liberal Party affecting how the elected Council is constituted, allegations that new Councillors may be more supportive of developers are not sufficient to warrant investigation by the Commission.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Four Corners has established that a meeting between Christian Ellis, Charles Perrottet and Jean Nassif did take place at Toplace's office, but what was discussed is hotly disputed.

Sources familiar with the meeting deny an offer to change the council was discussed ... and insist Jean Nassif complained about his projects being treated unfairly.

Because he had refused to donate to the Mitchell Club, the Liberal fundraising body run from Alex Hawke's electorate.

Alex Hawke denies this.

MALE VOICE: All donations are managed through the Federal Liberal Party. I have not exercised any influence for or against any development nor sought to through anyone else. Any claim in this regard is farcical, false and defamatory.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The Hawke faction dossier sent to ICAC contains more allegations that inflame the factional war: that Alex Hawke was the target of an elaborate branch stacking plot by the hard right.

It details a meeting in 2018 again involving the hard right Liberal identity Christian Ellis and says that with him was Jean-Claude Perrottet, another of NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet's brothers.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Christian Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet are said to have approached a northern Sydney businessman and Liberal Party member, Frits Mare, and asked him for \$50,000 to bankroll branch stacking in the Hills district.

Four Corners has obtained a text message sent to Frits Mare by an associate who tells Mare that he "still can't believe that approach to you by Christian Ellis and JC Perrottet" and that "\$50k would stack more than Hawke's seat."

There's no evidence that any money was paid and Frits Mare told Four Corners he couldn't comment on "someone else's alleged text message" which he described as "unverified and one sided."

We asked former Liberal John Ruddick for his assessment of the allegation.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: I just want to give you a look at this. It's a text message exchange we've got a hold of Sure. Sorry. What do you make of that?

JOHN RUDDICK, FORMER LIBERAL PARTY MEMBER: Look, I thought I'd seen it all. You know what? I better not talk about this. I'm sorry.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: In response to the claims in the dossier, ICAC said it "has considered the allegations raised. The Commission will not be investigating the allegations."

SCOTT MORRISON, PRIME MINISTER 2018-2022: It's a difficult night for Liberals and Nationals around the country, as nights like this always are.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The Liberals had a catastrophic election result in New South Wales, losing six seats in part thanks to the factional brawl.

Of the 12 seats where Morrison installed his captain's picks, only three were won by the Liberals.

SCOTT MORRISON, PRIME MINISTER 2018-2022: And I think it is important for our nation to heal and to move forward.

ANDREW BRAGG, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW: There is no question that the failure to pre-select candidates in an orderly timetable hurt our election prospects. The constitutional stipulation for pre-selections was not followed. It was undermined repeatedly, and that caused us not to have candidates in the field and, therefore, it hurt our election prospects.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Alex Hawke was returned as the member for Mitchell, but with a large swing against him.

Shortly afterwards new hard right Liberal leader Peter Dutton dumped him from the front bench.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005-2022: I think the party now needs to be guided by people who are going to respect the constitution, to respect the views, and not abuse them. I think that Hawke should now look at his future, consider the situation in relation to his next pre-selection, and reflect on his actions, and reflect on why his constituents and party people in his area should continue to support him into the future. And that will ultimately be a decision for the selectors of Mitchell.

MATTHEW CAMENZULI, NSW LIBERAL PARTY STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBER 2019-2022: It's a nasty sniping, childish, juvenile, valueless, principle-less culture that had built around Alex and his cohort. I think the guy's a cancer. I think Alex and the movement that he's built is a cancer that has infected the party and has grown into some of the better ends of the party as well, and it needs to be excised. This cancer needs to be cut out.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Sussan Ley survived a challenge from Christian Ellis in her seat of Farrer, thanks to Scott Morrison's intervention.

SUSSAN LEY, DEPUTY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: None of what happened in New South Wales regarding these factional games impressed the public one little bit. Many mentioned it to me as I stood there on my own pre-poll and I think they were as bewildered as I was.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Moderate NSW Senator Andrew Bragg is proposing party rule changes to prevent the preselection chaos happening again.

ANDREW BRAGG, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW: We want to make sure that we have candidates in the field. So we want to make sure that there is a timetable which is guaranteed for pre-selections, and that will also help us attract new people who want to be one of our candidates. Then we want to make sure that the division can get on and do the job without there being undue interference from the leader's representative.

SUSSAN LEY, DEPUTY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: Senator Bragg's broad suggestions are well and truly worth considering. In fact, everything needs to be on the table at this point in time, as we work hard to get our house in order to resolve the issues that have caused the problems that have been unfortunately so apparent to the Australian people.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Last month, Concetta Fierravanti-Wells left parliament after 17 years.

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005-2022: I'm very proud of my work as a Senator. I don't resile from having stood up for the values and beliefs that I hold, because I know that those values and beliefs are shared by millions of Australians. Yes, there have been difficult moments. But in the end, I believe that I've come out with my integrity intact.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: Do you accept any responsibility for contributing to the election result?

CONCETTA FIERRAVANTI-WELLS, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW 2005-2022: Well, Sean, if proper procedures had been followed and we had adhered to the letter of the constitution, a lot of the skulduggery that happened would not have happened. If rules had been properly followed, then it would've been a very different path. We would not have had the captain's picks and the consequential disruptions that that brought.

SEAN NICHOLLS, REPORTER: The Liberal Party is still grappling with the lessons of the election loss, as the factional warfare continues.

The once dominant party is weakened and remains deeply divided.

ANDREW BRAGG, LIBERAL SENATOR FOR NSW: I think there's an old saying that rumours of my death are greatly exaggerated. Every party goes through one of these processes after they lose government. I'm not particularly concerned about the long-term viability of the Liberal Party, but we must learn the lessons. We need to be closer to the grassroots. We need to address the issues on fairness.

SUSSAN LEY, DEPUTY LIBERAL PARTY LEADER: The general public is completely turned off by what they see as factional games. That's why we have to get our house in order. Our job is to fight for them, not fight each other.

Appendix 6 Reports from private process servers regarding attempts to serve summonses

Summary of contact with key witnesses summonsed to appear at the PC7 Hills Shire Council inquiry to 16 February 2023

Witness	First contact	First invitation to give evidence	Second invitation to give evidence	Email notification of summons sent	Summons service attempts by parliamentary staff
Mr Christian Ellis	14 December 2022 emailed invitation to make submission. Phoned mobile 14 December, left message. Later spoke to him on his mobile, confirmed the email address I have is correct.	30 January 2023, by email. Followed up with a phone call on 1 February. He said he would check emails and get back to me.	3 February, letter from chair sent by email. Followed up with phone call 6 February, left message. No response.	8 February - email notification of summons. Followed up with phone call, left message asking for response. No response.	10 February - 2 service attempts at residential address in regional NSW. 13 February - 1 service attempt made at a Sydney residence.
Cr Virginia Ellis	13 December 2022 emailed invitation to make submission to council address. No response.	30 January 2023, by email to council address. Followed up with phone call to council mobile on 1 February, left message. No response.	3 February, letter from chair sent by email. Followed up with phone call 6 February, left message. 7 February, re-sent invitation to NSW Parliament email. Delivery receipt received, but no response.	8 February - email notification of summons to council and parliament email addresses. Followed up with phone call to council mobile, left message asking for response. 10 February received a 'read receipt' to the email sent to council address.	10 February - 2 service attempts at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address. 13 February - 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address.
Mr Jean-Claude Perrotet	30 January 2023 phoned him at his place of work, he provided his personal email address. I advised an invitation would be sent by email.	30 January 2023, by email. 1 February called mobile, left message. No response.	3 February, letter from chair sent by email. Followed up with phone call 6 February, went to voicemail, left message. No response.	8 February - email notification of summons. Followed up with phone call, left message asking for response. No response.	10 February - 1 service attempt at place of work, 1 attempt at residential address. 13 February - 1 service attempt at residential address.
Mr Charles Perrotet	30 January 2023, phoned his place of work, spoke to reception, confirmed he works there, left a message with reception, explaining the purpose of the call, asking him to contact me. No response.	31 January 2023, by email. Follow up call to mobile - left message asking him to confirm receipt of email. No response.	3 February, letter from chair sent by email. 6 February followed up with a phone call, went to voicemail, left message. No response. 15 February. A new invitation letter from the Chair sent by email and express posted to a Victorian address. 16 February, followed up with call to mobile, went to voicemail, left message.	8 February - email notification of summons. Followed up with phone call, left message asking for response. Received 'out of office' reply to the email.	10 February - 1 service attempt at a residential address in Sydney. New information received that he is currently in Victoria. 15 February - new invitation to appear issued - sent by email and express post.

Prepared by Portfolio Committee no. 7 secretariat, 16 February 2023

From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 9:39 AM
Subject: PC7 - Hills Shire Council inquiry - witness update - notice of meeting 10 am
Wednesday 8 February via webex

Attachments:

Dear members

I write at the request of the Chair to provide an update on witnesses for the Hills Shire Council inquiry public hearings, noting that many of the invited witnesses have not responded by the deadline of 5pm Monday.

The Chair proposes the committee meet at **10 am, Wednesday 8 February via Webex** to consider next steps, including possible issuing of summonses.

Invitation accepted

- Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, Hills Shire Council, is available on 15 February (correspondence attached)
- Dr Michelle Byrne, former Mayor, Hills Shire Council, is available the afternoon of 16 February (correspondence attached)

Invitation declined

- Ms Robyn Preston MP, who had previously accepted, has since emailed to decline the invitation (correspondence attached)
- Mr David Elliott has declined to nominate alternative dates on which he could appear (correspondence attached)

Invitations re-issued

Invitation letters from the Chair noting the committee's powers to summons witnesses were sent via email on Friday to the following individuals, asking for a response by **5pm Monday 6 February**. Those who had not responded by 4.00 pm were followed up with a phone call/voice message. Their status is summarised below:

- Dr Michelle Byrne – responded – accepted.
- Mr Jean Nassif – no response
- Mr Christian Ellis – no response
- Cr Virginia Ellis – no response
- Mr Charles Perrottet – no response
- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet – no response
- Mr Frits Mare – requested further information, indicated he will respond on Tuesday.

A letter from the Chair to The Hills Shire Council (General Manager, cc'd to Mayor) re-issuing an invitation and noting the committee's powers to summon witnesses was sent on Monday morning, asking for a response by **10 am Wednesday 8 February**. The Council's General Manager has responded indicating he will attend on behalf of Council.

Letters from the Chair inviting the following MPs to indicate if they are available on other dates in February, were sent via email on Friday, seeking a response by **Wednesday 8 February**:

- Mr Ray Williams MP
- Mr David Elliott MP – responded saying his diary is very full

Unable to contact -

The secretariat has been unable to reach the following potential witnesses:

- Mr Jeremy Greenwood
- Mr Ronnie Wardan

Action required: Please note **10 am Wednesday 8 March** in your calendars for a meeting via Webex to consider next steps.

The secretariat will distribute agenda and meeting papers before the meeting.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 11:57 AM
To: Tina Higgins
Cc: Peta Leemen
Subject: Summons - Clr Ellis

Hi Tina

As discussed, I attempted to serve Clr Ellis at 11.00 am and left the office unsuccessful. I then made a second attempt at the electoral office as follows -

- I was greeted by Ms [redacted] Electoral Officer at approximately 11.26 am at the member for Hawkesbury's electorate office in Richmond
- I explained who I was and that I was there to serve a document under the Parliamentary Evidence Act and asked to see Ms Ellis
- I was told 'Ms Ellis is not present'
- I then asked to make an appointment today and was told that 'It was not possible', I asked why and was met with silence
- I then asked if Ms Ellis was physically present in the office and I was told 'No'
- I then asked what her pattern of work is and was told 'full time employee' so I asked when she would be in the office next and Ms [redacted] responded - 'I don't know but I don't think I can tell you anyway'
- I again stressed that it was very important that I see Ms Ellis and could I make an appointment for next week and was told 'No'
- I asked to see the Manager and I was told 'There is no manager in today and Ms Preston is not in the office'
- I left the electorate office at approximately 11.40 am
- This exchange was witnessed by [redacted], Electoral Officer.

I will now attempt the home address of Ms Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

Kind regards

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From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 12:01 PM
To: Tina Higgins
Subject: Summons

Tina

I tried to serve the summons for Mr Ellis at 11.55 am today at his residence. No one answered the door, and I sighted no one or cars etc on the grounds. I will try again in shortly.

From: Friday, 10 February 2023 12:30 PM
Sent: Tina Higgins; Peta Leemen
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Cc:
Subject: Attempt to serve Mr Charles Darren Edward Perrottet

Dear Tina

As discussed, at approximately 11 am, I attempted to serve Mr Charles Darren Edward Perrottet at [redacted] but was unsuccessful on account of the following:

- Upon arrival at the address I spoke to a gentleman through the intercom who identified himself as Darren Edward Charles Perrottet
- Darren advised that he was not at home but at work, and so I could not sight him in person
- Darren advised that he was not Charles Perrottet, the brother of Premier Dominic Perrottet, but rather a distant relative
- Darren confirmed that the contact phone number we have on file was not his and advised in turn that his mobile number is [redacted]. He also confirmed that he does not work for [redacted] (relevant to the email address we have on file for Charles Perrottet)
- Darren advised that he has no knowledge of the matters being inquired to by the committee and has not received any communication from the secretariat regarding his appearance before the committee.
- Darren maintains this is a case of "mistaken identity" as he is not Charles Darren Edward Perrottet.

Darren was open to being contacted further if required. He also requested that we confirm that his attendance is not required if in fact it is not him the committee is seeking to summons.

Kind regards

From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 12:31 PM
To: Tina Higgins
Subject: File note

Hi Tina

Please find below a file note summary of today's attempted service of a summons to Jean-Claude Perrottet.

Kind regards

File note

- At approximately 11.15am I entered Two offices were situated on the floor – one with the door open, the other with the door closed. The sign on the wall indicated it was a financial services company.
- I walked straight into the office with the door open and asked for Jean-Claude. One of the men said that he works in the office next door.
- I rang the doorbell on the next office and asked the man who opened the door if I could speak to Jean-Claude. He apologised and said that he was on leave. I said I had a package for him and asked if he might be back today or on Monday. The man advised that he was on leave 'for a long block' and gestured with his hands to indicate 'long'.
- The man was standing in the door way. The office behind him led around to the right behind a wall so I could not see the faces of the people present in the office. I thanked him and left.

From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 3:08 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: FW: Summons - Clr Ellis

From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 1:00 PM
To: Tina Higgins ; Peta Leemen
Subject: Re: Summons - Clr Ellis

I've just visited Clr Ellis's home address (approx 12.40 pm) - it is gated but there is an intercom - I buzzed, a woman answered, I asked for Clr Ellis and was told she wasn't home. I told her I had some documents for Clr Ellis and asked when she would be back and she said she didn't know. I asked for her name and she said and said she is dog sitting (I could hear dogs in the background). I asked if I should drop by again over the weekend or next week and she said she wasn't sure when Clr Ellis would be back.

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From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 3:09 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: FW: Summons - Jean-Claude Perrottet

From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 1:25 PM
To: Tina Higgins
Cc: Peta Leemen
Subject: Summons - Jean-Claude Perrottet

Visited his residence at approx 1.18 pm rang the door bell twice (no answer and no movement or sounds from the house) and have observed the property from my car for the last few minutes - all but two of the curtains on the windows are closed (open curtains are on upper windows) still no movement and no cars in the driveway

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From:
Sent: Friday, 10 February 2023 3:58 PM
To: Tina Higgins
Cc: Peta Leemen
Subject: Re: Summons

Tina

This is to confirm that I attempted a second time to serve a summons on Mr Ellis at the nominated address of
at 1.05 pm today without success.

Kind regards

From: Peta Leemen
Sent: Monday, 13 February 2023 5:18 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Officer update - attempted service of summons to four witnesses

Notes from 13 February 2023

Clr Virginia Ellis - Hawkesbury electorate office

- I was met at the electorate office counter by [redacted] Electorate Officer at approx 2.30 pm.
- I asked for Ms Ellis and was told she was not available.
- I asked if she was physically present in the office today and Ms [redacted] refused to confirm her whereabouts and could not tell me when she would be in next.
- I asked if I could make an appointment and was told no.
- I asked if Ms Robyn Preston, Member for Hawkesbury, was in the office and I was told she was not available.
- I asked if I could make an appointment and was told that the only way to make an appointment was to send an email and I couldn't make an appointment over the counter.
- Ms [redacted] asked for my name and to see my ID. I told her my name and department and showed her my parliamentary pass.
- There was one other female presenting person in the office however they walked further into the office (behind a wall) as soon as I approached the counter. I could not ascertain who the person was.
- I left the electorate office at approximately 2.35 pm.

Clr Virginia Ellis and Mr Christian Ellis

- At approximately 3.20 pm I approached the residence at [redacted].
- As on Friday, the gate was securely closed across the driveway so I pressed the buzzer.
- The buzzer was again answered by ... (the dog sitter) and I asked for Virginia and Christian.
- I was told that they weren't home which seemed to indicate that Christian may be in Sydney.
- I asked when they would be back ... said that she didn't know.
- I left the residence at approximately 3.25pm.

Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet

- I approached the residence at approximately 4.05 pm, the curtains were drawn however the garage door was up and two cars were visible.
- I rang the doorbell twice and could not hear or see any movement.
- As the garage door was open I returned to my car and watched the house (there was no movement). I re-approached the residence at approximately 4.13 pm.
- I again rang the doorbell twice and could not hear or see any movement.
- I left the residence at approximately 4.15 pm.

TIM TIERNEY & ASSOCIATES PTY LIMITED

Parliament House
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

RE: Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis
REF: D23/10087 and D23/13758

Dear Tina,

As requested, please find enclosed the following report regarding the attempted service upon Christian Ellis and Virginia Ellis.

On the afternoon of the afternoon of the 16th February 2023, the agent noted a call from [redacted] of your office who requested the services of one of our Commercial Agents to travel to the [redacted] area of New South Wales as a matter of urgency in endeavour to attempt to serve the respondent Christian Ellis.

The agent noted advise from your office that Christian Ellis was believed to reside at property [redacted]. The agent would advise that this address is 435 kilometres from the agent's office.

The agent, [redacted] was advised to attend as a matter of priority that evening or early the following morning. The agent advised that an attempted service fee of [redacted] would be required to have the agent attend at this remote address as a matter of urgency. The agent noted advice from your office that you wish for the agent to proceed in regard to this matter.

After a number of arrangements were put in place by our office, the agent [redacted] travelled to the township of [redacted], NSW on the afternoon of the 16th February 2023.

Upon arrival in the township of [redacted] at approximately 8.20pm, the agent [redacted] proceeded to the address of [redacted] which our agent would advise is located in a rural area approximately 30 kilometres outside of [redacted].

Upon arrival at the given address, the agent [redacted] noted signage at the property indicating this was the property [redacted]. The agent [redacted] therefore travelled to the homestead which was located approximately 2 kilometres inside the front gate.

Upon arrival at the homestead on the property [redacted] at approximately 8.45pm, the agent [redacted] noted the homestead was a single storey brick home with the main entrance appearing to be located at the rear of the home. The agent [redacted] noted a number of lights on inside the property.

The agent [redacted] noted on your instructions the respondent, Christian Ellis was believed to drive a [redacted]. The agent [redacted] noted a [redacted] parked amongst a number of vehicles at the premises. Due to the darkness of the evening, the agent [redacted] was unable to confirm if the vehicle had a [redacted].

The agent [redacted] approached the premises and heard voices inside the residence, however after door knocking for a number of minutes the agent [redacted] found the voices to cease. Despite door knocking for a number of minutes, no person would answer the door. The agent [redacted] was unable to sight any persons at the address. The agent was unsuccessful in endeavours to serve the respondent, Christian Ellis. The agent [redacted] therefore left the property and returned to [redacted] NSW later that evening.

The following morning at approximately 9.15am, Our office received a call from [redacted] of your office regarding this matter. The agent [redacted] spoke with [redacted] and advised of the unsuccessful attempt to serve Christian Ellis at the address of [redacted] the previous evening. The agent [redacted] advised [redacted] of the observations the previous night. The agent [redacted] noted further instructions from [redacted] that attempts be made to serve a second respondent, Virginia Ellis at [redacted] or [redacted].

The agent was requested to return to the addresses as a matter of urgency to serve these documents. The agent [redacted] advised [redacted] of your office that we may not be able to return to Deniliquin until Sunday 19th February 2023.

The agent [redacted] noted further instructions regarding this matter after advising that further costs would apply to attend at these address as a matter of urgency. The agent [redacted] therefore made further arrangements and it was decided to return as a matter of urgency to [redacted] on Saturday the 18th February 2023.

The agent would advise that the following morning being Saturday the 18th February 2023, the agent [redacted] therefore left the office located in Young NSW to return to the addresses in Deniliquin in endeavour to serve each of the respondents.

At approximately 12.40pm, whilst the agent [redacted] was approximately 25 kilometres outside of the township of Deniliquin on route to the given address, the agent [redacted] received a call from [redacted] of your office who advised that a third party had provided information that people had been observed at the property [redacted] approximately 25 minutes prior to phone call, believed to be moving cattle.

The agent [redacted] advised [redacted] of your office that he was currently on route to Deniliquin and intentions were to attend firstly at the address for Virginia Ellis, [redacted] in endeavour to serve. The agent [redacted] was then going to proceed to [redacted] in endeavour to serve Christian Ellis. [redacted] advised the agent [redacted]

that is was more preferable to serve the documents of Christian Ellis first in regard to this matter and to thereafter make further endeavours to serve Virginia Ellis.

After discussing the matter with [redacted], it was decided that the agent [redacted] should attend at [redacted] as a matter of urgency. The agent [redacted] thereafter proceeded to [redacted] and upon arrival the agent entered the property and proceeded to the homestead on the premises.

As the agent [redacted] had previously been advised by your office that persons had previously been seen moving cattle, upon entering the property the agent made a observation at the cattle yards however found no persons in attendance or any activity.

The agent [redacted] thereafter attended at the rear of the homestead on the premises and noted vehicle motor vehicles parked thereat. The agent [redacted] was clearly able to view the motor vehicles with first being a [redacted].
The second vehicle parked at the premises was a [redacted].
The third vehicle parked at the premises was a [redacted].

The agent [redacted] thereafter obtained photographs of the vehicles before approaching the doorway of the homestead. The agent [redacted] doorknocked the homestead and shortly thereafter the door was answered by a female person of approximately 25-30 years of age. The agent [redacted] observed the female to be holding a [redacted]. Upon speaking with the female person, she confirmed that she was the respondent, Christian Ellis's wife.

The agent asked the female person "Is Christian Ellis home?" to which the female person replied "No, his not here." The agent [redacted] then asked "Do you know when Christian Ellis will be home? or how I can contact Christian Ellis?" to which the female person replied "No, I don't know his movements. I do not know where he is. I am sorry but I cannot help you." The agent [redacted] noted the female person to appear nervous and evasive in the answers towards the agent [redacted].

As the agent [redacted] was unable to locate Christian Ellis at the premises, the agent [redacted] exited the property. Whilst exiting the property, the agent [redacted] noted a [redacted] bearing [redacted] registration plates parked approximately 100-150 metres from the entrance of the property, [redacted] on the side of the road. The agent [redacted] noted a female person inside the vehicle. The agent [redacted] approached the vehicle and spoke with the occupant inside vehicle.

The agent [redacted] asked the occupant of the vehicle if she may be in assistance to help locate Christian Ellis. The female occupant of the vehicle advised the agent [redacted] "Hello, my name is [redacted] and I am here on behalf of [redacted]." The occupant of the vehicle advised the agent [redacted] that she had the property, [redacted] under surveillance and had been expecting the agent [redacted] attendance. The occupant of the vehicle advised the agent [redacted] that she had been located there for a number of days and had not observed Christian Ellis, however advised that not long prior to the agent [redacted] arrival, she had noted a [redacted] enter the property and observed a female person open and close the gate of the premises.

The occupant of the vehicle, [redacted] advised the agent [redacted] that she witnessed two persons inside the [redacted] when it entered the property, [redacted] was unable to assist the agent [redacted] any further.

The agent [redacted] was about to leave [redacted] when the agent [redacted] observed the previously sighted [redacted] travelling towards the gateway exiting the property, [redacted]. The agent [redacted] returned to the gateway of the property and noted a female driver exit the vehicle. The agent [redacted] would advise that this female person was not the respondents wife. The agent [redacted] spoke with the female person and asked "Hello, can you help me? I am trying to get in contact with Christian Ellis." The female person replied "I am sorry, I do not know where he is. I do not know how you can contact him. I have just come to the front gate to make sure it has been closed properly." The female person also appeared to be nervous and evasive in her answers.

The agent [redacted] believed they would be unsuccessful in serving the respondent, Christian Ellis at this address so thereafter proceeded to an area with better mobile phone service. The agent [redacted] contacted [redacted] and spoke with her advising of the occurrences at the property. The agent [redacted] advised [redacted] that he would make further enquires as he had noted further information on your instructions which may assist in locating Christian Ellis.

The agent [redacted] therefore contacted the local contact person provided by your office and had a lengthy conversation with her. The local contact person advised the agent [redacted] that she believed Christian Ellis would most likely be located nearby the property, [redacted] at [redacted] due to his wife [redacted].

The local contact person advised the agent [redacted] that she believed the respondent, Christian Ellis was known to drive a [redacted] with a [redacted], however the registration details to the vehicle were unknown. The local contact person advised the agent [redacted] that she had not seen the respondent, Christian Ellis in the [redacted] area in some time. The local contact person advised the agent [redacted] that she had recently spoken with the manager of the [redacted] who advised that Christian Ellis frequently attends the store, however had not been in for a [redacted] for approximately 3 weeks.

The agent [redacted] was advised by the local contact person that there was a possibility that Christian Ellis may be at his mother, Virginia Ellis's address, [redacted] however it was unable to be confirmed.

The agent [redacted] noted in your instructions that the respondent, Christian Ellis was believed to be associated with [redacted] who reside at a [redacted] property known as [redacted] Approximately 60 kilometres away from the property, [redacted].

At approximately 2.30pm, the agent [redacted] travelled to the [redacted] and attended upon the [redacted] property known as [redacted]. The agent [redacted] approached the homestead located on the property and found an old style single storey brick home. The agent [redacted] found no person in attendance on the property. There was no sign of the respondents [redacted] at this address.

The agent thereafter spoke again with the local contact person via mobile telephone who advised the agent that it would be highly unlikely that the respondent, Christian Ellis would be located at . The agent thereafter returned to the township of Deniliquin.

At approximately 4.30pm the agent attended upon . Upon arrival the agent found the premises to be a single storey hardy plank home. The agent noted parked under the carport of the address, a . The agent approached the door of the premises and after door knocking spoke with a male person of approximately 60-65 years of age.

Upon speaking with the male person, the agent asked "Is Virginia home?" to which the male occupant advised "There is no person named Virginia residing at the property." The male person advised the agent that he was from Melbourne visiting the owner of the property, . The agent was advised that there was no Virginia Ellis residing at the property. The agent noted the male person to appear truthful. The agent therefore left the property.

The agent placed a call to the local contact person who advised that the property at had been known to be rented out. The agent was advised that Virginia Ellis was believed to be the owner of the property, however the premises to be tenanted. The agent proceeded to neighbouring properties in endeavour to make enquiries who was residing at the address, however neighbours were unable to assist.

The agent attended at the township of later that afternoon. Upon arrival the agent made a number of enquiries with businesses open that time of day to ascertain if either of the respondents, Christian or Virginia Ellis had been seen thereat. The agent attended at a number of local hotels and local RSL Club where discreet enquiries were conducted. The agent found the respondents to either be unknown or had not been seen in some time. No further details were known.

The agent noted previous conversations with the local contact person had indicated that the property was believed to have a . The agent was advised that the respondent, Christian Ellis . The agent was provided with brief directions . Despite the agent making a number of endeavours to locate the , he was unsuccessful in doing so.

In a previous conversation with the local contact person, it was pointed out to the agent that Christian Ellis was believed to have a close association with other respondents regarding this matter being the two Perrottet brothers. The agent was advised that it was a possibility that Christian Ellis may be staying at another brother, residential address, . The exact location being unknown. The agent received information that was believed to be a . The agent provided this information to of your office.

The agent was advised by of your office to cease action in regard to this matter. Should you require the agent to conducted further enquiries, we would be happy to accept your further instructions.

We now thank you for your instructions in regard to this matter and would make the following points.

To action this matter as a matter of urgency as required, in excess of 1900 kilometres were travelled returned to the agent office.

In excess of 7 hours were spent in an around the area of New South Wales, making extensive enquiries as to the whereabouts of the defendants.

Overnight accommodation was required in endeavour to serve the defendants.



Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne
Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast
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Australia-Wide services

20/02/2023

Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Reference: 173826-1

Progress Report: Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Valentine Ellis and Jean-Claude Louis Perrottet

We refer to your instructions dated 16th February 2023.

Dear Tina,

Following receipt of your instructions our agent attended the address supplied of

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on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 3:12 pm. The office had signage for an . Agent spoke to a female receptionist who identified as . She advised that Councillor Virginia Ellis was not available. Agent asked when she was due in – the receptionist repeated herself, and would not assist agent. Agent left calling card.

Our agent attended at on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 4:02pm. The property is a small farm. It's gated and locked, with an intercom. Agent rang the intercom, and on the third call a female resident answered. She sounded like a teenager. Agent asked for Christian or Virginia Ellis. She replied "They're both not home at the moment". Agent asked when they would be home, but she said she didn't know. Due to the position/distance of the home from the front gate, agent can't see if any cars are at the property, or if any lights are on.

Our agent attended at on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 5:50pm. The home is large, two storey, and in immaculate condition. No cars are visible, all the blinds to the home were closed. Agent had no response at the door. Agent spoke to neighbour on the left, where the male residents were getting ready to take their boat out for fishing. The male advised he has lived there a while now, said that an elderly couple of Australian descent just moved into the home at , the male resident's name is . Agent showed him a photo of Jean-Claude Perrottet and asked if he lives at the address. The male advised agent he has never seen that person before.

Our agent attended at on Friday 17th February 2023 at 12:20pm. There are two companies operated on – and . Agent spoke with three male employees at , who confirmed that Jean-Claude Louis Perrottet works at , but they haven't seen him lately. Agent then attended at and spoke with a male employee who identified himself as . advised that Jean-Claude is currently on leave unit he . No further information could be identified.

Our agent attended at 6 on Sunday 19th February 2023 at 7:20pm. The home two storey, well presented and overlooks the water. Agent spoke to a female resident, who appeared in her late 30's early 40's. Agent asked for Jean-Claude or Christian – she said she has no idea who they are, and they don't reside there.

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Our agent re-attended at _____ on Sunday 19th February 2023 at 8:18pm. Once again the gates were closed and locked, preventing access onto the property. A female resident answered the intercom immediately (different female to person spoken with on first attendance). Agent asked for Christian or Virginia, she said that none of these people are here right now and hung up the intercom.

Attempts are continuing.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any queries.

Regards,

Sharmans Process Serving Team
process@sharmans.net.au

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Australia-Wide services

23/02/2023

Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Reference: 173826-1

Progress Report: Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Valentine Ellis and Jean-Claude Louis Perrottet and Jeremy Greenwood

We refer to your instructions dated 16th February 2023.

Following receipt of your instructions our agent attended the address supplied of

on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 3:12 pm. The office had signage for an

Agent spoke to a female receptionist who identified as . She advised that Councillor Virginia Ellis was not available. Agent asked when she was due in and the receptionist repeated herself and would not assist agent. Agent left calling card.

Our agent attended at on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 4:02pm. The property is a small farm. It's gated and locked, with an intercom. Agent rang the intercom, and on the third call a female resident answered. She sounded like a teenager. Agent asked for Christian or Virginia Ellis. She replied "They're both not home at the moment". Agent asked when they would be home and the occupant replied that she didn't know. Due to the position/distance of the home from the front gate, agent was unable to see if any cars were at the property. Our agent immediately left the property.

Our agent attended at on Thursday 16th February 2023 at 5:50pm. No cars were sighted at the address at this time and all the window blinds were closed. Agent had no response at the door. Agent spoke to a neighbour on the left where the male residents were getting ready to take their boat out fishing. The male advised the agent that he has resided at this address for "a while now" and said that an elderly couple just moved into the home at number 6 and the male resident's name is . Agent showed him a photo of Jean-Claude Perrottet and asked if he the male in the photo resides at number . The male neighbour advised the agent that he has never seen the person in the photograph and does not know how he is.

Our agent attended a on Friday 17th February 2023 at 12:20pm. There are two companies trading on . Agent spoke with three male employees at , who confirmed that Jean-Claude Louis Perrottet works at , but they haven't seen him lately. Agent then attended at and spoke with a male employee who identified himself as . advised that Jean-Claude is currently on leave and unable to advise when he would be returning to work. No further information could be identified.

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Our agent attended at [REDACTED] on Sunday 19th February 2023 at 7:20pm. Agent spoke to a female resident who appeared to be in her late 30's to early 40's. Agent asked for Jean-Claude or Christian and the occupant advised that she has no idea who they are and confirmed that neither Jean-Claude or Christian reside at this address. No further information was obtained.

Our agent re-attended at [REDACTED] on Sunday 19th February 2023 at 8:18pm. Once again, the gates were closed and locked preventing access to the property. A female resident answered the intercom immediately (different female to person spoken with on first attendance). Agent asked for Christian or Virginia and the occupant stated that neither Christian or Virginia were at the address at the time and terminated the intercom call. Our agent immediately left the property..

Our agent attended at [REDACTED] on Monday 20th February 2023 at 3:20pm. There are four units at the address, and there is real estate signage stating one of the units is for lease through [REDACTED]. Agent rang the intercom for [REDACTED] but had no response. Agent rang intercoms for other units and a female of one of the top floor units (believed to be [REDACTED]) stuck her head over the window of the top floor. She said she had no idea who lives at [REDACTED] or whether its even occupied. Agent noticed that all the windows and blinds were open in every unit, except for [REDACTED].

Our agent attended at [REDACTED] on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 11:25am. Agent spoke with a male person who identified himself as the [REDACTED] of Virginia Ellis. He said [REDACTED] and she hasn't lived at this address in that time. He provided her address as [REDACTED].

Our agent re-attended at [REDACTED] on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 2:40pm. The same male came to the door as on last occasion. He said Jean-Claude was not available and no further assistance was offered.

Our agent re-attended at [REDACTED] on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 5:00pm. Agent noticed a [REDACTED] down the driveway. Agent pressed the intercom, and a male person answered the door, but only half opened it. Agent introduced himself, and the male opened the door all the way, and had his phone in his hand. Agent asked if for Jean-Claude Perrottet and Christian Ellis reside there, to which he replied "no". Agent asked if [REDACTED] is the owner of the house, to which he replied "no". The male asked if he could take photograph of agent's license, agent advised he was not comfortable with that, and his obligations are only to show the license (which agent did). The male then accused agent of being illegitimate and said "I'm asking you to leave, if you don't you are trespassing." Agent asked the male's name, he declined to provide, and agent left the property.

Our agent attended at Council Chambers, 3 Columbia Court, Norwest NSW 2153 on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 6:00pm – 7:10pm. On arrival agent noticed the staff have their own car park and staff elevator. Agent entered and found no one was at the front desk. Agent saw a sign pointing to the 'Council Chambers' room where our agent sat no more than five (5) metres from the entry for approximately 40 minutes. Our agent reports that no one matching the photo of Virginia Ellis entered the room during this time. Agent waited until the meeting began where our agent could see into the room and was able to determine that Virginia Ellis was not in attendance.

Our agent attended at [REDACTED] on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7:54pm. Our agent did not sight any vehicles at the address. As agent approached, the agent noticed a person inside the home in a room on the left-hand side and another person inside one of the rooms on the right hand side (believe this was a male person). Agent walked up the door. A female came to the door and our agent asked for Jeremy Greenwood and she replied "we are not answering any of your questions, I'm asking you to leave, if you do not, then you are trespassing." The occupant spoken to then closed the door. Agent then noticed the video intercom located next to the door illuminate (agent did not press it). A male voice could then be heard through the intercom asking, "What is your name?" Agent introduced himself and asked if he was Jeremy Greenwood. The call was terminated. The female came back to the front door and said to our agent "I asked you to leave," The female occupant then told our agent that she was home [REDACTED].

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alone, and agent stated she has already asked agent to leave and accused him of trespassing. Agent advised that as he was about to leave a male commenced speaking with him over the intercom. The intercom then lit up again as the agent was leaving but no person spoke to him at this time. The agent left the property.

Our agent re-attended at _____ on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 8:20pm. Agent rang the intercom, but it was not answered and the gates were locked. Our agent left the property.

Our agent re-attended at _____ on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 9:10pm. Agent had no response on the intercom. Agent could not see any lights on inside the unit so our agent left the property.

We await instructions.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any queries.

Regards,

Sharmans Process Serving Team
process@sharmans.net.au

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27 February 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re:Job no 120834

Serving of Documents on Jean-Claude Perrottet

On the 23/02/2023 at 7.00pm I attended given address [redacted] to serve documents on Mr Perrottet who was supposed to be at the premises that evening. Upon arrival I knocked on the door several times did not receive an answer, there were no lights on inside and there appeared to be no one home, I then walked around to the back of the premises and there was a window opened and I could clearly see inside and there was no one at inside, I noticed that the letter box was full of junk mail and there was a flier that was protruding out with a name of another person, I waited for approximately 1 Hour out the front and no one arrived, I then left.

The following day 24/02/2023 at 4.00 pm I attended the address unit [redacted]. [redacted] was told that Mr Perrottet may be at these premises to serve him with a summons, I rang the security bell at the premises, did not received any answer, I then left the Premises.

Regards,

[redacted]
Process Server



27 February 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re:Job no 120834

Serving of Documents on Christian and Virginia Ellis

On the 24/02/2023 at 5.20 pm our agent attended the address [redacted] to serve a summons on Christian and Virginia Ellis , there he sighted a large block with a security gate with intercom , the house was set well back from the road and not visible from the street , He rang the intercom several times and did not receive any answer it was not possible to tell if any one was at the premises , he then left not able to serve the documents

Regards,

[redacted]
Process Server

TIM TIERNEY & ASSOCIATES PTY LIMITED

28.02.2023

Parliament House
Macquarie Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

RE: Christian Ellis
REF: D23/10087

Dear

As requested, please find enclosed the following report regarding further attempts for service upon Christian Ellis.

On the afternoon of the afternoon of the 25th February 2023, the agent travelled to the township of _____, NSW arriving at approximately 4.00pm.

The agent _____ thereafter proceeded to the address property _____ arriving at approximately 4.45pm.

Upon arrival at the homestead on the property _____ at approximately 4.45pm, the agent _____ noted the homestead was a single storey brick home with the main entrance appearing to be located at the rear of the home.

The agent _____ thereafter attended at the rear of the homestead on the premises and noted a motor vehicle parked thereat. The agent _____ was clearly able to view the motor vehicle, a _____ bearing NSW registration _____. The agent _____ noted this motor vehicle to be the only vehicle parked at the address. The agent _____ thereafter obtained photographs of the vehicle, which are enclosed.

The agent _____ approached the homestead and door knocked, however failed to gain a response. The agent _____ was able to view inside the homestead via a side window and could clearly see that there was no person in attendance.

Whilst inspecting the surrounds of the property, the agent _____ noted a dog tied to a length of chain. The dog appeared to have no food or water. The agent _____ returned to _____, NSW and obtained accommodation.

The following morning the agent _____ returned to property _____ arriving at approximately 8.00am. The agent noted no persons had entered the property since the agent had been there the previous evening. The agent _____ was able to ascertain this by the tracks left in the dust at the entrance of the

property. The agent's track from the previous evening were clearly indented in the dust and it appeared no other vehicles had been in or out of the premises for a number of days.

The agent reattended the homestead again finding no person in attendance. The afore mentioned was still remaining in its original position. The agent found a heavy metal container at the shed and was able to fill it with water to provide to the dog located on the chain. Photograph is enclosed. The agent thereafter left the property.

Some 400 meters from the entrance of the property, the agent noted a male person operating a in a paddock across the road. The agent spoke with the operator who advised he had not seen any person enter or leave the property in a number of days.

The agent therefore attended at a further property some 500 meters from the property, however was unable to find any person in attendance.

The agent returned to his office and would advise that the agent travelled some 990 kilometres return from and spent two days in total including one night accommodation attempting to serve Christian Ellis.

Regards.



1 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re:Job no 120834

Serving of Documents on Robert Assaf

I attended the address given of _____ on the 28/02/2023 at 3.30 pm , I knocked on the door several times did not get an answer , there appeared to be no one home as the blinds were all drawn and there was no mot or vehicle parked in the drive way , I was unable to serve the documents

Regards,

Process Server



1 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Job no 120834

Serving of Documents on Jeff Egan

I attended the address given of _____ at 4.00pm, I attended the address and upon entering the premises I was approached by a male person who informed me that there was a police investigation being carried out and the staff had all been sent home, he produced identification as proof of his position as a police officer, I was unable to serve the documents

Regards,

Process Server



1 March 2023

Dear Sir or Madam

Re:Job no 120834

Serving of Documents on Dylan Whitelaw

I attended the given address [redacted] on the 28/02/2023 at 7.00 pm to serve him with a summons

I knocked on the door and did not receive an answer , there was a dog inside barking ,I could see a night light on inside , I left the premises and returned at 8.00pm at this stage it was starting to get dark , I again knocked on the door and did not get an answer there was now 3 lights on inside so it was apparent some one had been there while I was away , upon speaking to my client I was informed that Dylan would there in about 15 minutes and to wait , A motor vehicle stopped at the front of the premises but the occupant stayed in the vehicle , I approached the male and person and he only opened the door a fraction and he was wearing a hoody , there was no light on inside so I could not recognise him from the photo that I had been given ,I said are you Dylan Whitelaw to which he replied no I cannot help you , he then pulled into the driveway across the road and sat there for a few minutes before leaving , I waited at the premises until approx. 9.00 pm , no one had returned , I was unable to serve the documents

Regards,

Process Server

Appendix 7 Correspondence with key witnesses

From: Robert Assaf
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2023 11:45 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: URGENT Inquiry into Hills Shire Council – Witness invitation

Hi Arizona,

Thanks for your email and invitation to attend.

I am currently on leave from work and don't monitor this email during such a time.

As mentioned my family and I are on leave and not in Sydney at the moment.

Unfortunately I won't be able to make today.

Kind Regards,
Robert Assaf
Head of Public Policy

W: jolt.com.au

JOLT acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

23 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/15474

Mr Robert Assaf
10 Gregory St
Strathfield South NSW 2016

Dear Mr Assaf

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

As you are aware, Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment is conducting an inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

The committee has considered your reasons for declining its invitation to appear at a hearing on 23 February 2023, and agreed that I write to you to issue an invitation to a future hearing, noting that if you decline or do not respond to this letter, the committee has resolved to issue a summons for your attendance under the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*.

Please provide a response to this invitation by **10 am, Friday 24 February 2023**.

Further, on 23 February 2023, a document was tabled by Mr John Graham MLC titled 'The Men who Stole the Hills: Chapter One: The Reformers'. Parts of this document refer to the role and activities of various individuals in the NSW Liberal Party.

The committee is mindful that this document has been published on the committee's website and wishes to provide the individuals named with an opportunity to respond, in accordance with the Legislative Council's Procedural Fairness Resolution. If you wish to respond in writing, I invite you to do so by **4.00 pm Tuesday 28 February 2023**.

Please note that if you provide a response, the committee will review it with a view to publishing it on the inquiry webpage. If you have any concerns about this please let the secretariat know.

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Telephone (02) 9230 2354
portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au



If you have any questions, please contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on 9230 2354 or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

24/02/2023

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Parliament
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Higginson,

I refer to the Committee's invitation for me to attend its hearing on 23 February 2023 and subsequent correspondence inviting me to participate in a future hearing.

Barring the letter sent to me yesterday, the committee's only communication with me was on 22 February 2023.

On 19 February 2023 an individual attended a premises in [redacted] owned by [redacted]. My [redacted] answered the door and the individual who did not identify himself only asked if he could ask questions about the owners of the neighbouring property. He then asked if the names Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, Mr Christian Ellis and Clr Virginia Ellis lived there. When he was advised that they weren't the owners of the property and do not reside there he continued to question my [redacted] if they were known to her or if she had seen the news. She answered his questions and then asked for his details at which point he only provided his name (not his occupation or purpose of the visit) and then claimed he had "nothing to hide" and left the premises.

On a separate occasion on 21 February 2023 the private investigator again attended the property. He queried whether the property was owned by me and questioned me on the whereabouts of the above-named people.

I regard both attempts to be harassment with the second attempt being particularly egregious – considering that no reasonable person would conclude that the above-named people were at the address. These incidents have been reported to the NSW Police.

There is no public search (that is, property search or electoral search) that would indicate that I reside at the address in [redacted]. I do not reside there and do not own the property. That means that the investigator would have acted on information provided to him by his client. I understand that the Secretariat of the Committee is his client.

The investigator's photo identification indicated his name is [redacted]. My search of the database maintained by the NSW Police indicates there is no security operator licence by that name in the state of NSW. This is particularly concerning as it appears that the secretariat has commissioned unlicensed individuals to conduct this campaign.

9 NEWS on 21 February 2023 televised a broadcast regarding the inquiry. In that broadcast the Gladesville property was featured. It is highly concerning that not only is the committee engaging unlicensed security personnel to act on faulty information, but that the details of that search (including images) are being unlawfully provided to the media. At least one member of the committee provided media comment in that news feature.

Unlike the allegations against me which are being circulated, I have video evidence of the attendance and a contemporaneous search on the NSW Police database to support my statement.

24/02/2023

On 22 February 2023, a committee member opted to table an anonymous document which makes a range of allegations. It does not appear that any effort has been made to verify the contents of that document. I understand that committee members have also distributed two other parts of that document outside of the committee.

I summarise the committee's position as this:

1. The committee has failed to provide itself sufficient time to conduct a proper inquiry due to its own delay in constituting itself.
2. The committee believes that it has the power to hire unlicensed individuals to enter onto the private homes of family members of citizens to harass the people there.
3. The committee believes that it is appropriate to table and publish anonymous documents which make slanderous claims, without evidence, about private citizens.

As you can appreciate, I have significant hesitancy to co-operate with such a flawed, partisan process. It is clear that the tabling of the document, as well as the harassment of family members, is designed to coerce people to attend the committee at its convenience, despite the committee's failure to properly constitute itself in a timely manner.

All allegations of unethical conduct, impropriety or anything similar made in the dossier pertaining to me are false and no evidence whatsoever has been offered to substantiate the allegations made against me. I also note that I have not been a member of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) in any way since 2022, after voluntarily resigning due to my employment policies.

I ask that the committee please clarify:

- a) why it instructed a person to attend the residential address in Gladesville in search of me,
- b) clarify whether the committee has hired an unlicensed investigator to enter onto people's land,
- c) whether the committee was aware that its investigator attended the Gladesville address and that the investigator was informed at that time that the aforementioned names did not reside there, and why the investigator re-attended the address despite that,
- d) whether the committee or its members provided footage or details of the attendance to the media, and
- e) that the committee provide any relevant information regarding the source of the anonymous document (including the email address the document was sent from)

I do not decline to attend further hearings should they occur. I welcome the nomination of dates proposed by the committee for future hearings. The ability for me to attend the inquiry is dependent upon the date chosen by the committee for its next hearing as well as any further legal advice I may obtain given the publishing of anonymous documents and possible adverse media attention. I welcome the nomination of a date to consider my ability to attend. My family and I are not in Sydney due to a pre-planned trip prior to first contact from the committee staff. Additionally,

24/02/2023

My rights are reserved and I have instructed my legal representatives to prepare legal proceedings against [REDACTED] for the purpose of obtaining the precise details of his instruction such that a court order can be made restraining the conduct of his instructor.

My legal representative and I are also considering legal options regarding any adverse media events which may occur as a result of this committee's actions of publishing an anonymous document which contains completely unsubstantiated claims against me.

I note that the committee have previously published correspondence to it, and as such I respectfully request that any personal details of mine and my family including [REDACTED] are redacted to ensure our privacy is maintained.

Kind regards,

Robert Assaf



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

24 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/15696

Mr Robert Assaf

Dear Mr Assaf

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 February 2023. I note that you have indicated you may be willing to assist the committee with its inquiry, subject to your availability, your personal circumstances and any legal advice you receive.

If you are able to attend a public hearing on **Thursday 2 March 2023**, either in person or by videoconference, it would be appreciated if you could indicate this by **2.00 pm Monday 27 February 2023**.

In response to your other concerns I note the following:

- The address the process server attended to serve a document on another individual was provided confidentially to the committee. It would be remiss of the committee to not act upon this information given the role the committee has in examining very serious allegations.
- The process servers engaged by the committee are a licensed and professional business who routinely serve legal documents on individuals. We have been advised that the agents are regulated with the Office of Fair Trading.
- Although there has been considerable media interest in this inquiry, the committee is not responsible for the content of any media reports.
- It is a matter for the committee to decide whether or not to publish documents it receives during the course of an inquiry.

I acknowledge that you are refuting the claims suggested within the document we recently published, and thank you for responding and putting your views forward. The committee will consider publishing your correspondence, subject to the redaction of personal details and sensitive information

To assist us further, we would appreciate if you could please advise your availability to attend a hearing as soon as possible. You can contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on 9230 2354 or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Telephone (02) 9230 2354
portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

—
Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 5:42 PM
To: 'Robert Assaf'; Portfolio Committee 7
Cc: Tina Higgins
Subject: RE: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Mr Assaf

Thank you for your email. I can confirm the committee has agreed to grant you an extension of time until 10:00am tomorrow to provide a reply.

Kind regards
Arizona

Arizona Hart

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2778

E arizona.hart@parliament.nsw.gov.au

A Parliament House, 6 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

www.parliament.nsw.gov.au

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From: Robert Assaf <robassaf@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 1:17 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Tina,

Thank you for passing on the correspondence from the Chair. I kindly request an extension of time to consider my reply of until 10:00AM tomorrow. I need more time to consider with my legal representative whether I could be available to attend the Thursday meeting either in person or via audio/visual means.

Regards,
Robert Assaf

28/02/2023

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Parliament
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Higginson,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 February 2023.

I also thank the committee for providing a date for me to appear at a public hearing on Thursday 2 March 2023 either in person or via audio visual means. I note that the committee has given me more than 24 hours to consider my ability to attend the next public hearing, which is greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the nominated date on the 2nd of March.

Should the committee nominate another date, I would be more than willing to consider whether I could attend.

I thank the committee for providing me the option to attend via audio/visual means. This greatly assists my ability to cooperate given my current circumstances. Regarding this audio/visual option I ask the following questions to assist in my deliberations of my ability to attend on an alternative date:

- Does parliamentary privilege apply to attendance via audio/visual means?
- Does parliamentary privilege apply to those outside of New South Wales?
- Does Parliamentary privilege apply even though Parliament has been prorogued? If it does would I be able to have this confirmed in writing via the Committee from the Parliamentary Counsel? This would alleviate concerns raised with me by multiple individuals.
- What internet speeds would be required to ensure a sound level of connectivity whilst I give evidence? I have concerns that the internet where we currently are located can be absent, intermittent, and can be slow at times.
- Given my personal circumstances, would the committee be comfortable with children being present during my testimony?
- What privacy protection provisions are in place to protect the identity of my children should they appear on camera whilst I am giving evidence? If easier, would there be an option for in-camera testimony to ensure the identity of my children are protected?

28/02/2023

Regarding the committee's response to the other concerns I raised, in particular the tabling of an anonymously sourced document, I note the Clerk's comments on advice given to the committee regarding this matter:

'Unusual for this to occur but it has happened on the rare occasion. Up to the committee to weigh up a range of factors, which could include transparency and public interest, the credibility of the information, any sensitivity/confidentiality of the content and the reputation of the committee and Parliament in accepting/using unsourced evidence.'

Given the accusations against me in this anonymously sourced document provide:

1. No evidence whatsoever to substantiate any claims made against me,
2. Where evidence is provided to establish broader (uncontroversial claims) such as the fact a business or entity exists – That this information is already publicly available

I challenge the committee's decision to publish unredacted claims against me contained in the anonymously sourced document. With this in mind, I ask the committee to please consider redacting any unsubstantiated claim against me (from my legal representative's reading this should be all claims made against me) from the anonymously sourced document.

I kindly request that all private information contained within this letter be redacted should the committee decide to table this correspondence.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Kind regards,
Robert Assaf

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 11:14 AM
To: 'Robert Assaf'; Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: RE: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Mr Assaf

On behalf of the Chair, thank you for your letter dated 28 February 2023.

The committee is willing to accommodate _____ and is requesting you nominate a suitable time in the afternoon of 2 March 2023 that would allow you to attend the hearing, either in person or via videoconference.

The committee notes your objection to the publication of anonymous documents, and encourages you to attend the hearing to respond to the matters raised. This will provide you with the opportunity to put your views forward.

In relation to your questions, we note the following:

- The Legislative Council's position is that committees can continue with business after prorogation until 3 March 2023. The committee does not need to get legal advice to confirm this position.
- Any evidence you give will be protected by parliamentary privilege.
- Witnesses giving evidence from another state or territory in Australia are still protected from defamation due to the uniform laws
- If you are attending by videoconference, there are no additional measures that can be implemented to protect the identify of your children being seen on the screen if they are with you during the session.
- If you are concerned about participating via videoconference due to internet speed/connectivity, you could also dial in via telephone. This may also assist if you have children with you.

Noting the hearing is Thursday, the Chair kindly requests a response to this email by **2pm today**, including your preference as to the time to attend Thursday to accommodate _____ and advice as to whether you intend on appearing in person or via videoconference.

Kind regards

Tina Higgins

Director | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council

Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2739

E Tina.Higgins@parliament.nsw.gov.au

A Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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From: Robert Assaf
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 2:00 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Hi Tina,

Thanks for your correspondence and clarification re time and earlier correspondence on behalf of the Chair. The phone call option seems to alleviate a lot of the privacy concerns. Will just be dependent on phone reception (which I can endeavour to ensure is sound for the period of the hearing).

Sorry to be a pain but it seems like there is crossed communications regarding the Thursday hearing. As per my previous correspondence I won't be able to make the Thursday 2 March date.

I'll only really know if I can attend on the actual day. I understand this is unhelpful to the committee's ability to confirm things which is why my previous correspondence stated that I am unable to attend the date.

My first correspondence from the committee was on Thursday 22 February. This was only 5 days ago and it was requesting I appear to a public hearing within 24hrs. I understand the time sensitivities surrounding the committee but I hope the committee can equally appreciate that I have been trying with best endeavours to accommodate both my personal circumstances and the Committee's requests.

Regarding the other answers to questions I raised, I'll need more time than by 2pm today to have my legal representative review. I am receiving conflicting advice re potential lack of parliamentary privilege protections as of 9AM yesterday. In the interest of time I thought it best to get a more fullsome reply (out of respect to the committee) to part of your email through. Please do not regard this as a complete reply regarding the other matters raised in our correspondence.

Thanks for your assistance with this so far and for your understanding.

I ask that should the committee publish/table this correspondence; any information relating to our medical appointment and any other private details be redacted.

Kind regards,
Robert Assaf

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 1:28 PM
To: 'Robert Assaf'; Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: RE: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Mr Assaf

We would prefer a time before 4.30pm on Thursday, but please advise when we may be able to come to an arrangement on the time.

Kind regards

Tina Higgins

Director | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council

Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2739

E Tina.Higgins@parliament.nsw.gov.au

A Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Robert Assaf
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 1:02 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Hi Tina,

Thanks very much for your correspondence on behalf of the Chair.

Just wanted to be as transparent and responsive as possible with the committee.

Please do not take this email as a complete response. But given the tight (less than 3 hours) turnaround time I wanted to expedite the most time sensitive component of your correspondence.

So I can explore all options to attend on Thursday I just wanted to understand what the latest time possible was for me to attend on Thursday 2 March 2023?

Answering this will assist in my deliberations and ability to attend and my overall response.

I'm currently seeking legal advice in relation to the balance of your most recent correspondence and waiting on their reply to come back which may not arrive before the Chair's 2pm deadline.

Kind regards,
Robert Assaf

01/03/2023

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
NSW Parliament
6 Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Higginson,

Having received some questions from a member of your committee in relation to the ongoing Hills Council Inquiry, and given my personal and family circumstances which prevent me from attending in person – I wish to provide written evidence for consideration by the Committee in relation to questions asked by the member:

With regards to the question asked about my relationship with Mr Christian Ellis:

I was formerly a close friend of Mr Ellis. Due to personal differences my friendship and almost all contact with Mr Ellis has not existed for a couple of years.

With regards to the question asked about my involvement in the Hills Shire Council area:

My primary area of involvement when I was a member of the NSW Liberal Party was never in the Hills. I have never been a branch member in branches relevant to that area. Along with dozens of others, I was briefly involved in the area on a preselection level when it was looking like a Hills Council preselection may occur. This never eventuated due to now widely reported decisions from state executive.

With regards to the question asked about my awareness of any money sought for branch recruitment operations:

I am not aware of any money sought for branch stacking activity or anything similar. During my time in the Liberal Party of Australia – NSW Division it was not uncommon for benefactors to contribute to young liberal and other liberal member engagement functions (bar tabs, venue hire, other engagement related activity). I am not aware of any money being used to pay for membership to the Liberal Party of Australia – NSW Division. I am also not aware of any prohibited donors (as per applicable NSW legislation) contributing financially in any way.

With regards to the question asked about whether I would have been aware of any money sought for branch recruitment operations:

As per the above comments re: money sought for branch recruitment - I can only comment on activities I witnessed. I am unable to speculate further.

01/03/2023

With regards to the question asked about whether I have received any advice about attending or co-operating with the inquiry:

I have received advice and/or discussed my attendance at the inquiry with a wide range of people including:

- Legal advisors
- Strategic/Communications experts
- My family
- Political experts
- Medical experts

Whilst views were varying between advising full cooperation to advising less cooperation, I made the clear to decision to cooperate with the inquiry to the fullest extent possible given my current personal and family circumstances.

I wish to reiterate my position that I refute any claims of impropriety or inappropriate conduct made against me in all of the anonymously sourced documents that have been tabled.

I also note that whilst it may not fall under my refutation above – the additional claims made in Chapter 3 about my introducing other individuals to Jean Nassif are also entirely false. I do not recall ever having engaged with Mr Nassif in my life and can only assume this allegation has occurred due to our mutual ethnic background.

I thank the committee for it's understanding of my personal circumstances during the very short time since first communication (less than one week) and hope this further exhibits my cooperation with the inquiry to the fullest extent possible.

Kind regards,

Robert Assaf

Peta Leemen

From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 12:14 PM
To: 'Jeff Egan'
Cc: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Mr Jeff Egan - Hills Shire Council inquiry - summons to attend Thursday 2 March 10 am - FOR URGENT RESPONSE

Categories: For TRIM

Dear Mr Egan

Further to previous correspondence, I write to inform you that Portfolio Committee no 7 has resolved under section 4 of the Parliamentary Evidence Act to issue you with a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee on **Thursday 2 March at 10.00 am**.

Under the provisions of section 4, the summons is required to be served personally.

Could you please provide a business or residential address where you would prefer to receive the summons?

Please call me on _____, or Ms Tina Higgins on _____, **by 4 pm today** to discuss arrangements for service of the summons.

Kind regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
 Parliament of New South Wales

Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia

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From: Jeff Egan
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2023 3:36 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: CM: RE: Mr Jeff Egan - Hills Shire Council inquiry - invitation to give evidence 23 February 2023 - 1 pm - FOR URGENT RESPONSE

Dear Ms Leeman

I refer to the correspondence from your Committee dated 22 February 2023 and the relevant terms of reference for your Committee.

I have not spoken with any of the current or former Liberal Party Councillors on the Hills Shire Council since being employed by Toplace about any matters relating to the Hills Shire Council.

I have never been a Member of any of the Liberal Party Branches in the Hills Local Government Area nor have I been actively involved in any of those Branches.

Based on the media reports I have read the issues your Committee appear to be interested in pre-date my employment with Toplace and have no direct association with myself.

During my employment any interaction Toplace has had with the Hills Shire Council has been at an Officer level, on a professional basis and in accordance with the relevant procedures and guidelines.

Given this information I cannot see how I could assist or how my involvement would fall within the terms of reference for the Committee and therefore wish to decline your invitation to give evidence before the Committee.

Lastly, please accept my apologies in not replying sooner as I am on annual leave.

Regards

Jeff Egan

From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Wednesday, 22 February 2023 12:20 PM
To: [Jeff Egan ; Reception](#)
Cc: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Mr Jeff Egan - Hills Shire Council inquiry - invitation to give evidence 23 February 2023 - 1 pm - FOR URGENT RESPONSE
Importance: High

TOPLACE RECEPTION: PLEASE FORWARD TO MR JEFF EGAN FOR URGENT ATTENTION

Dear Mr Egan

I attach a letter from the Chair of Portfolio Committee 7 requesting that you give evidence at a public hearing **tomorrow, 23 February, at 1 pm.**

Please respond to this letter as soon as possible, and by **4pm today** at the latest. Please call me (details below) if you have any questions.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia

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60 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

URGENT – BY HAND DELIVERY – ATTENTION TO

Parliamentary Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
The Hon Sue Higginson MLC (Chair)

20 February 2022

Dear Committee Chair,

I was informed by telephone on Saturday, 18 February 2023 that the Committee has sought to potentially invite me to appear before the inquiry into the Hills Shire Council.

This is the first that I have been notified of the Committee's interest (I have not received any emails or written correspondence and before Saturday, no-one had called me).

I am unable to attend the committee this week as my wife is due to give birth

It would be extremely difficult for me to commit to appearing before the committee at this time for this reason.

I understand that the committee is publishing correspondences to and from it. I have omitted my contact details for that reason. I ask if this correspondence is published, you please redact the information regarding

If the secretariat wishes to contact me, I can be contacted in the same way that the committee contacted me over the weekend.

Regards,
Jeremy Greenwood

Peta Leemen

From: Jeremy Greenwood
Sent: Thursday, 23 February 2023 7:47 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Apologies

Please note in the minutes of today my apologies for not being able to attend.

While I had not received a summons (I was at the chemist when the server visited) I am aware the committee issued one.

This morning my daughter was born so I will of course be unable to attend any hearings today.

Please note this apology formally in the minutes.

Regards

Jeremy Greenwood

60 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

URGENT – BY HAND DELIVERY

Parliamentary Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
The Hon Sue Higginson MLC (Chair)

Dear Ms Higginson,

I write to you in your capacity as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee Portfolio No 7.

In your media release of 22 February 2023 you have stated that many other witnesses to this inquiry have not been co-operative with the inquiry. You then proceed to name four individuals including myself.

I cannot speak to the conduct of the other named people. However in your press release you have neglected to say:

- the first I heard that your committee wished to invite me to the committee was on Saturday 18 February 2023 by telephone in which I informed the secretariat of my unavailability due to my wife's pregnancy, and
- that within your self-imposed deadline, I responded to the committee and explained the reason for my unavailability and offered to provide medical evidence in support.

There is a clear imputation in your media release that I have acted in an un-cooperative manner. That imputation is defamous and slander.

The committee has had since 23 June 2022 to look into these 'allegations' (none of which pertain to me) and has deliberately delayed in doing so for purely political ends. The behaviour of the committee has been appalling.

I have been informed that one of your "private investigators" attended the home of a family member of a person not even called to this inquiry the investigator attended the property twice (despite being asked to leave on the first occasion) at least one of your investigators was challenged to provide his licence to operate. The investigator would have had no reason to believe the person was a resident or owner of that property. Subsequent public searches of the database operated by the NSW Police indicate that person is not licenced in the state of New South Wales.

It appears that the committee has engaged an unlicensed person to harass the family members of people marginally connected to the inquiry. I welcome an explanation.

Photographs and details of the completely unrelated property of a family member were published in a 9 News broadcast on 21 February 2023 relating to the inquiry. In that media piece, two members of the committee provided comment. I welcome an explanation on how the photographs and details of the home of a person unrelated to the inquiry were provided to the media.

The secretariat has my contact detail and I informed you of the best means to communicate with me. Despite this, since your last correspondence, your hired thug attended my home.

On 21 February 2023, the “investigator” accosted my wife. She politely asked him to leave the property and informed him he was trespassing. He then shone a bright light into her eyes leaving her distressed. She subsequently asked him to leave the property twice and on the third time, threatened to call the NSW Police to have him removed.

This detail has been omitted from your “investigator reports” released publicly and your press release.

My wife has subsequently gone into labour and we have celebrated the birth of our child.

The distress and harm you have caused her during this sensitive time is unforgivable.

The committee has done this despite me expressly providing you with a means to contact me and alerting you to my

I welcome an explanation but I cannot think of any satisfactory explanation you could possibly provide.

I ask that you bring this letter to the attention to the President of the Legislative Council as well as the Privileges Committee.

I caution you regarding any future defamatory media statements.

Regards

Jeremy Greenwood



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

24 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/15601

Mr Jeremy Greenwood

Dear Mr Greenwood

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

I write in relation to your correspondence, received by secretariat staff on 23 February 2023. While I acknowledge that you have been engaging with the committee recently by telephone and through written correspondence, I note that, to date, you have not agreed to give evidence at a public hearing. The committee took the significant step of issuing you with a summons to attend and give evidence after it received no response to two written invitations posted to your registered business address. When you declined to attend and give evidence based on the

we provided you with an opportunity to appear by videoconference but you declined. If you are indeed willing to co-operate with the inquiry and give evidence at a public hearing, I encourage you to make this clear and we will make the necessary arrangements.

In response to your other concerns I note the following:

- The process servers engaged by the committee are a professional and licenced business who routinely serve legal documents on individuals. We have been advised that the agents are regulated with the Office of Fair Trading.
- Although there has been considerable media interest in this inquiry, the committee is not responsible for the content of any media reports.

Obviously the birth of a child is a significant event in a person's life. I take this opportunity to wish you all the best during this special time and assure you that we have never intended to cause distress or harm. The committee has an important role to undertake in examining very serious allegations and has given great consideration to every step it has taken.

Please advise your availability to attend a hearing by **2.00 pm Monday 27 February 2023**. You can contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on _____ or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Telephone (02) 9230 2354
portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

60 Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

27 February 2023

URGENT – BY EMAIL

Parliamentary Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
The Hon Sue Higginson MLC (Chair)

Dear Ms Higginson,

Response to your letter of 24 February 2023

In your letter you state that the committee issued two invitations to my business address. I have not received either correspondence you have referred to. On first receipt of any communication that the committee sought my attendance (that is, on 19 February 2023 I have actively communicated with the committee).

The allegation that I have failed to co-operate with the committee is simply not true. I find it extraordinary that the committee would issue public statements to this effect. The committee has imposed on itself unreasonable deadlines which, not just me, but many people, have been unable to comply with.

In my conversation with the secretariat and in subsequent email correspondence I informed the committee of my unavailability to attend the committee due to the imminent birth of my child. You state in your letter that an opportunity was made to appear by video-conference last Thursday. I am sure you can appreciate why I declined that invitation considering that date is now my child's birthday.

I appreciate your best wishes regarding my child. Regrettably, those wishes are diluted by the fear that your agents will unreasonably and unnecessarily attend our home and conduct more violence.

I also cannot agree that great consideration has been given to every step the committee has taken. Having been informed of the medical situation in my household and having been given a means by which to communicate with me, the secretariat could have simply called me and organised a time and place on which to serve its documents.

Instead, it opted to send a private investigator to my house and in doing so caused severe stress to my wife.

I am sure that is related to the incident which occurred only some hours beforehand.

You have not substantively dealt with what I have informed you of. That is, your agent trespassing onto a private residence, refusing to leave when asked, and shining a light into the eyes of a heavily pregnant woman. I would expect that you would have confirmed whether the conduct occurred and offered an apology, or at the very least, undertaken to look into the conduct.

I am led to believe that since the issuing of your correspondence that the NSW Parliament has been dissolved and there is some question on whether the committee will continue to sit. I understand from public comment by one committee member that it is unclear on whether the committee will continue to sit and conduct business.

I ask that the committee please clarify its position as a matter of urgency.

I understand that the question of whether a committee may validly sit while Parliament was prorogued has previously dealt with when the Keneally Government prorogued Parliament three months early.

At the time the NSW Crown Solicitor issued the following advice, "*should the committee and sit and purport to exercise powers...it will not be doing so legally. The committee will not lawfully be able to exercise power to summon persons (other than Members) to attend and give evidence or examine any witnesses under oath*".

My understanding is that this issue has never been considered and decided by a Court and therefore it is legally ambiguous. However, subsequent to 2011 it became practice to expressly authorise, in the resolution appointing committees, to permit that committee to conduct business while Parliament is prorogued. There is differing legal opinions (including from the Crown Solicitor, pre-eminent academics and lawyers, and the Clerk of the House), on whether such a resolution is valid. It is unclear whether this practice was implemented in the constitution of committee no. 7.

It is unclear to me whether the committee is sitting validly. I am not concerned about the validity of the committee's power to issue summons. I have previously offered to voluntarily appear. However, I am concerned about the protection from defamation (and other legal proceedings) that would otherwise be afforded to witnesses.

I seek the committee's urgent clarification of this issue. As legal opinions have significantly different over the past decade on this question, I would seek an indemnity from a person or organisation of substance before agreeing to appear and

give evidence in these unique circumstances. I believe this is a very reasonable request.

Regards

Jeremy Greenwood

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 6:00 PM
To: 'Jeremy Greenwood'
Cc: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: RE: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Jeremy

I have just tried to call your mobile, but it was diverted and I was unable to leave a message.

Further to your correspondence to the Chair, which was received today, the committee has asked the secretariat to contact you to advise that it has resolved to hold a further public hearing on 2 March 2023, commencing at 11 am, and that it wishes you to appear at that hearing to give evidence under summons. Noting your concerns about process servers attending your house, I invite you to nominate a time and place that it would be convenient for you to be present tomorrow afternoon to receive the summons in person. With your cooperation, we can make an arrangement that does not inconvenience you.

I understand that you have a new baby, and so that I don't disturb you at an inconvenient time, please contact me tomorrow morning by noon to make an arrangement to be served the summons.

My phone number is below, or if you want to nominate a location where you can be served tomorrow afternoon by return email, please do so.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2354

E peta.leemen@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia

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From: Jeremy Greenwood
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 8:05 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Peta

Please take the below as correspondence to the committee through you.

It does not appear that the committee has considered or dealt with my honest and serious concern regarding whether the privilege against defamation continues to apply. Either that, or it has not deemed it necessary to respond to me.

I regard this to be extremely disrespectful in circumstances where I have done my best to comply with this committee in a trying situation (caused, in no small part by the committee's own actions).

I will not entertain any future communication with the committee until my reasonable query regarding parliamentary privilege is addressed in writing, preferably containing advice from parliamentary counsel.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform the secretariat and the committee members that I reserve my legal rights moving forward.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Greenwood

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 8:33 PM
To: 'Jeremy Greenwood'; Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: RE: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Mr Greenwood

I note your reply below, which we will forward to the committee.

Peta was hoping to speak to you to potentially arrange a time/location that suits you for service of the summons. We were hoping to make telephone contact with you to advise that committees can still undertake activity during prorogation, up until 3 March 2023. This was confirmed by the government (and indeed the Premier) in recent media releases. As such, any evidence you give to the committee will be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Peta will try you again in the morning.

Kind regards

Tina Higgins

Director | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council

Parliament of New South Wales

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From: Jeremy Greenwood
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 10:26 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Tina

That is not my understanding.

I'm sure you can understand that if I was to give commentary that others may disagree with they may challenge whether this inquiry is covered by privilege. The premiers media releases are not legal advice, and the legal advice I have personally received has informed me that privilege ended upon proroguing of parliament.

I would like parliamentary counsels advice, or whomever the committee uses for legal advice

Jeremy

Sent from my iPhone

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 9:57 AM
To: 'Jeremy Greenwood'; Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: RE: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of Impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Dear Jeremy

I just tried calling, but it rang out.

The committee is proceeding with its hearing on 2 March 2023. As my colleague advised, the Legislative Council's position is that committees are lawfully able to conduct business after prorogation up until parliament is dissolved (3 March 2023). As such, parliamentary privilege would apply to all participants in committee proceedings. We give you as much surety in this regard as we can give all our witnesses. In this regard, I note that we do not need to give an indemnity to you or obtain further legal advice.

As the Council's position is clear, the Chair is encouraging you to attend and give evidence.

As a matter of courtesy, we are letting you know that the committee is proceeding with its summons for you to attend the hearing.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2354

E peta.leemen@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Jeremy Greenwood
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 11:06 AM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Re: PC7 - Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Peta

I don't know what's happening re your calls I haven't had it ring but I've had others call, it may be at the same time.

I need to press this point as I don't feel it is being taken seriously enough.

Members of this committee have publicly stated their concerns re prorogation of parliaments impact on this inquiry. I have received legal advice stating that yes the committee may continue its operations until 3 March 2023 however parliamentary privilege will not be available. I am not raising this point to be difficult but you must understand it is of the utmost importance and seriousness to myself.

At this moment in time I cannot in good conscience present myself to the committee as you have not been able to provide adequate advice regarding privilege. If I was to present to the committee and a private citizen felt defamed by me then there is a situation where they could challenge the issue of prorogation in court (I note it has not been tested yet) and I would be at risk of legal proceedings myself.

The committee needs to provide advice affirming that privilege will be provided and I require it in writing not a phone call. A statement from the Premier (I cannot locate one regarding parliamentary privilege) is not legal advice and will not protect me from legal proceedings, nor is an email from a committee secretariat. The fact is if this committee defamed me at any point after 9am 27th February I would have the right to sue the committee, therefore I would be placing myself at this serious risk as well.

The Premiers statement was "*Labor's Kristina Keneally prorogued the Parliament on 22 December 2010, more than three months before the election in 2011. **Upper House committees continued to sit after this date. Upper House Committees will continue to conduct their business up until the constitutionally mandated dissolution of the Legislative Assembly on 3 March 2023.***"

The Crown Solicitors advice in 2011 was "*should the committee and sit and purport to exercise powers...it will not be doing so legally. The committee will not lawfully be able to exercise power to summon persons (other than Members) to attend and give evidence or examine any witnesses under oath.*"

Yes the committee can continue its business however this is clear advice from the NSW Crown Solicitors office that I would not be able to give evidence under oath. Furthermore your summons is invalid and if someone was to trespass on my property when your server has already been formally advised to not attend my property as it would be trespassing then I would deem it a criminal trespass and use all legal rights available to me to prevent it. If the committee is saying it has advice that the Crown Solicitors office is incorrect then I challenge it to produce it to me in writing.

Regards,

Jeremy Greenwood

01 March 2023

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
(Via email: portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Higginson,

I have been made aware that a Committee Member has circulated questions to some witnesses, kindly providing an opportunity to address questions that may assist the inquiry with their deliberations. I write to address these questions in the interest of full cooperation with the Committee.

Christian Ellis – what is your relationship?

Christian Ellis is a former colleague of mine. We have not had a business relationship for several years.

Hills – what was your involvement?

I have had no involvement in this area and that continues to be the position I hold.

While I have been a member of the Liberal Party for several years, briefly an active member, I have never engaged in branch stacking or indeed any branch recruitment.

Were you aware of any money sought for branch recruitment operations?

No, I am not aware of any money sought for branch stacking and have never been involved in any activity of this type.

Would you have been aware?

No as I have never been someone involved in recruitment. I can only deal in facts and not speculation.

Have you received any advice about attending or co-operating with the inquiry?

Yes, I have received advice from:

- Legal advice
- Medical advice
- Advice from the committee secretariat
- Advice from my friendship/family networks
- And of course, I have sought spiritual advice from my God.

I understand there has been some commentary about me being uncooperative with this Committee. I would like to make the point that since I was initially contacted by this inquiry I have sought to be in regular contact with the secretariat. This is despite very trying circumstances in my household, some of these exacerbated by the actions of the process server, while I have disputed the current standing of

parliamentary privilege in the interests of maintaining a cooperative nature with the inquiry, I have addressed the above questions.

Furthermore, while I am not aware of any allegations against me, I have never engaged in any impropriety in the hills council or indeed any council and would refute any allegations of this nature against me.

I respectfully request that the committee consider the above evidence provided by me when deliberating on the final report due to be tabled to the NSW Parliament.

Yours Sincerely,

Jeremy Greenwood

The Hon. Susan Higginson MLC,
Member of the Legislative Council

7 February 2023

Dear Ms Higginson,

Response to your invitation to give evidence before the Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Thank you for your invitation to appear before the Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment in its inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

I have been travelling since December 2022 and intend to be overseas until March 2023, principally in a remote part of Lebanon where I am originally from. I

am managing overseas business in the Middle East and Asia. If my evidence is needed by the committee I ask that you please postpone the hearing.

I trust you will have no difficulty accommodating this request. The allegations by Mr Williams were made on 23 June 2022 and the committee only called this inquiry in December of last year. If the committee can wait six months to call the inquiry, it is unreasonable to assert that I must urgently return to Australia.

Mr Williams referred his allegations to the Independent Commission Against Corruption before making them in Parliament and the ICAC wrote to him in reply in March 2022 stating that even accepting his allegations, no unlawful conduct had occurred.

Mr Williams stated that “only an external investigation will substantiate these allegations, or ultimately refute them”. It strikes me as profoundly dishonest that Mr Williams failed to mention that he had referred his concerns to the appropriate body (that is, an external investigator), ICAC, and ICAC had found his allegations did not allege any corrupt conduct.

I raise this as it highlights the lack of urgency or importance around this inquiry (which I think is reflected also in the Committee’s delay in calling the inquiry).

Some two weeks after Mr Williams’ allegations, the ABC broadcasted a 4 Corners documentary ‘The War Within’ on 4 July 2022. The intrepid young journalist, Mr Sean Nicholls, exhibited a ‘dossier’ provided to the ICAC from a “senior person within the Alex Hawke faction”. No doubt that person is Mr Williams as the return letter is addressed to Mr Williams (albeit, blurred).

I note that Mr Williams’ allegations made in Parliament extend to a former councillor on Hills Shire Council and current Member of Parliament. That allegation is of direct misconduct (that is, that person received support from me and in exchange advanced my development on Council). This is an allegation I deny. However, what is significant is that, that allegation is most certainly within the purview of the ICAC. This means that Mr Williams omitted this allegation from his dossier but saw fit to include it in his speech under privilege. This is highly questionable.

It is difficult to address Mr Williams’ allegations as his assertions are so lacking in detail or evidence. However, I say of Mr Williams’ allegations:

1. I have not met any of the current councillors of the Hills Shire Council. I am not aware if they support my developments. I am not aware if they are more or less supportive of my development than the previous councillors. Their views on my developments are largely irrelevant to the progress of my development for reasons I will expand on.

During the previous term of Council I conducted extensive developments in and around the Hills Shire Council area. This has included 1,800 dwellings around the new Castle Hill Metro station.

2. The development identified by Mr Williams is a major site surrounding the Cherrybrook Metro station. My revised plan for the site provide for 2,600 homes, over one thousand commuter car parks, the construction of a new school, the preservation of almost all significant trees, and 76% of the site to be turned to open green space. All of the land is within a few minutes' walk of the new metro station and active open space.

I understand that this transport-oriented, master-planned development is precisely what the Government and public are seeking.

3. The principal reason for the rejection of my original planning proposal for the Cherrybrook site was that the NSW Department of Planning was yet to finalise a state led strategy which would provide for critical heights, densities and road patterns for the area.
4. The indicative densities of the Cherrybrook site were established in the Northwest Rail Link Corridor Strategy in 2013. That strategy was expanded on in the Cherrybrook Station Structure Plan.
5. The Cherrybrook Station Precinct Place Strategy was published in December 2022 by the NSW Government. I understand that the Hills Shire Council made a submission during the public exhibition of the strategy entirely consistent with the Council's own strategy for the area resolved by the previous Hills Shire Council.

Any rational assessment of the planning processes around the Cherrybrook site would conclude that the process was a State-led one and any position around the precinct by Council was made by the previous Council and in line with the recommendations of Council's officers (which in turn, were aligned with long-term state government strategies concerning the area).

Any residual discretion on the part of Council would be subject to Department of Planning review (that will be exercised in accordance with the strategy as a matter of law) and any subsequent DAs would be assessed by an independent panel in the first instance and liable to Land and Environment Court review.

Mr Williams raises some issue with my original proposal and that I had proposed for some buildings to be 20 storeys in height. This is, in my mind, the most significant issue in Mr Williams' allegations. I met with Mr Williams personally regarding the Cherrybrook site some years ago to seek his support for the proposal and he stated to me that he "did not care" about it as it was well outside of his electorate. His new found concern is perplexing. The majority of the original proposal was less than twelve stories in height. The additional height does not equate to additional density – and the additional height would permit the majority of the new housing to be delivered closest to the train station allowing more land to be set aside as a town square and public open space. This would have the distinct advantage of ensuring development took place well apart from the existing low-rise community. As the development would be constructed on the downslope – the effective visible height of the buildings would not overly intrude on the skyline. This type of thinking (opposition to height as a proxy for development) infects the planning system in NSW and results in endless suburbs of 5 storey-developments imposing over the back fences of 1 to 2 homes. In the end, the developer will be blamed for a bland Stalinist approach imposed on him by a planning system that bends every time to the hysterical bleating of people like Mr Williams. Meanwhile, the general public flock to be close to high-density developments which provide the commercial and general amenities they desire.

The present urban form of the Cherrybrook/West Pennant Hills area was designed around a mode of living that does not exist anymore. That is, a single-income household that principally uses cars to get around. What I am proposing preserves the fabric of the existing community but provides a nearby hub of commercial services (childcare, early-childhood learning, schooling options, shops) and improves the built form to allow easy pedestrian access to the metro station from the existing suburbs. Most of my recent projects are occupied by retirees (down sizers from the surrounding area), students – both international and local, and first-home buyers. Keeping those people within a community is incredibly important for the social make-up of an area and this can only be achieved by providing a variety of housing types within a suburb.

PWC has done a high level estimate of the Cherrybrook project. It is estimated to:

1. Generate \$467m in economic benefit in its first stage alone (that is, the construction of around 770 apartments),
2. generate 1670 full-time jobs during construction of stage 1, and
3. Save 161,195 hours in commuting time through the through-site connections saving commuters estimated \$49m per year.

The current project has required an investment of around \$350m and by the end of the project PWC estimates another \$797.7m will be required (that is, a total investment of \$1.148bn by myself).

The efforts and expense I have incurred in consolidating the area has opened the opportunity for the master-planning of the area. It is much easier to develop the land in a piece-meal fashion resulting in sub-par planning outcomes but more immediate profit.

I have not had any dealings with the new Hills Shire councillors. PremierState (a government relations firm) and Macroplan (planners) have dealt with the proposal since their engagement in 2020 alongside Grimshaws (an international award winning architectural firm) whose engagement extends further than that. That engagement has been focused on the relevant NSW Government entities (the Department of Planning, TfNSW, School Infrastructure) and the Hills Shire Council. I am unaware of any engagement by them with the elected officials on Council.

I understand that Mr David Elliott has been urging journalists for some time to report on some impropriety regarding the process and each time the journalists have refused Mr Elliott's solicitations. It is clear that these allegations have been designed to discredit the internal opponents of Mr Elliott by association with me with a view for Mr Elliott to retain his seat in Parliament. I sincerely question why Mr Elliott didn't apply this time and effort towards (a) obeying the law (b) being a better Minister (c) building support for himself within his electorate and the Liberal Party.

I deny paying any person to undertake any actions regarding pre-selections or any similar actions.

My knowledge of the Liberal Party of NSW is limited. However, it is ludicrous to suggest that any one person is able to influence the whole of that organisation.

Ultimately, it certainly has nothing to do with me. I have a high public profile and business in the area. This has invited political opportunist to use any connection with me (however slim or tangential) to achieve purely political ends. I believe the targeting of myself, my company, my friends, my family and associated charities by particular government agencies has resulted from political pressure and I will be seeking recourse in the Courts in that respect.

The committee as a whole are an educated group of people with an understanding of how the planning system and how political parties work. You are able to, without hearing from me, determine how outlandish the allegations being levelled are.

Kind regards,

Mr Jean Nassif

Director – Toplace

The Hon. Susan Higginson MLC
Member of the Legislative Council

14 February 2023

Response to your letter of 10 February 2023 regarding Inquiry into allegations of impropriety relating to the Hills Shire Council

After receiving your letter I took the opportunity to better understand the committee. I needed to understand, particularly, how this committee that supposedly deals with planning has justified not looking into:

1. The 15.1% reduction in planning approvals from December 2021 to December 2022;
2. Sydney's housing market being ranked the second least affordable housing market in the world (Demographia International Housing Affordability 2022 report); and
3. NSW having the slowest planning system in the country (NSW Government Productivity review 2021).

The committee has found time over the past 4 years to inquiry into Aboriginal cultural heritage, the health and well-being of kangaroos, puppy farms, Koala populations and habitat but has not once held an inquiry into housing supply, rental affordability, or why the NSW planning system is so broken.

Maybe the sight of young people queuing around city blocks looking for rental properties does not worry the committee. Where is the urgency behind inquiring into that imminent social catastrophe.

The NSW Labor policy for housing is laughable. Policy 1 - "Refocus UrbanGrowth NSW". UrbanGrowth NSW has not existed for 3 years. Policy 2 & 3 – increase affordable housing/social housing mandates. Council ordinarily imposes these targets already and while these targets decrease rental costs they also increase apartment prices, most Australians want to own their own home, not rent for the rest of their lives. Policy 4 – look for Government land to build houses on (i.e. what Landcom already does).

In practice, Greens policy is to oppose all new development – leading to Greens controlled areas having impossible house and rental prices. I do not think its any great coincidence that all Greens campaigns (i.e. opposing any development higher than a man can jump) have the effect of shutting low-income people out of cloistered wealthy communities. The proposed "extreme wealth" tax is certainly interesting. Developers will simply pass this expense onto consumers. In the last financial year companies associated with me paid more tax than Afterpay, Amazon, Facebook, Atlassian, Google and Uber did in Australia combined.

The Liberal policy – whatever it is – has resulted in the worst housing situation in the developed world.

I do receive the Sydney Morning Herald in this remote part of Lebanon. It is carted up with other highly-essential items. When the mule is tired, we must decide between having a third meal or Herald exclusives. It is a difficult decision to make every time.

The Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC stated in the Herald that the allegations were very serious and that the matter needed to be dealt with before the NSW election. The allegations are not serious because it is not credible. The allegations were dealt with already by the ICAC and the person making the allegations has not offered a shred of evidence. He has also refused to appear before the inquiry.

As mentioned in my letter, I am presently in a remote part of Lebanon and am recuperating from a medical procedure before travelling further to manage my overseas business interests. While it was necessary to disclose these matters to the committee, these are matters which I would have wished to keep confidential for my own safety.

That information is now widely circulated due to your decision to “make public” my previous letter. Ordinarily any public body would seek consultation with an affected person before releasing information. In fact, it appears to be a requirement at law (I refer to the obligations under the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*). If I had been asked, I would of asked that you please redact my current whereabouts as it is inherently dangerous due to my particular circumstances.

Recent media coverage has insinuated that I have left the country to avoid the inquiry. See, for example - “Jean Nassif leaves Australia for Lebanon just before parliamentary enquiry (sic) into Hills Shire Council” – Daily Mail, “Colourful Sydney developer heads to Lebanon and avoids inquiry” – Sydney Morning Herald. It appears that I will need to issue some summons of my own. I left Australia on a pre-planned trip before the inquiry was even called, let alone when the hearing dates were set. The suggestion that I have left to avoid the inquiry is as ridiculous and counter-factual as Mr Williams’ allegations.

On 11 February 2023 the Committee published a list of four people that it says have failed to respond to the inquiry.

Why has the committee not published its invitation to Mr Williams and Mr Elliott to appear? Why has the committee not published the response from Mr Williams and Mr Elliott declining to attend?

Why have committee members made public comment on the failure of some witnesses to appear – but failed to make any public remark on the refusal of the key witness, Mr Williams, failing to appear?

If Mr Williams will not attend to explain the basis of the allegations that he has made, why is the committee persisting in giving the allegations oxygen.

If you can identify a single strategic plan which provides for residential redevelopment on Mirvac’s IBM site (which unlike my Cherrybrook development) has no access to public transport, replaces protected employment lands, and was approved without question – than I will immediately fly to Australia to appear before you in person. You cannot, and you cannot explain why you are inquiring into this planning process but not that one except purely political reasons.

I stress again, all progress on the Cherrybrook structure plan has been state-led as the precinct forms part of the North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy.

You are participating in political kabuki and I am happy to participate, but you (the committee) only provided notice of your hearing dates at 5pm on 3 February 2023, that is, six working days ago.

If you can provide with me any logical explanation for why you waited six months to call this inquiry than I will make special efforts to fly immediately to Australia and be before you in person. However, I am sure you cannot.

I do thank you for your response to my letter and your kind invitation for me to attend on video-link. I will reply to you on that in due course. However, I have taken legal advice and have been advised that evidence provided by video-link may not comply with the requirement of s 10 of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* (which requires that oaths be administered at the bar of the House). This means I would not be afforded the same protections as other witnesses.

Any guidance (particularly, legal advice your office has received) that your office can provide in that respect would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Jean Nassif

Director – Toplace



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

15 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/09390

Mr Jean Nassif
Managing Director
Toplace

*via**cc:*

Dear Mr Nassif

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

I write in response to your letter dated 14 February 2023, in which you raise a number of questions related to the timeline, activities and purpose of this inquiry. I also note your questions in relation to the protection you will be provided if you agreed to appear at a hearing via videoconference.

In terms of publication of your previous correspondence, it is important to understand that it is the committee's decision as to whether or not to publish any material received during the course of an inquiry. In making decisions such as these, the committee carefully considers a range of factors, including the need for transparency of parliamentary proceedings as well as any sensitivity of information or request of the author. Importantly, the committee is not bound by the privacy legislation you refer to.

In the context of promoting transparency, especially in light of the nature of this inquiry, the committee has also resolved for your most recent letter to be published.

In terms of the participation of other stakeholders in this inquiry, I note that the committee has attempted to invite a number of witnesses to participate in hearings, including Mr Williams and Mr Elliott. You will see from recent minutes of the committee's meetings, now published on the webpage, that the committee has made a significant effort to date to secure the co-operation of many individuals who could provide valuable evidence to this inquiry.

In relation to whether you have the same protection as other witnesses if you attend a hearing by videoconference, please be advised that the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901* does not operate outside of New South Wales. As such, and with you being in Lebanon in particular, it is important to note that any evidence you agree to provide at a hearing, where you attend via videolink, will not be protected by parliamentary privilege. With this in mind, I encourage you to discuss your concerns further with your lawyer, as any risks you may have in relation to this may depend on the nature of your evidence.

Relevant to this, I draw to your attention a legal advice published in [Appendix 3](#) in one of our recent committee reports, concerning matters unrelated to our inquiry. This contains information

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portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

about the power of committees to summon witnesses outside of New South Wales, including the application of parliamentary privilege to those attending a hearing from outside the jurisdiction via electronic means. Also attached is a brochure with general information for witnesses.

Please note that the committee will likely have a further hearing on 23 February 2023, so we would appreciate a response as to whether or not you will be able to attend by videoconference by **10 am Monday 20 February 2023**.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Higginson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

From: Charles Perrottet
Sent: Monday, 20 February 2023 3:54 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Invitation to attend

I refer to your letter dated 15 February 2023.

I will not be participating in your Labor/Greens circus. I decline your invitation.

I am a resident of Victoria. I have resided in Victoria since January 2021.

I reserve my position in relation to the partisan, ill-informed, speculative and defamatory commentary, including statements to the press, and “media releases”, by some committee members.

The chair of the committee, as a lawyer, and given her experience in operating “her own legal practice” should reflect further on the preceding paragraph.

I do not waive any rights of procedural fairness.

Charles Perrottet

28 February 2023

I refer to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into allegations of impropriety involving the Hills Shire Council.

I am overseas and I have not been served with a summons to appear at the inquiry.

Since seeing the media coverage, it is clear to me that I would never receive procedural fairness at the inquiry. Given its timing on the eve of an election and the nature of the allegations made, it is also clear that the inquiry is being conducted to further political ends.

This has been an extremely distressing time for me. False allegations against me have been politicised and publicised and have taken a serious toll on my mental health.

This stress has been exacerbated by calls to the public to report my whereabouts. These calls have put my fiancée and our families in harm's way.

The harassment of my fiancée and her family members by tax-payer funded investigators, and the distribution of images of them and their homes in the media, is deeply distressing and an issue that will be subject of separate correspondence.

For the reasons set out above, I will not be taking part in the inquiry, other than to confirm to the Committee, by this correspondence, that the allegations made against me are completely false.

I trust this confirmation assists the inquiry in any legitimate ends it might ultimately pursue. For now, I ask the Committee to please refrain from further distressing and potentially unlawful harassment of me, my fiancée and our families.

I reserve my rights regarding the defamatory comments made about me in the media as well as my rights to procedural fairness.

Jean-Claude Perrottet



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

23 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/15472

Mr Dylan Whitelaw

Dear Mr Whitelaw

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

As you are aware, Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment is conducting an inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

The committee has considered your non-response its invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February 2023, and agreed that I write to invite you to a future hearing, noting that if you decline or do not respond to this letter, the committee has resolved to issue a summons for your attendance under the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*.

Please provide a response to this invitation by **10 am, Friday 24 February 2023**.

Further, on 23 February 2023, a document was tabled by Mr John Graham MLC titled 'The Men who Stole the Hills: Chapter One: The Reformers'. Parts of this document refer to the role and activities of various individuals in the NSW Liberal Party.

The committee is mindful that this document has been published on the committee's website and wishes to provide the individuals named with an opportunity to respond, in accordance with the Legislative Council's Procedural Fairness Resolution. If you wish to respond in writing, I invite you to do so by **4.00 pm Tuesday 28 February 2023**.

Please note that if you provide a response, the committee will review it with a view to publishing it on the inquiry webpage. If you have any concerns about this please let the secretariat know.

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Telephone (02) 9230 2354
portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au



If you have any questions, please contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on 9230 2354 or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

24 February 2023
Your Ref: D23/15472

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
(Via email PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Higginson,

**RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF
IMPROPRIETY AGAINST AGENTS OF THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND
PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION**

Thank you for your correspondence to me dated 22 February and 23 February 2023 respectively.

I note that your invitation for me to attend your Greens/Labor led partisan and politically motivated inquiry was received yesterday (22 Feb 2023) at 1.07pm requesting my attendance on the following day at 2.45pm. As I am sure you can appreciate, this time frame was unfeasible and impractical, for several reasons.

I am currently on leave from work and outside of Sydney, and as such was not monitoring emails and was unable to attend the hearing yesterday. I state at the outset that I do not decline to accept any future invitations to attend a public hearing, but note that my attendance will be based on the appropriate date/time being proposed and receiving relevant advice from my legal representatives.

I would like to express my concern that the Committee has published an unsourced document that fails to provide any substantiated evidence, entitled ‘The Men Who Stole the Hills: Chapter One: The Reformers’. I state that any allegations of impropriety made against me in this unsourced document are false and no evidence has been produced to attest to the factual accuracy of anything contained within this document.

As such, I forthwith require the following from the committee:

- i. Any relevant information regarding the unsourced document, including any email addresses that was used to provide this to the committee.
- ii. An explanation as to why the committee thought it was appropriate to publish a document that was unverifiable and had no original source.

As the committee has chosen to publish all correspondence on their website, I ask that my personal information including phone number and email address is redacted prior to this document being published.

I reserve my rights to procedural fairness and the presumption of innocence in their entirety.

Yours Faithfully

Dylan J. Whitelaw



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

24 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/15697

Mr Dylan Whitelaw
Dylanwhitelaw00@gmail.com

Dear Mr Whitelaw

Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 February 2023. I note that you are currently on leave from work and outside of Sydney but may be willing to assist the committee, subject to your availability and legal advice.

If you are able to attend a public hearing on **Thursday 2 March 2023**, either in person or by videoconference, it would be appreciated if you could indicate this as soon as possible.

In relation to your concern about the publication of a recent document in which your name appears, I note that is a matter for the committee to decide whether or not to publish documents it receives during the course of an inquiry.

I acknowledge that you are refuting the claims suggested within the document, and thank you for responding and putting your views forward. The committee will consider publishing your correspondence, to ensure this information is also publicly available and if it does it will follow usual practice and redact personal details such as email addresses.

To assist us further, we would appreciate if you could please advise your availability to attend a hearing by **2.00 pm Monday 27 February 2023**. You can contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on 9230 2354 or via email at portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Sue Higginson MLC
Committee Chair

Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000 AUSTRALIA
Telephone (02) 9230 2354
portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au

From: Dylan Whitelaw
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2023 8:29 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7; Office of Sue Higginson
Subject: Correspondence to Portfolio Committee No 7 - Mr Dylan J Whitelaw

Dear Mrs Higginson,

I write to you to confirm a few questions I have regarding the Parliamentary Inquiry currently being undertaken into the Hills Shire Council.

Can the committee provide me written advice from the Parliamentary Counsel Office that privilege will extend to me if I appear before your inquiry, either under summons or by my own free will.

I cannot entertain any further invitations or correspondence from the committee until i have this provided to me, in writing.

Yours Faithfully,

Dylan J. Whitelaw Esq. JP.



27 February 2023
Your Ref: D23/15697

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chairman
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
(Via email: portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

URGENT

Dear Mrs Higginson,

RE: PC7 - INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY AGAINST AGENTS OF THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 February 2023, in which you provide me less than a week to attend your inquiry.

At this stage I decline to attend this circus of a hearing on the 2nd of March 2023. I believe it to be entirely politically motivated. The Committee has had since the 23rd of June 2022, when these baseless allegations were first raised under the leafy protections of parliamentary privilege, to further probe these accusations, but the Committee chose to investigate it on the eve of the NSW State Election.

My unwillingness to attend is due to a number of reasons that have been brought to my attention.

Firstly, I have it on as verifiable of a word as your now tabled anonymously sourced document that it may have been produced by foreign agents, with the sole aim of undermining the NSW State Election. At a time of conflict in Ukraine I would be shocked if the Chair, whose lifetime of legal experience as the CEO and Chief Solicitor of the Environmental Defenders Office, had not performed the appropriate due diligence to ensure this was not an attempt at election interference. I raise these concerns not for my benefit, but to ensure the integrity of the NSW Parliament and that of the electoral process in New South Wales is upheld. I ask that the committee urgently investigate the source of this document.

I would like to also reiterate the short notice I was given to attend both the hearing on the 23rd of February 2023 (24hours provided) and the upcoming hearing on the 2nd of March 2023 (less than a week's notice). I am seeking legal advice and the minimal time provided has made appropriate advice difficult. It is not reasonable to ambush someone with 4 business days' notice to appear and respond to unsubstantiated gossip.

Secondly, I still have serious concerns about the dangerous and un-democratic precedent which has been set by the committee, in which an unsourced, and unverifiable document has been tabled under the protections of parliamentary privilege. Does this mean that

Dylan J. Whitelaw



anybody is able to submit documents that fail to provide substantiated evidence, that are highly defamatory? Would the committee table slanderous and anonymously sourced documents accusing members of the committee of misconduct pertaining to the Hills Shire Council? Why should private citizens endure such baseless and defamatory accusations if the same standard does not apply?

I once again request that the Committee remove all personal information from this letter prior to it being published on the NSW Parliament Website.

I reserve my rights to procedural fairness and the presumption of innocence in their entirety.

Yours Faithfully,

Dylan J. Whitelaw

Dylan J. Whitelaw

From: Dylan J. Whitelaw
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 12:23 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Fwd: Correspondance from Mr Dylan J Whitelaw - not received yesterday - witness summons - for urqent response

Dear Peta

Just forwarding the below as it seems you are not receiving my correspondence from my other email account.

Thanks
Dylan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dylan Whitelaw
Date: Tue, 28 Feb 2023, 12:15
Subject: Re: Correspondance from Mr Dylan J Whitelaw - not received yesterday - witness summons - for urgent response
To: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Dylan J. Whitelaw

Dear Peta,

Please accept the below as correspondence to the committee through yourself.

I write to you to confirm a few questions I have regarding the Parliamentary Inquiry.

Can the committee provide me written advice from the Parliamentary Counsel Office that privilege will extend to me if I appear before your inquiry, either under summons or by my own free will.

I am concerned that the protections of parliamentary privilege are no longer afforded due to the prorouging of the Parliament.

I cannot entertain any further invitations or correspondence from the committee until i have this provided to me, in writing.

Yours Faithfully,

Dylan J. Whitelaw Esq. JP.

From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 8:04 AM
To: 'Dylan J. Whitelaw'
Cc: Portfolio Committee 7
Subject: Hills Shire Council inquiry - witness summons - for urgent response

Dear Mr Whitelaw

Further to correspondence last week, I write to advise that the committee has resolved to hold a further public hearing on **Thursday 2 March** commencing at **11 am** in the **Gallery Room, State Library of NSW**.

The committee has issued a summons for you to attend and give evidence at that hearing, and engaged a process server to effect service.

Could you please contact me to arrange a time and location this afternoon where you would be available to receive the summons? Subject to our process server's capacity, we will try to work with what is convenient for you.

I can be contacted on (02) 9230 2354, or on this email address. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
Parliament of New South Wales

T (02) 9230 2354

Parliament House, Macquarie Street Sydney NSW, 2000 Australia

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From: Portfolio Committee 7 <PortfolioCommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 9:52 AM
To: 'Dylan J. Whitelaw'; Portfolio Committee 7
Cc:
Subject: RE: Correspondance from Mr Dylan J Whitelaw - not received yesterday - witness summons - for urgent response

Dear Dylan

Your letter dated 27 February 2023 was not received by us yesterday. We will forward to the chair now.

I sent you an email this morning at your gmail address (we did not receive the request to use the other address until just now) advising that the committee has decided to proceed to summons you to its hearing on **2 March, commencing 11 am, at the Gallery Room, State Library of NSW.**

Could you please provide an address where you will be present this afternoon to receive the summons? We will endeavour to send the process server at a time and place that suits you, if you could please let us know.

I can be contacted on (02) 9230 2354. Please let me know if you have questions.

Best regards

Peta

Peta Leemen

Principal Council Officer | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council
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From: Portfolio Committee 7
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 1:33 PM
To: 'Dylan Whitelaw'; Portfolio Committee 7
Cc: Dylan J. Whitelaw
Subject: RE: Correspondance from Mr Dylan J Whitelaw - not received yesterday - witness summons - for urgent response

Dear Mr Whitelaw

Thank you for your email, which we will provide to the committee.

The position of the Legislative Council is that committees can continue to operate after prorogation, up until 3 March 2023. On this basis, I can assure you that any evidence you give will be protected by parliamentary privilege.

I draw to your attention the [Legislative Council in Practice](#), p 792, which outlines this position, as confirmed by Mr Bet Walker SC in a legal opinion in 2011. Over the past decade committees have operated on this basis during prorogation.

Kind regards

Tina Higgins

Director | Upper House Committees | Legislative Council

Parliament of New South Wales

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.



01 March 2023
Your Ref: D23/15697

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
(Via email: portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Higginson,

**RE: PC7 - INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY AGAINST
AGENTS OF THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN
THE REGION**

I am aware that a Committee Member has provided a witness with the opportunity to address a number of questions to assist the committee. In the interest of procedural fairness, I write to address these same questions and to assist the committee with their deliberations as much as practically possible.

I have broken up my statements under key headings to assist the committee:

Christian Ellis – what is your relationship?

Mr Ellis is a former employer of mine and a Liberal Party Colleague.

Hills – what was your involvement?

As found in Chapter 1, my involvement in the Hills was minimal. During my ongoing membership with the NSW Liberal Party I was never a member of any branch within the Hills area, nor was it an area I was focused on recruiting into.

I would define any involvement within the hills, as minimal as it may be, as low level.

Were you aware of any money sought for branch recruitment operations?

At no point was I aware of any money sought for branch stacking activity within the Liberal Party.

I am also not aware of individuals or groups paying for memberships within the party.

That being said, it was a frequent occurrence for more senior members of the party to donate to young liberal drinks events and engagement events.

Dylan J. Whitelaw



Would you have been aware?

As stated above, I was never aware of any money being sought for branch stacking activities. That being said, I can't deal in speculation.

Have you received any advice about attending or co-operating with the inquiry?

I've received advice from family, friends, legal representatives, and my work circle as to how I approach my dealings with the committee, which has led me to the decision to be as cooperative as possible. I have also sought spiritual advice from my God.

At all stages, I have attempted to assist the committee where practically possible.

I also note and reiterate that I refute any and all allegations of impropriety or inappropriate conduct made against me in the unsourced and unverified documents that have been provided and tabled by the committee.

I ask that the committee consider my above statements in any deliberations relating to their final report that will be tabled to the NSW Parliament.

Yours Faithfully,

Dylan J. Whitelaw

Dylan J. Whitelaw

Appendix 8 Letter from Hon Lou Amato MLC to Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, 8 February 2022



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

8 February 2022

The Premier, Hon. Dominic Perrottet
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(Via email)

Dear Premier,

RE: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PC7 – INQUIRY INTO THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

I write to you regarding the Legislative Council PC7 – Inquiry into the Hills Shire Council (Hills Inquiry). At the direction of the Leader of the Government, the Hon Damien Tudehope, I was replaced on the Hills Inquiry by the Hon. Chris Rath, without any consultation whatsoever. To date, I have received no formal notification from the Leader of the Government or yourself concerning this action, which is unprecedented and very disrespectful to me both as a member of the Legislative Council and as a member of the New South Wales Parliamentary Liberal Party.

As you are aware, both the Hon. Chris Rath and the Hon. Aileen MacDonald were members of the New South Wales Liberal Party State Executive at the time the subject matter of the Hills Inquiry was considered by that body. As a result each of these members recused themselves from any participation in the Hills Inquiry due to this obvious conflict of interest, particularly as they could be called as witnesses to the inquiry.

The actions of Mr. Tudehope to appoint Mr. Rath in my stead without any consultation and being fully aware of the conflict of interest, is an appalling abuse of power that reflects poorly upon your government. It was brought to my attention that Mr. Rath reminded the leader of the government, Mr. Tudehope of this conflict of interest but was nonetheless installed against his wishes, as a member of the Hills Inquiry. This action threatens to compromise the Hills Inquiry and undermines the role of the Legislative Council as a house of review.

I call upon you to instruct Mr Tudehope to immediately rectify this clear conflict of interest by removing Mr. Rath from the Hills Inquiry and reinstating me as a member of this Committee forthwith.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Amato'.

The Hon. Lou Amato MLC

cc: The Hon Damien Tudehope
Members, PC7 Hills Inquiry

Appendix 9 Chapters 1-3, 'The Men who Stole the Hills'

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

Our Stars



Name: The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC

Current Positions:

Minister for Finance
Minister for Employee Relations
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Former Positions:

Chair of the Committee on the Independent
Commission Against Corruption (NSWPH)



Name: The Hon. Dominic Perrott MP

Current Positions:

Premier of NSW

Former Positions:

Treasurer of NSW



Name: Tanya Davies MP

Current Positions:

Parliamentary Secretary for Planning

Former Positions:

Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Women
Minister for Ageing
Chair of the Committee on the Independent
Commission Against Corruption (NSWPH)



Name: Charles Perrottet

Current Positions:

Missing In Action

Former Positions:

Deputy Chair of the Local Government Oversight
Committee (Liberal Party)
Member of the State Redistribution Advisory
Committee (Liberal Party)



Name: Christian Ellis

Current Positions:

Member of Constitution Standing Committee (Liberal
Party)

Former Positions:

Member of State Executive (Liberal Party)
Member of Party Affairs Committee (Liberal Party)

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers



Name: Robert Assaf

Current Positions:

Head of Public Policy at JOLT

Former Positions:

Regional Engagement Manager at Greyhound Racing
NSW

Communications Officer at Catholic Schools NSW



Name: Jean Claude Perrottet

Current Positions:

Secretary of NSW Young Liberals

Former Positions:

Employee of The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC



Name: Dylan Whitelaw

Current Positions:

Member of Local Government Oversight Committee
(Liberal Party)

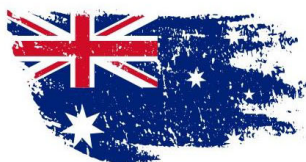
Former Positions:

Employee of Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Employee of Christian Ellis

Employee of the President, Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox

Employee of Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts

The men who stole the Hills*Chapter One: The Reformers***Our Story**

New South Wales REFORMERS

Name:	NSW Reformers	Type:	Unincorporated Association
Websites:	www.nswreformers.org nswreformers.nationbuilder.com	ABN:	184 583 948

Who are the NSW Reformers

The NSW Reformers is an unincorporated group formed with the sole and express purpose of recruiting or stacking branches to the NSW Liberal Party with the goal of installing their own people into Council and Parliament, and forcing incumbent Councillors and MPs to work with them or face the threat of being replaced with a Reformer.

The NSW Reformers consisted with members that were from the Right Conservative faction of the NSW Liberal Party. On their websites which are now taken down (but can still be accessed by the Internet Archives 'Wayback Machine'), the NSW reformers described themselves as follows

NSW Reformers is a movement that seeks to promote Christian values in society.

For years, we have seen the slow erosion of these values which has in turn effected the rights of everyday Australians in areas such as faith, life and speech.

As such, we seek to reform this great state by adding a Christian voice to it.

The NSW Reformers is a grassroots movement dedicated to advancing public policy ensuring families and individuals of Christian belief can live their faith freely.

The NSW Reformers was created in February 2018. This movement was instituted to give a voice and a call to action to all Christians whose way of life has increasingly become under threat.

This movement seeks to engage Christians in the political sphere so that their voice and values can be heard and in turn reflected in public policy.

The NSW Reformers handled tens of thousands of dollars which was obtained from MPs, Senators, Ministers, Councillors, Liberal Party powerbrokers and wealthy benefactors. This money was funnelled into a slush fund and used to fund the activities of the NSW Reformers.

The scope of the NSW Reformers eventually reached every corner of NSW. Their operations ranged from south in Albury to north in Coffs Harbor and all over Sydney.

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

The operation structure of the NSW Reformers was structured with a core group of three main operators which were supported by various elected officials and party members. The three core operators had jobs and/or businesses which facilitated their Reformer duties through the use of travel expenses, contacts, private information and other benefits. These three were:



Christian Ellis



Robert Assaf



Jean Claude Perrotet

Snapshots taken by the Internet Archives Wayback Machine show that as at 20 July 2020, the ‘About Us’ page of the www.nswreformers.org website listed the biography of Christian Ellis on the page and **states him as the founder**.



Although the website is now taken down, the snapshots can forever be accessed at <https://web.archive.org/web/20200720112345/https://www.nswreformers.org/about-us>.

It is interesting to note the last sentence “*On starting NSW Reformers, Christian’s intention was to see the NSW Reformers act as a voice within the Liberal Party to work as a united, and coordinated Christian voice.*”

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

A few years into their operation the NSW Reformers identified up-and-coming talent in the NSW Liberal Party. One was **Dylan Whitelaw** from the Southern Highlands, the Secretary of the Mittagong branch (President is **Dallas McNerny**) and the other is **Angus McCaffrey** who now works in the **Premiers Office**.



Dylan Whitelaw




Angus McCaffrey

Dylan was brought into the key operations of the Reformers including administration and recruitment as evidenced below.

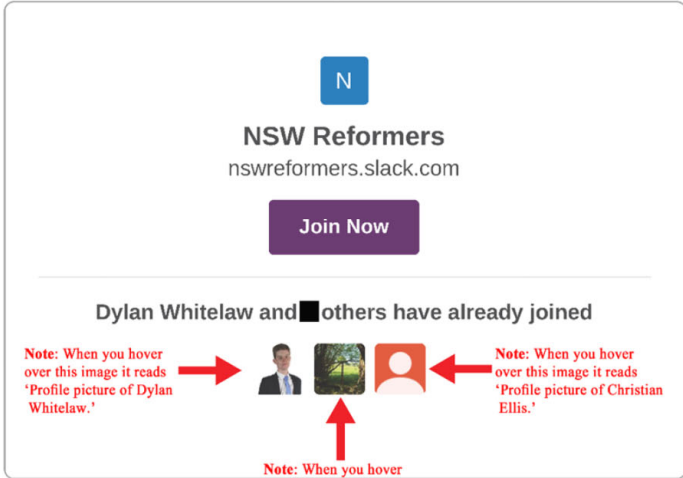
Dylan Whitelaw has invited you to work with them in Slack

Slack <feedback@slack.com>
[REDACTED] 2020 [REDACTED] PM
To: [REDACTED]



Join your team on Slack

Dylan Whitelaw (dylan@whitelaw.biz) has invited you to use Slack with them, in a workspace called **NSW Reformers**.



NSW Reformers
nswreformers.slack.com

[Join Now](#)

Dylan Whitelaw and [REDACTED] others have already joined

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Dylan Whitelaw.'

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Christian Ellis.'

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Jean-Claude Perrotet.'

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The primary decision makers of the NSW Reformers are an equally small body consisting of people who had known each other for year through shared community, religion, and schooling from the Opus Dei sect of Catholicism. These three main decision makers were:



Damien Tudehope



Dominic Perrottet



Charles Perrottet

A number of other elected officials were supportive and provided resources to the Reformers. Overtime some of these relationships deteriorated or became coercive. Some of these relationships include the following MPs.



Tanya Davies MP

Member for Mulgoa

Initially willingly participated with the reformers and allowed them to sign up members to her branches. Later the relationship turned into a coercive one. Davies remains a supporter of the Reformers and key figures.

Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Former Senator for NSW

Willingly supported the Reformers in hopes of benefiting for her preselection to remain in the NSW Senate. She employed a number of reformers in her Senator office. Eventually the NSW Reformers used their number to remove her from the Senate, causing her to attack them in a speech to the Senate.



Kevin Conolly MP

Member for Riverstone

Initially willingly participated with the reformers and allowed them to sign up members to his branches. Later the relationship turned into a coercive one. Conolly retaliated against the Reformers.

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Tony Abbott

Former Prime Minister

Abbott willingly supported the reformers as they campaigned for him in his unsuccessful election to the federal seat of Warringah.



Tim James MP

Member for Willoughby

Willingly participated with the reformers and benefited with numbers for his Willoughby preselection.

Aileen MacDonald

Member of the Legislative Council

Aileen and her husband Scott who was a former MLC were willing supporters of the Reformers. The Reformers assisted them in stacking branches for their pre-selection to the LC.



Peter Gangemi

Mayor of Hills Shire Council

Willingly participated with the Reformers and benefited with numbers for his branches and by being parachuted by the Liberal Party into the Mayoralty of the Hills Shire Council.

Virginia Ellis

Councillor of Hill Shire Council

Virginia Ellis, being the mother of Christian Ellis was a willing supporter and beneficiary of the Reformers. She would not have been parachuted as a Liberal candidate for Hill Shire Council without the work done by the Reformers.



There are many other MPs and Councillors in the Liberal Party who have been part of or influenced by the Reformers. There are also some Councillors in other Parties which have worked with and been associated with some core members of the Reformers.

The men who stole the Hills

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How people were recruited

Working off a huge data set which included the national database of the Same-Sex Marriage No campaign, the NSW Reformers used events and one-on-one catchups to attract and convince likely supporters.

People were contacted by phone or email and asked about their beliefs and views. If they were the right type, the person would invite them to attend a reformer event, or offer to meet with them.

After some interactions and attending events, a person who was receptive was invited to become a ‘Reformer’. This meant attending reformer events, filling out and sending surveys, contacting local MPs on issues and attracting other people.

The people who showed willingness and passion for affecting public change were then told that they needed to affect who gets into government, and the only way to do that was if they were signed up to the Liberal Party

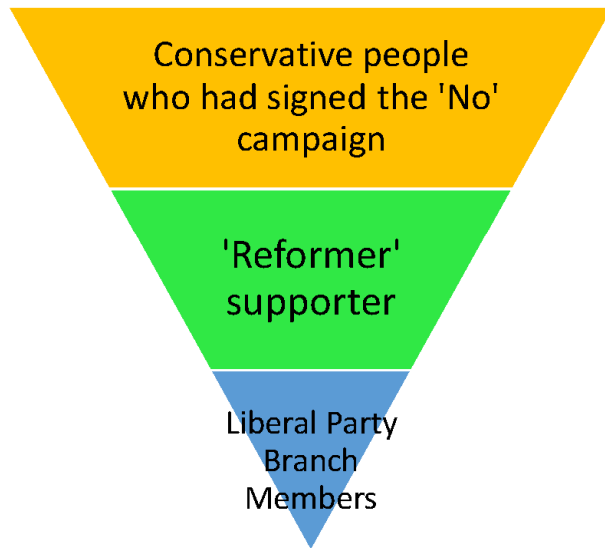
The NSW Reformers held events with high interest Ministers and elected officials. They sold tickets to some who were at these events, but many other people were invited along for free.

One particular high-profile event was held on 24 June 2018 which was called ‘Protecting Religious Freedoms for our Family and Faith’ held in the Beercroft Bowling Club.

This event was co-hosted with **Tony Abbott** and **Damien Tudehope**. Attendees were told that if they wanted to ensure protections for religious freedoms and to fix the state of moral decay, they needed to be involved to influence the composition of Parliament and of Government. Once again, the only way they could do this was to sign up to the Liberal Party.

The NSW Reformers have held over 11 functions from 2019 until now, hosting over 14 MPs, Ministers, elected officials and special guests including:

- Tony Abbott MP
- Nat Smith MP
- Jackson Director (NSW Australian Christian Lobby)
- Greg Smith SC (Former Attorney General)
- Damien Tudehope MLC
- Alan Jones
- Blaise Joseph (Centre for Independent Studies)
- Kevin Connolly MP
- Stephen Chavura (Campion College)
- Dallas McInerny (Catholic Schools NSW)



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Over the years different event booking platforms have been used to manage and book events for the Reformers, such as Eventbrite, Events, and the Nation Builder platform. Events have been **hidden or deleted** from platforms and many were privately advertised. As a result, it is difficult to obtain a full list of Reformer functions. Below are some which could be located online.

Date	Venue	Event
21 Apr 2018	Pennant Hills Bowling Club	Family Values in Politics- With Marijke Rancie 'Political Posting Mumma' and Damien Tudehope MP
24 June 2018	Beercroft Bowling Club	Protecting Religious Freedoms for our Family and Faith
10 June 2019	Castle Hill RSL Club	Conservative Policy Series: Special Guest Alan Jones
18 Sep 2019	Cherrybrook	Abortion Bill in Review - The Lefts March Through the Institutions
8 Nov 2019	Cherrybrook	Abortion Bill NSW - Where to now for Christian Values
22 Nov 2019	Pennant Hills Bowling Club	Abortion is passed, Euthanasia is on its way - Where to from Here?
14 Dec 2019	West Pennant Hills	Abortion Bill in Review - The Lefts March Through the Institutions
17 Dec 2019	Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, Kellyville	Religious Freedom - Why did Morrison Delay with Lecturer Stephen Chavura
27 Feb 2020	Castle Hill RSL Club	Conservative Q&A - 'Education in Australia' Edition
18 Mar 2020	Picton Bowling Club	The Threat to Religious Freedoms - What is Next?
18 Dec 2020	Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club, Luddenham	Christmas Drinks with Tanya Davies MP, Member for Mulgoa

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Please feel free to show your support and buy tickets to the events at these links:

<https://discover.events.com/au/state-of-new-south-wales/castle-hill/e/leisure/protecting-religious-freedoms-family-faith-beecroft-bowling-260256590>

<https://discover.events.com/au/state-of-new-south-wales/pennant-hills/e/business/family-values-politics-marijke-rancie-political-posting-mumma-damien-tudehope-mp-pennant-hills-bowling-club-255559833>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/conservative-policy-series-special-guest-alan-jones-tickets-61916286279>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/abortion-bill-in-review-the-lefts-march-through-the-institutions-tickets-85457023257>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/religious-freedom-why-did-morrison-delay-with-lecturer-stephen-chavura-tickets-85745375727>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/abortion-is-passed-euthenasia-is-on-its-way-where-to-from-here-tickets-81262529413>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/abortion-bill-nsw-where-to-now-for-chrisitan-values-tickets-78922247567>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/abortion-bill-in-review-the-lefts-march-through-the-institutions-tickets-72893904631>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/conservative-qa-education-in-australia-edition-tickets-88460065437>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/christmas-drinks-with-tanya-davies-mp-member-for-mulgoa-tickets-130750513305>

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-threat-to-religious-freedoms-what-is-next-tickets-97437703795>

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Protecting Religious Freedoms for our Family and Faith


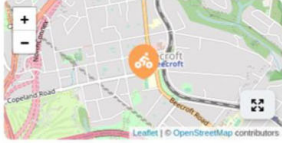


Image from eventbrite.com

Save event

Find tickets
eventbrite.com

The Beecroft Bowling Club
 128 COPELAND ROAD, BEECROFT,
 NSW, Beecroft, 2119, NSW, Australia



Event from
eventbrite.com

Report this event

Are you an event organizer?
 Create events for free. They will be immediately recommended to interested users.

CREATE AN EVENT

24 JUN Sun 2018
3:00 PM → 5:00 PM

Ended

Hosted by **NSW Reformers** Add to favorites

We are encouraged to be involved in civic and political affairs to make our communities wholesome places to raise families.

You are invited to an event with Tony Abbott MP and Damien Tudehope MP.

Please join us at the Pennant Hills Bowling Club to learn how to simply and effectively engage in the political landscape. Issues such as the "safe schools" agenda, life issues and the ability to practice our **faith will be addressed.**

Please take a few hours out of your busy lives to attend and bring like-minded people as we try to turn the tide within the current political landscape.

Our last Conservative Q&A on the topic 'Religious Freedom' was a smashing success!

And as promised our next Conservative Q&A will be on the topic, 'Education in Australia'.

Our last Conservative Q&A was sold out over a week before the event so please be sure to register for a free ticket before they run out!

Our guest panellists for this edition of 'Conservative Q&A' are:

Dallas McInerney - CEO of Catholic Schools NSW
Kevin Conolly MP - Member for Riverstone, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, former teacher.
Marie Yeo - A product of Home-Schooling and current Research student in Theology at the University of Notre Dame Australia
Blaise Joseph - Senior Research Fellow on Education at the Centre for Independent Studies
Dr Paul Morrissey - President of Campion College

Come along and be a part of the crowd of the 'Conservative Q&A - Education in Australia Edition'.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR A FREE TICKET](#)

Spaces are VERY limited so please click on the button below or above to secure your place in the crowd:

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

The NSW Reformers were dealing with such a high volume of money and cash, and conducting so many activities that it necessitated the registration of an Australian Business Number.

This fact alone demonstrates the sheer complexity, elaborateness and intensity of this sophisticated recruitment/stacking operation.

The screenshot shows the 'ABN Lookup' page from the Australian Government Australian Business Register. The title is 'Current details for ABN 35 184 583 948'. Below this, there is a table of 'ABN details' and a section for 'Deductible gift recipient status'.

ABN details	
Entity name:	NSW Reformers
ABN status:	Active from 14 Nov 2020
Entity type:	Other Unincorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST):	Not currently registered for GST
Main business location:	NSW 2575

Deductible gift recipient status
Not entitled to receive tax deductible gifts

The Nation Builder database

The NSW Reformers used the Nation Builder platform to collate a database of potential and active members. Data was imported from numerous sources starting with the Same-Sex Marriage No campaign, lists of members in other religious and conservative organisations, and surveys that were started and distributed.

There are **tens of thousands** of people in the NSW Reformers database. An export of the NSW Reformers Nation Builder database outputted 157 elements of data for each person in the database. These column headers were:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. nationbuilder_id | 16. email2 | 30. do_not_contact |
| 2. external_id | 17. email2_is_bad | 31. website |
| 3. civicrm_id | 18. email3 | 32. facebook_usernam |
| 4. salesforce_id | 19. email3_is_bad | e |
| 5. prefix | 20. email4 | 33. twitter_login |
| 6. first_name | 21. email4_is_bad | 34. meetup_id |
| 7. middle_name | 22. unsubscribed_at | 35. primary_address1 |
| 8. last_name | 23. phone_number | 36. primary_address2 |
| 9. suffix | 24. work_phone_num | 37. primary_address3 |
| 10. full_name | ber | 38. primary_city |
| 11. legal_name | 25. mobile_number | 39. primary_county |
| 12. email | 26. mobile_opt_in | 40. primary_state |
| 13. email_opt_in | 27. is_mobile_bad | 41. primary_zip |
| 14. email1 | 28. fax_number | 42. primary_country_ |
| 15. email1_is_bad | 29. do_not_call | code |

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43. primary_country	83. mailing_county	110. user_subm
44. primary_fips	84. mailing_state	itted_country
45. primary_submitted_address	85. mailing_zip	111. user_subm
46. address_address1	86. mailing_country_code	itted_fips
47. address_address2	87. mailing_country	112. user_subm
48. address_address3	88. mailing_street_number	itted_submitted_address
49. address_city	89. mailing_street_prefix	113. signup_type
50. address_country	90. mailing_street_name	114. tag_list
51. address_state	91. mailing_street_type	115. note
52. address_zip	92. mailing_street_suffix	116. employer
53. address_country_code	93. mailing_unit_number	117. occupation
54. address_country	94. mailing_zip5	118. marital_status
55. address_fips	95. mailing_zip4	119. sex
56. address_submitted_address	96. mailing_fips	120. demo
57. billing_address1	97. mailing_sort_sequence	121. ethnicity
58. billing_address2	98. mailing_delivery_point	122. language
59. billing_address3	99. mailing_lot	123. religion
60. billing_city	100. mailing_carrier_route	124. church
61. billing_county	101. mailing_submitted_address	125. born_at
62. billing_state	102. user_submitted_address1	126. is_deceased
63. billing_zip	103. user_submitted_address2	127. is_prospect
64. billing_country_code	104. user_submitted_address3	128. is_supporter
65. billing_country	105. user_submitted_city	129. support_level
66. billing_fips	106. user_submitted_county	130. inferred_support_level
67. billing_submitted_address	107. user_submitted_state	131. priority_level
68. work_address1	108. user_submitted_zip	132. created_at
69. work_address2	109. user_submitted_country_code	133. updated_at
70. work_address3		134. recruiter_name_or_email
71. work_city		135. recruiter_id
72. work_county		136. point_person_name_or_email
73. work_state		137. parent_id
74. work_zip		138. capital_amount
75. work_country_code		139. spent_capital_amount
76. work_country		
77. work_fips		
78. work_submitted_address		
79. mailing_address1		
80. mailing_address2		
81. mailing_address3		
82. mailing_city		

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140. received_c apital_amount	147. donations_ amount	153. donations_ raised_count_this_ cycle
141. is_donor	148. donations_ raised_count	154. donations_ raised_amount_thi s_cycle
142. is_fundrais er	149. donations_ raised_amount	155. is_volunte er
143. is_ignore_ donation_limits	150. donations_ pledged_amount	156. availability
144. first_donat ed_at	151. donations_ count_this_cycle	157. membershi p_names
145. last_donate d_at	152. donations_ amount_this_cycle	
146. donations_ count		

The data shows that NSW Reformers were tracking the contact details and social media accounts of potential members.

Another interesting data point is ‘Tags’ which list all the different categories that the person has been tagged with. This appears to show the source of the persons details. Some of the tags that have been exported from the NSW Reformer database include:

1. against abortion	13. David Clarke Database	28. Previous or Current Liberal Member
2. anti safe schools	14. Economy	29. Pro christian policy
3. Barnaby Joyce Petition	15. euthanasia	30. pro family tax
4. blue mountains sec	16. euthanasia 2019	31. Religious Freedom petition Aug 18
5. C4M_Berowra_M itchell	17. feb 3 sign up	32. Safe Exclusion Zones List
6. Castle Hill Business Branch	18. folau petition	33. signed up
7. Castle Hill SEC	19. gay surrogacy stop petition	34. Social Issues
8. Catholic	20. Gender ideology Petition TAS Birth Certificates	35. ssmList
9. Christianity in schools petition	21. GMail	36. submitted
10. Climate Sceptic	22. joint form	37. via internet
11. completed 2019 survey	23. lower immigration	38. yes response text
12. current political party member	24. Mailchimp	39. Young Liberal
	25. member	40. zoe's law petition Oct18
	26. Mitchell FEC	
	27. pending	

The tags appear to indicate that various sources, including internal Liberal Party lists, Catholic lists and petitions were used to add people to the NSW Reformers database.

It is not clear how this data was obtained and if people knew their details were being entered into the NSW Reformers database.

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Reformers in the media

The NSW Reformers have attracted surprisingly little media attention given the high-profile nature of their key decision makers and their aggressive and coercive tactics.

Why would the media turn a blind eye to an operation that used tens of thousands of dollars from elected officials to mass recruit hundreds of members in every corner of NSW for the purpose of replacing or bullying elected officials?

The most comprehensive coverage of the Reformers was an article in the SMH by Tom Rabe and Jacqueline Maley on 8 August 2019. This article can be accessed at the below link and has been included in this chapter.

Read article: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/conservative-christian-plot-to-take-control-of-nsw-liberal-party-20190807-p52evl.html>

The Sydney Morning Herald

Conservative Christian plot to take 'control' of NSW Liberal Party

8 August 2019

A group promoting religious freedom is working to recruit 5000 Christian conservatives to the NSW Liberals as part of an ambitious scheme aimed at taking "control" of the state division of the party.

Leaked documents obtained by the Herald, which contain metadata leading back to Federal and NSW parliaments, reveal the NSW Reformers group hopes to recruit thousands of members across Sydney.

The men who stole the Hills

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The Guardian

The Right stuff: why shellshocked NSW Liberal moderates are fearing factional fights

23 January 2022

The MP most under threat is the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley, in the seat of Farrer in southern NSW. She is facing a challenge from conservative Christian Ellis, a member of the right faction, who moved to Deniliquin from Sydney. He previously worked for Perrottet and the former federal resources minister Matt Canavan.

...

Ellis was one of the organisers of a right group known as the NSW Reformers, which gained publicity in 2019 over a plan to recruit 5,000 members to the Liberal party through conservative churches.

Read article:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jan/23/the-right-stuff-why-shellshocked-nsw-liberal-moderates-are-fearing-factional-fights>

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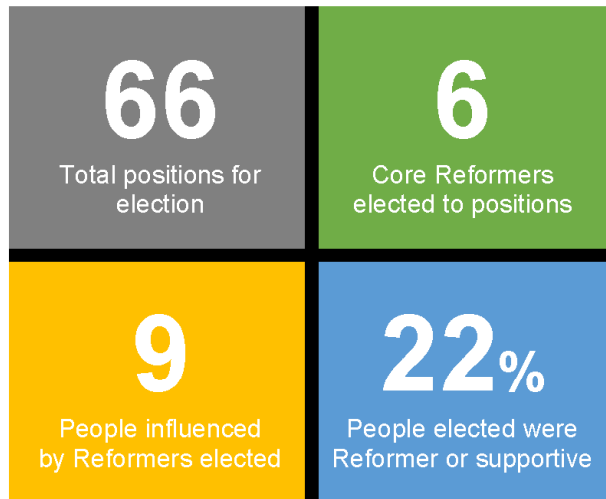
Chapter One: The Reformers

Influencing the Liberal Party

The work and efforts of the NSW Reformers was cultivated over the course of numerous branch and conferences AGMs of the Liberal Party. As they put their members into branches, they would take executive and delegates positions at that AGM. The first state-wide success of the reformers was at the Liberal Party’s State Executive AGM in 2019.

The Reformers were able to get themselves elected into numerous positions, and have people who support them or they could influence be elected into positions.

At a glance: The success of the NSW Reformers at the 2019 Liberal Party AGM



Out of a total of 61 positions that were up for election, core Reformers were elected to 6, with a further 9 positions going to people that were influenced or supportive of the Reformers. People supportive of the Reformers or otherwise working for/with the Reformers now occupied almost 1 out of 4 spots.

This was a remarkable feat for what was a select group within one part of what was the smallest faction of the Liberal Party.

Most importantly though was that the Reformers elected **Christian Ellis** onto the State Executive. With Ellis being one of the three Right Wing faction members on State Executive and being able to influence the two others, the Reformers were in a prime position to affect outcomes in the areas they desired.

One area Ellis and the Reformers affected outcomes in was the candidates put forward by the Liberal Party for the **Hills Shire Council** for the 2021 Local Government Election.

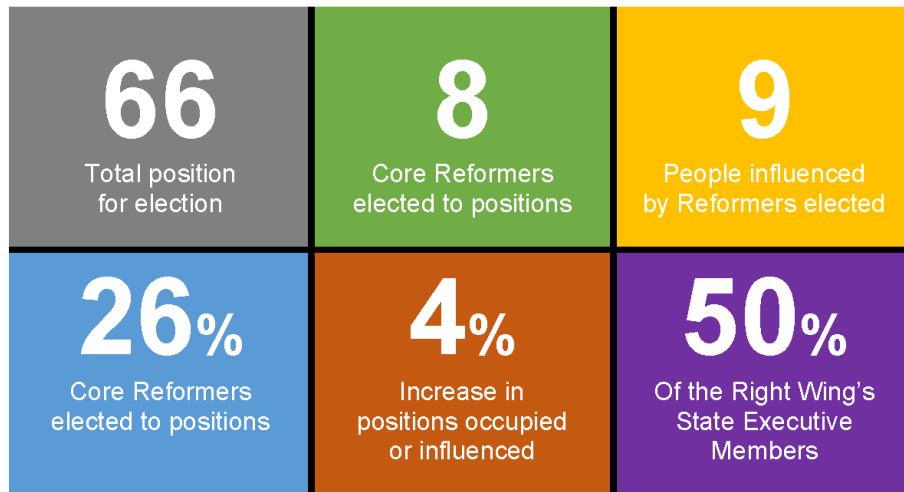
Another key election was that of **Charles Perrottet** as the Deputy Chair of the powerful **Local Government Oversight Committee**, which would go on to eventually be the body that put forward the list of names of who should be the candidates for the Hills Shire Council.

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The success of the Reformers at the 2019 AGM would be eclipsed by their success at the next AGM held, where most importantly the Reformers now made up 50% of the Right-Wing factions total State Executive members.

At a glance: The success of the NSW Reformers at the 2021 Liberal Party AGM



The Reach of the NSW Reformers

The NSW Reformers divided amongst their core members the different areas of the state that they wanted to install people into seats in, or influence the incumbent members in those seats.

Whilst the Reformers worked as one group with common goals, each core reformer had their specific area of focus and was the main contact for that area. They would be responsible for cultivating talent in that area, dealing with the MPs and local stakeholders, and meet with people living in those areas to sign them up into branches.

Generally, the areas that were focused on were as follows:



Christian Ellis

Southern NSW (Farrer, Albury, Wagga Wagga, etc)

Ellis relocated to the seat of Farrer and focused on recruiting members into branches in Southern NSW with the goal of taking either the seat of Farrer, Albury, or the Matthew Mason-Cox’s LC seat. This has been documented in the media on several occasions.



Rob Assaf

Mulgoa, Northern NSW – North Coast (Armidale, Port Macquarie, etc)

Working as the Regional Engagement Manager of Greyhounds Racing NSW, Assaf used his employment related travel to go to areas that had greyhound racing tracks to work on branches. He also used his expense account to ‘wine and dine’ stakeholders, at times not in line with policy, such as paying for meals/ drinks and being reciprocated equivalent funds to participate in gambling.

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Jean-Claude Perrottet

North-West Sydney (Mitchel, The Hills, etc)

Worked for Damien Tudehope, the MLC allocated to the North West Sydney area of the Liberal Party. His use of work time and resources on reformer matters was documented in the media and raised in Parliament.

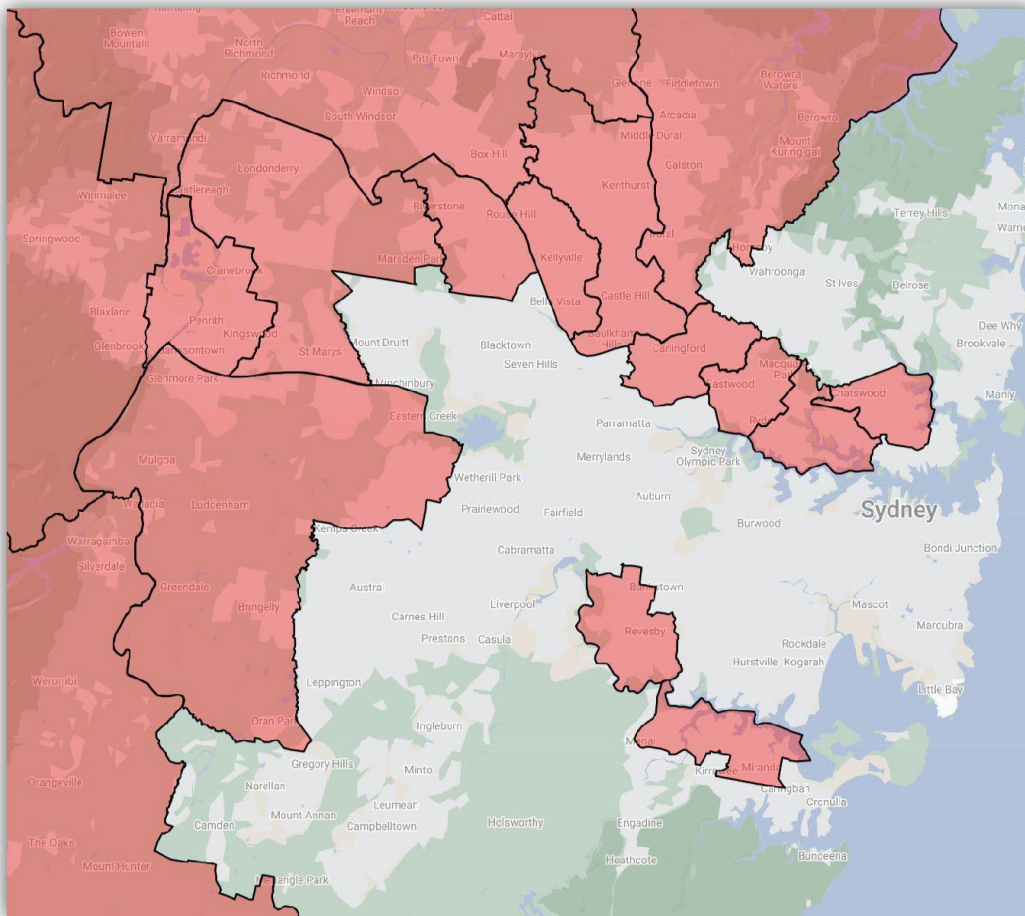


Dylan Whitelaw

Southern Highlands, South West Sydney (Mittagong, Goulburn, Wollondilly, etc)

Dylan worked for Senator Fierravanti-Wells before moving on to be employed by Christian Ellis lobbying firm, then was employed by Matthew Mason-Cox in the President’s Office, then by Anthony Roberts in the Planning Ministers Office, and finally became self-employed starting his own lobbying firm. All his jobs enabled him to focus work time on Reformer duties.

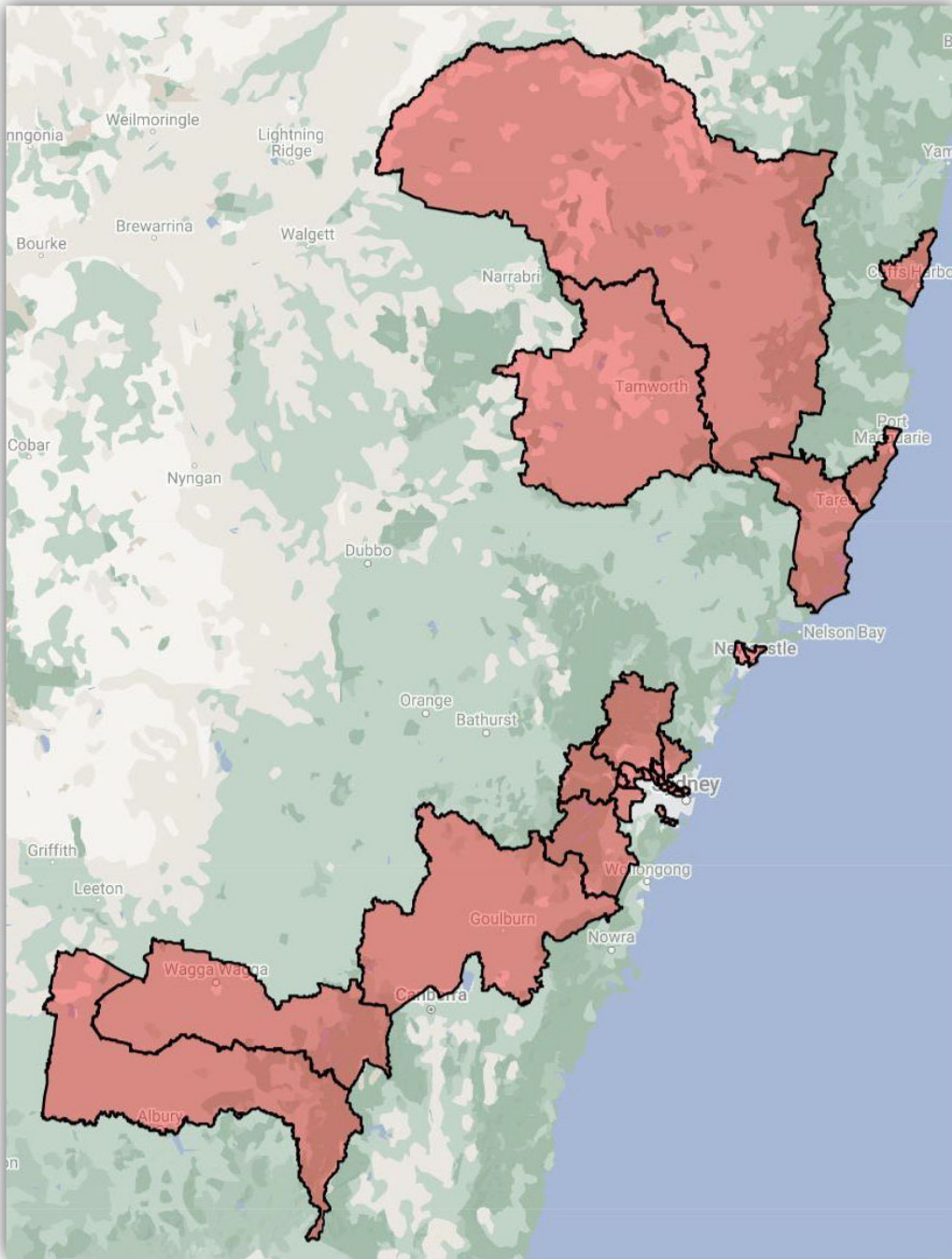
Map: Areas in Sydney where the Reformers have branch & conference executive positions, influenced MPs or have known ongoing operations to install members into branches



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

Map: Areas in NSW where the Reformers have branch & conference executive positions, influenced MPs or have known ongoing operations to install members into branches



The men who stole the Hills

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Questions that should be looked into

Question 1

What are the contact details in the ABN registry for the NSW Reformers (ABN 184 583 948)?

Particularly the service address, service email address and the main contact person. The main operation is listed as the 2575 postcode which includes the suburb of Mittagong.

Question 2

Have the NSW Reformers had to lodge anything with the Australian Taxation Office?

Did they have any income or expenses? Did they do any book keeping?

Who paid for the venues used for events and other event related expenses?

Can they produce *dated* invoices and receipts?

Question 3

How did the NSW Reformers handle the cash they received?

Did they give receipts, keep records, and deposit the money into a bank account?

If so, could they provide copies?

If not, how was the money handled and who kept it?

Question 4

How did the NSW Reformers get access to the Same-Sex Marriage No campaign database?

Was the data given consensually? Was it stolen by someone who worked in the campaign?

Did citizens who provided their data to the No campaign know it would be given to some one else?

Have there been any breaches of any privacy or data protection laws?

Question 5

Where did the NSW Reformers get the data for their database?

Did they have permission to use Liberal Party lists? Did people know their details would be added to the NSW Reformer database? Who had access to this data?

What safeguards were in place to prevent the unauthorised access or distribution of this data?

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Question 6

Did the employers of the Reformers know that they were using employee time and resources to complete their reformer duties?

Were any of the reformers employed by Parliament during this time? Did they do Reformer work during work hours?

What was the monetary cost of the travel allowances and expenses? How many hours a day did they spend?

Was scheduling of emails and messages used to make it appear that work was done outside of work time when it was in fact done during work time?

Question 7

Were Liberal Party members forms collected in a bundle by signups?

Or was the applicant directed to submit their form directly to HQ (or even the Officeholder)?

Were forms promptly filled out, or was the applicant directed to leave parts such as “Branch” option blank, to be filled out later by the Reformers?

Question 8

How did the Reformers intend to verify a persons ‘Liberal Party membership status’ as advertised in their email?

Did they have access to Liberal Party records? Were they working with Liberal Party HQ?

Did they imply to any recruits that they are or are endorsed by Liberal Party official

Question 9

How many members recruited and signed up by the Reformers were given staffing jobs in the offices of MPs whose areas they’d stacked?

How many Reformers work for MPs and Ministers? Were they qualified for the role?

Was it coercive? Did the MP specifically employ that Reformer staff to stack?

Question 10

Were the members who were signed up made aware of the financial benefits and interests of the Reformers?

Were they made to believe that it was just influence over policy?

Did they know Reformers were financially motivated to recruit members for the purposes of obtaining jobs and elected positions?

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

Question 11

Were the guest speakers at the NSW Reformers events aware that the Reformers were signing up people to the Liberal Party exclusively and the reason they were being done so?

Were they aware of the coercive tactics used by the NSW Reformers to MPs and officials?

Did they agree with what the NSW Reformers were doing?

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter One: The Reformers

EVIDENCE
&
APPENDICES

Note: Sensitive information that could be used to identify sources, such as names and email addresses, have been redacted to protect the identities of unrelated third-parties.

Relevant sections of content have been highlighted for convenience. Where more than one colour has been used, the colour code would be in the relevant part of this document.

2/10/23, 1:25 AM

ABOUT US | NSW Reformers



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ABOUT NSW REFORMERS

NSW Reformers is a faith-based movement that seeks to promote Christian values in society. For years, society has seen the slow erosion of these values which has, in turn, affected the rights of everyday Australians in areas such as faith, life, and speech. NSW Reformers seek to reform this great state by adding a Christian voice to it.

Christian started NSW reformers in 2018 with the vision to lead a faith-based movement by involving the surrounding community in circulating relevant and deeply fundamental petitions.

MEET CHRISTIAN

Christian Ellis

Christian has been involved with politics from a young age, beginning work for the now Treasurer Dominic Perrottet in 2012. Since then, Christian has worked for Ministers in both Liberal and National Parties at both a State and Federal Level.

Last year Christian was elected to the NSW Liberal State Executive, the governing body of the party, on the platform to give more members a say within the Party and have an ability to have their views advocated for at a Parliamentary level.

Christian's main areas of concern are an encroachment of our governing and judicial powers, or the 'nanny state', and also the red and green tape that obstructs families and communities to grow and develop.

2/10/23, 1:25 AM

ABOUT US | NSW Reformers

On starting NSW Reformers, Christian's intention was to see the NSW Reformers act as a voice within the Liberal Party to work as a united, and coordinated Christian voice

NSW Reformers is a faith-based movement that seeks to promote Christian values in society. For years, society has seen the slow erosion of these values which has, in turn, affected the rights of everyday Australians in areas such as faith, life, and speech. NSW Reformers seek to reform this great state by adding a Christian voice to it.

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Australian Government
Australian Business Register

ABN Lookup

Current details for ABN 35 184 583 948

ABN details

Entity name:	NSW Reformers
ABN status:	Active from 14 Nov 2020
Entity type:	Other Unincorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST):	Not currently registered for GST
Main business location:	NSW 2575

Deductible gift recipient status

Not entitled to receive tax deductible gifts

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Dylan Whitelaw has invited you to work with them in Slack

Slack <feedback@slack.com>

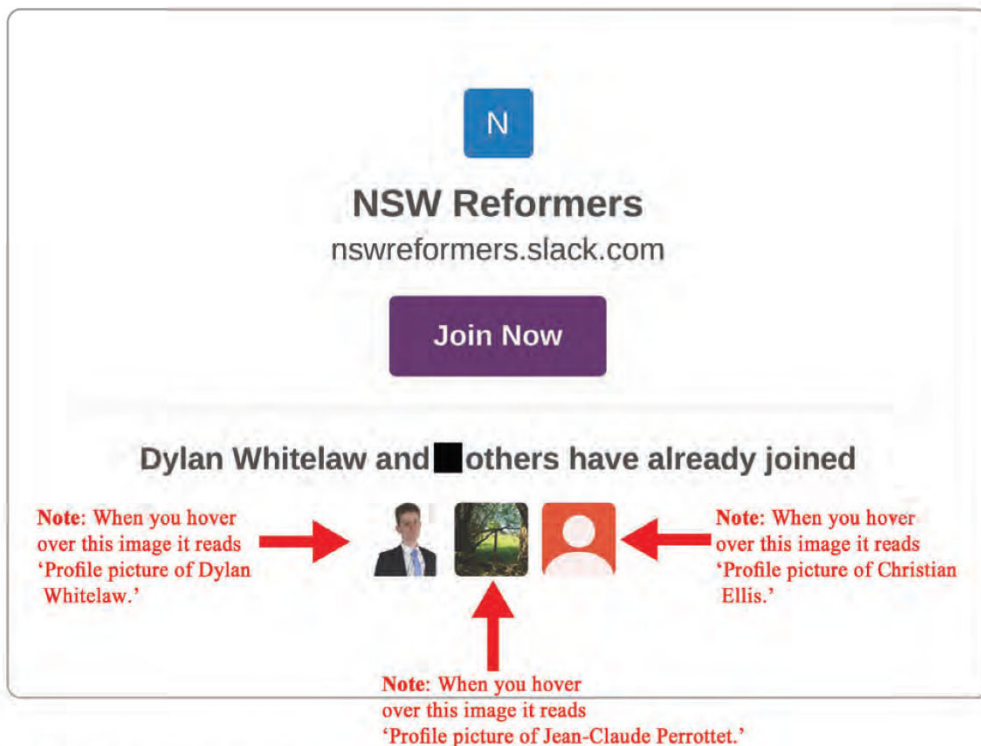
2020 PM

To:



Join your team on Slack

Dylan Whitelaw (dylan@whitelaw.biz) has invited you to use Slack with them, in a workspace called **NSW Reformers**.



NSW Reformers
nswreformers.slack.com

Join Now

Dylan Whitelaw and others have already joined

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Dylan Whitelaw.'

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Jean-Claude Perrottet.'

Note: When you hover over this image it reads 'Profile picture of Christian Ellis.'

What is Slack?

Slack is a messaging app for teams, a place you can collaborate on projects and organize conversations — so you can work together, no matter where you are. [Learn more about Slack](#)

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Greyhound Racing » News » GRNSW Announce New Deputy CEO

GRNSW Announce New Deputy CEO

Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) has announced the key appointment of David Brace as new GRNSW Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Greyhound Recorder 28 January 2021



Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) has announced the key appointment of David Brace as Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Brace, who has previously held positions as Chief Operating Officer at Panthers Leagues Club and Chief Executive Officer at Canterbury League Club, will report directly to GRNSW CEO Tony Mestrov.

"I am delighted that GRNSW has been able to attract someone with David's extensive experience in executive leadership roles and commercial business growth," Mestrov said.

"David has a proven track record in developing and implementing commercial strategies and outcomes and has strong stakeholder engagement skills that will benefit our industry.

"GRNSW conducted an extensive recruitment process for the role of Deputy CEO, and to attract a person with David's credentials, business acumen and history of achievement as a leader in the corporate world, is a great indication of the confidence in our industry."

Mr Brace said he was "excited by the opportunity to join a thriving industry, one which continues to make great strides forward in all aspects of greyhound racing and animal welfare."

"I have witnessed from afar the tremendous work Tony and his team have done at GRNSW, and the way they have turned the industry around in NSW over the past three years," Brace, who revealed he has previously owned greyhounds, said.

"In speaking with Tony about what is planned for the future of the greyhound industry in NSW, I am confident that the platform of success GRNSW has built in recent times is only going to be stronger and more successful in the next part of the journey, and I'm delighted to join the team and be a part of bringing that vision to fruition."

GRNSW has also appointed a new Regional Engagement Manager as part of its continued commitment to regional and rural NSW.

Robert Assaf, who has previously worked as an adviser to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott and as the Policy and Communications Officer at Catholic Schools NSW, has started in the role.

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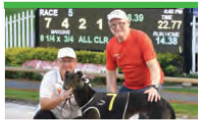
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Mr Mestrov said:

Robert brings a strong political and communications background with him to GRNSW, and part of his role will be to liaise and work with local members in the regional areas to attain the best outcomes for local clubs and participants.

“As we know, more than 70% of our participants are regionally based and we understand the importance of giving those participants a voice in the regions.”

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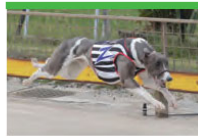
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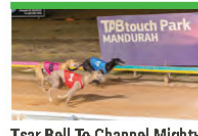
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or done until *The Daily Telegraph* contacted her on 20 November with the allegations, when she said it was the first she had heard of them.

This is a serious test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition—a serious test that she has so far failed. The family tree of the Left faction that controls western Sydney Australian Labor Party [ALP] branches is her support base. She should have severed the family ties and cut down the family tree, ground the stump and poisoned its roots—a clear message that she takes these matters seriously and will reinstate proper democracy to Labor Party branches. Despite the shock and surprise of the Leader of the Opposition about these recent confirmed cases of branch stacking, this is not the first time that these allegations have been raised.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Maroubra to order for the first time.

Mr ANTHONY ROBERTS: In August 2017 the Strathfield Council preselections were subjected to a major review by the party relating to "widespread document irregularities". The votes of 20 Strathfield preselectors were not counted after an audit discovered that they did not live in the electorate or, in one case, were not even on the electoral roll. *The Sydney Morning Herald* reported that officials alleged there was evidence unearthed that meeting minutes at the South Strathfield branch had attendance details added after the meetings had concluded. It is groundhog day—"walking the books", they call it. The branch president of the ALP's South Strathfield branch said at the time:

Look, at every branch meeting of the Labor Party you will find more and more irregularities.

The lead candidate, who secured the number one spot on the ALP council ticket, resigned after questioning from *The Sydney Morning Herald*. At the preselection Mr Datta said:

No other candidate can inspire thousands of souls in Strathfield the way I can. Many thousands of Australians have joined the Labor Party inspired by my leadership across NSW over the last 16 years.

That begs the question: How many of those thousands of people knew that they were members of the Labor Party? It begs the question: How many of those thousands of people attended meetings or how many actually exist? A branch president was quoted in relation to branch stacking at South Strathfield as saying:

We are not the professional ones. We don't know the party protocol. Nobody told us. Someone told them how to stack. Someone told them how to walk the books. And someone certainly told them how to cook those books.

The New South Wales Leader of the Opposition can clearly tell them all what is and what is not acceptable by sacking all the members involved and removing from her parliamentary team anyone found guilty of breaching the rules, branch stacking or walking those books. The Leader of the Opposition has had three months to contemplate this matter. It is never too late. The Leader of the Opposition can action it today. How many more investigations, allegations and findings does the New South Wales Labor Party need to finally take action? The Federal and State Labor leaders need to act on the systemic and demographic branch stacking that is ravaging the branches of the New South Wales Labor Party. By not acting, the Labor Party leadership stands guilty of endorsement.

The SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Port Stephens continues to interject, she will be removed from the Chamber. I place the member for Canterbury on three calls to order. I note that the member named is not speaking.

Mr RYAN PARK (Keira) (15:00:50): We sort of felt sorry for Robbo after that performance because everyone knows that he has been left out in the cold. The Premier does not let him do dixer anymore. No-one gets to enjoy his humour. But when the Government wants to roll out a bit of dirt, poor Robbo has to do the heavy lifting. I know his heart was not in it. He did well, and the young Liberal kid on \$120,000 a year did well. They were passionate words. I do not know whether members in the House remember the man charged after the Liberal Party chicken shop brawl. It was interesting. The Treasurer probably does not remember, but I will come to branch stacking in his part of the world soon. I think the member for Holsworthy might have had something to do with it. She was not happy. There were a few people in a chicken shop, having a brawl about Liberal Party branch stacking. The member for Holsworthy was not happy about it.

The SPEAKER: I warn the member for Canterbury for the last time.

Mr RYAN PARK: And what about the Hills area sham—religious freedom events. My good friend the Treasurer knows a lot about them. I refer to an incident reported in August 2019, which involved the very well-known and very learned Jean Claude Perrottet, the brother of the New South Wales Treasurer, Dominic Perrottet. He is also an employee of the Hon. Damien Tudehope; most of us still remember him. Jean Claude Perrottet was working to sign up members to Liberal Party branches in the Hills district in Sydney. The Treasurer has had six different electorates. The texts appear to show that Jean Claude Perrottet was working

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Legislative Assembly

Page 2637

to sign Liberal Party members up to branches between February and May, including photographs of the membership sheets. In one exchange he said, "We must be discreet."

What was the punishment for this? The Premier did not say anything, but she does not say anything about anything. She still has not read a tweet from her Parliamentary Secretary, but this afternoon she knew a lot about a Labor Party report. The State Liberal Party President, Philip Ruddock, whom we all know, said he did not have a problem with "branch development". It is not branch stacking over there. It is not "employees"; it is "consultants". Mr Ruddock said, "My view as the party president is if you're worried about being stacked then 'outstack'." This was said by the Liberal Party President. In my neck of the woods in the Illawarra, we do not know a lot about branch stacking but recently some complaints were drawn to my attention about my very good friend, the member for Kiama. A Federal member said in Parliament at the time, "The final straw came when this same State MP, after stacking my branches completely, rolled my supportive FEC committee at the AGM." That is a former Liberal Party Federal member talking about a Minister of the Crown.

Mr Dominic Perrottet: Yes, former.

Mr RYAN PARK: The Treasurer is right, he is a former member. But let us be clear: A Minister of the Crown is being referred to as a branch stacker by a former Liberal Party member of Parliament. To the credit of the member for Kiama, he outstacked. He followed Ruddock's rule. I assume Jean Claude Perrottet also followed Ruddock's rule about outstacking. Even if the Liberal's record of stacking is put to one side, it is unbelievable that a police Minister who sits in this Chamber impersonated himself as a police officer. Old Sergeant Schultzy had a go at a young man, went off his brain and then impersonated a police officer, but he is allowed to remain in this Chamber. The member for Drummoyne has been investigated by ICAC for longer than he was a Minister, and he gets to stay here. We will never be lectured to by any of them about integrity, branch stacking or the way we conduct ourselves as members of Parliament.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will stop the clock. I gave Opposition members a little bit of leeway when they were interrupting their own speaker. A number of them are on three calls to order: the member for Canterbury; the member for Kogarah, who is no longer in the Chamber; and the member for Port Stephens. And the member for Newtown is on three calls to order. I remind them to be particularly mindful that they are on the verge of being removed from the Chamber.

Mr ALISTER HENSKENS (Ku-ring-gai) (15:06:44): The media was right today to describe the New South Wales Australian Labor Party [ALP] as being rotten to its core. The recent allegations are not an isolated event. I suppose when the unofficial ALP motto is "whatever it takes", behaviour of this kind is to be expected. This motion is necessary because anybody who tries to hide conduct of this kind is an enabler of improper conduct. The Leader of the Opposition unfortunately falls into the category of being an enabler. She has to stop being in denial and admit that everything is not alright in the New South Wales branch of the ALP. She needs to say these words after me: Sussex Street we have a problem.

This motion today is more than a matter of political argy-bargy. It involves very important matters of public interest. The falsification of ALP records is not just a matter of internal party organisation. Anything which strikes at the integrity of our democratic system is a matter of public interest to all citizens of this State. I draw the attention of the Chamber to two other significant matters. I remind the Chamber and the general public that this matter involves the jurisdiction by the ICAC because in the past five years the ALP has applied for, and been granted, over \$5 million in taxpayer funds under the State's electoral laws as a consequence of the 2015 and 2019 State elections.

By accepting those funds, the ALP can be seen as a publicly funded body exposing itself to the jurisdiction of our corruption watchdog. The branch stacking and other misconduct must be assessed as to whether it is corrupt conduct. I remind the House that New South Wales Labor has a terrible record of corruption. Labor members of the New South Wales Parliament who have been found by the ICAC to be corrupt include: Eddie Obeid, Ian Macdonald, Tony Kelly, Joe Tripodi, Angela D'Amore and Karyn Paluzzano.

The SPEAKER: I call the member for Maroubra to order for the second time.

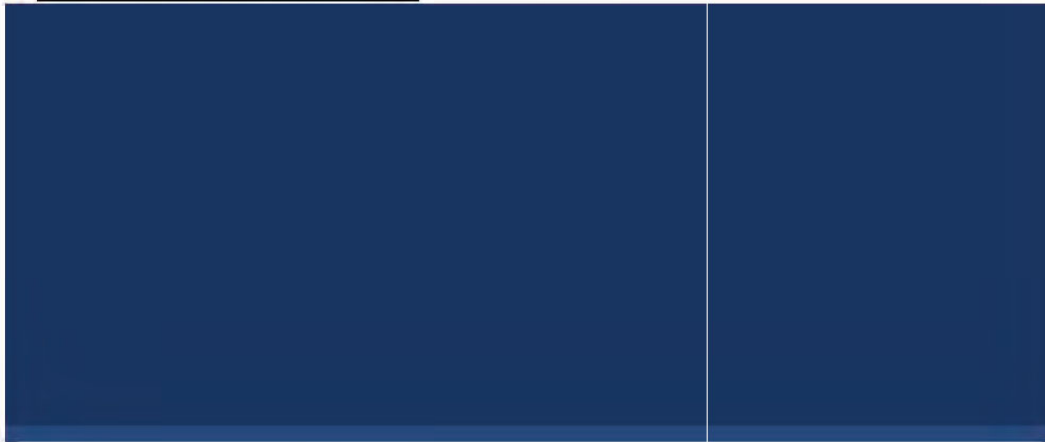
Mr ALISTER HENSKENS: No New South Wales Liberal member has ever been found corrupt in their work as a member of Parliament. In addition, prison sentences have been served by former New South Wales Labor members of Parliament: Obeid, Macdonald, Buckets—Rex Jackson—and Milton Orkopoulos. Just this week Milton Orkopoulos, the former State ALP member for Swansea, was charged with more historic child sex offences after being convicted of acts of paedophilia in this very Parliament. In the past 12 months the ICAC has heard evidence of \$100,000 in cash in illegal donations associated with the Communist Party of China being handed to the most senior official of the New South Wales ALP. Just as it is alleged here, the ALP knew about

Two Cents Worth - Newsletter

NSW Reformers <admin@nswreformers.emailnb.com>
via nationsend4.com

Wed 24/02/2021 12:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]



Two Cents Worth

Dear [REDACTED]

Welcome to the February issue of our monthly newsletter, Two Cents Worth. In this monthly series, we will address key social and economic issues affecting our state and country.

Current Affairs

New South Wales: Mark Latham MLC's bill for increased Parental Rights.

The NSW Parliament needs to hear from you to enable it to protect parents' rights.

The *Education Legislation Amendment (Parental Rights) Bill 2020* strengthens a parent's right to choose the moral and religious education their child receives and will also better inform parents of what is happening in the classroom.

[Please let your voice be heard by completing this survey.](#) The Parliament is tallying the results and are taking these responses very seriously.

This is the one platform it has provided for individuals to be heard on this issue.

The Parental Rights Bill, tabled by Mark Latham MLC, will ban the teaching of gender fluidity in all NSW Schools. The Bill will also require that teachers recognise the role of parents in the education of their children with respect to religious and moral education!

The survey closes on Sunday 28 February 2021. Do not delay.

South Australia: Abortion up to Birth Bill

The proposed bill before the South Australian Parliament:

- Makes abortion up to 22 weeks and 6 days available on request from a health practitioner.
- Provides abortion **from 22 weeks and 6 days to birth** if two doctors think it is medically appropriate. (This loose term is not defined but will include physical or psycho-social reasons. In Victoria, an average of 65 babies post 23 weeks gestation are aborted each year for psycho-social reasons).

For more information, please visit the [Australian Christian Lobby](#).

Queensland: Born Alive Bill 2021

In most Australian states, doctors are not required to provide medical assistance to children born alive as a result of an abortion. These babies are left to gasp for breath until they die. They deserve the same rights and medical treatment as any other human being.

Queensland health's clinical guidelines for abortion state: 'if [during an abortion] a live birth occurs... do not provide life sustaining treatment... document the time and date of death.'

The Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen has drafted a bill to protect children that were born alive as a result of abortion.

This bill is for an act to protect children born alive, including as a result of terminations.

Under this bill, when a child is born alive as a result of a botched abortion, attending medical practitioners must take action to save the child's life. If they do not act to save the child they will face significant financial penalty and probable deregistration as a medical practitioner.

This bill gives effect to international agreements with which Australia is a signatory, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child dictates that, “State parties recognise that every child has the inherent right to life.”

To support George Christensen, click on the link below:

www.GeorgeChristensen.com.au/bornalive

Net Zero Emissions

The political year of 2021 has very much begun with reports that we will be headed to the polls for a federal election this year. In preparation for what could be an August/September election, we will start to see the policies of both major parties take shape.

As people engaged in the Political Process we are in a unique position to advocate on behalf of the many small business owners, aspirational Australians and families that do not have a union, corporate lobby group or ginger group on their side.

We are also a unique political party in that the Liberal Party continues to promote the power of the individual member, which not only includes during the process of pre-selection but also for the development of policy positions. This is of course fair considering that at some point in time Party members will be asked to support their local member during an election campaign through either time or money.

The Coalition has announced, and in some cases promised, various policy initiatives that we believe are at the heart of our Party’s identity.

Some highlights include:

- The National Party released a [manufacturing Paper](#), to answer the specific challenges that COVID-19 has highlighted in the structure of our economy.
- Senator Andrew Bragg's decision to reform superannuation
- Prime Minister Scott Morrison [promised religious freedom protections to protect civil liberties](#), in the lead up to the 2019 election and was a key election promise.

Our concern is that this week we have seen reports of other policies that might expose the Party in the upcoming federal election.

Many of you would have seen last week's frontpage of the Sydney Morning Herald that [the Liberal Party would be moving to a policy of net zero emissions by 2050](#).

While this is not formal party policy now is the time to debate the issue.

The Government has dismissed any appetite for a new tax and said that any path to net zero would be about technological advancement. This would require a change to current policy as in practise our energy market is already the result of 'tax' be it direct or indirect. They include:

1. "Since 2013, the government has committed over \$220 million to support energy storage technologies." (Department of Energy);
2. The Renewable Energy Target (RET) costs our energy sector (making coal producers pay money to solar/wind sources) more than **\$2.4 billion per year** in small and large scale energy certificates;
3. **Over \$1 billion** is being given to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency ([ARENA](#)), the Clean Energy Finance Corporation ([CEFC](#)), Clean Energy Regulator, CSIRO, et al each year;

4. Some estimate the subsidy figure to be closer to approximately **\$7 billion a year**.

Although the Party has not set out a policy for the upcoming election, if it were to continue down its current path to net zero we would be taking to the next election a policy to *subsidise renewable energy to achieve a target of net zero emissions by 2050*.

There are eight main reasons that we believe that this policy might expose the Party at the upcoming election.

1. At a time of economic uncertainty with COVID-19 and the exposed issues with our diminishing local manufacturing industry, the National Party has produced a policy on ways to lift manufacturing to levels of other developed nations like Japan and Germany. This plan highlights that urgent action is required to look at ways to reduce our energy prices that are a large part of manufacturing costs. Manufacturing development will have a huge impact on our country by; supporting employment, supporting regional growth which in turn helps decentralise our population away from the three major cities, and over the long term will improve our terms of trade. It is very questionable as to whether this plan is possible with a net zero target.
2. The Labor Party was sent a strong message last election that Bill Shorten's 'green future' should not replace the main priorities of government to support the creation of jobs and the delivery of services. The victory of 2019 was in some part due to voters seeing the Coalition as an alternative to Bill Shorten's plan and if this is the case, could receive voter backlash for not keeping to our long-term goals and priorities as a Party.
3. The Coalition made promises to voters on matters of great importance to them. Religious Freedom is an example of that. If we are seen to either make election promises that are not kept, or be seen to prioritise other initiatives that our voting base may not see as high a priority, this might affect support come election time.

4. Regardless of your position on green energy or coal, every Party since 2007 who has gone to the polls seeking a mandate on green energy has lost.
5. Any government intervention (like the RET) would distort the energy market and prevent the most efficient path to cheap electricity.
6. In 2019 the Federal Government did well in seats like the Hunter, a traditional Labor area that feels misrepresented. This time we could make a huge impression in seats like Dobell and Paterson. The reality of the 'energy debate' is that those tens of thousands of people who earn significant income directly or indirectly from coal-mining jobs will be, rightly so, concerned that their jobs will be transitioned out and they possibly be asked to take significant pay cuts. Solar and wind turbines hire less people than gas and coal powered generators.
7. There is a strong social case to keep industry booming. These industries like gas or coal that support towns and cities around Australia are important for the community and the country. If we advance to a point that these industries no longer provide a strong service, like cheap energy or national income, they will gradually be replaced. If the Government were to intervene in this space it would be a different question.
8. Finally, by shutting down coal-powered generators the average cost to draw coal from the ground will increase given less demand. This of course will have significant impacts on wind turbines, solar panels, construction materials, manufactured goods and almost all products that are made from coking coal (steel).

For those interested in this topic I would encourage you to move motions to be debated at State Council. There are multiple branches in NSW that are currently in the process of having meeting to move motions to have this matter debated at State Council. It is one of the best aspects to our Party that we can debate policy amongst each other and the best avenue to do that is State Council

If you have any questions on how to have motions passed by branches and then brought to State Council please feel free to reach out via email or phone:

nswreformers@gmail.com or 0435 569 101

Questions about your Status in the NSW Liberal Party

Are you confused about your current position in the NSW Liberal Party? Click on the button below to fill out a form and one of the NSW Reformers will be in contact with you.

Please Click Here for Questions

God Bless,

The NSW Reformers

E: nswreformers@gmail.com | M: 0435 569 101

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In 2017, thanks to the efforts of principled parents and politicians the 'Safe Schools Program' was removed from schools in New South Wales. It is time to ensure the same success of this program in other states. The NSW Reformers invite you to a private meeting of like-minded social conservatives to learn how we can defend our freedoms and ensure our values are a priority for politicians and lawmakers.

Special Guests: Marijke Rancie ("Political Posting Mumma") and Damien Tudelohpe MP



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Time: 10:00am - 12:30pm

145 Views - 22/04/2018 Last update

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We are encouraged to be involved in civic and political affairs to make our communities wholesome places to raise families.

You are invited to an event with Tony Abbott MP and Damien Tudehope MP.

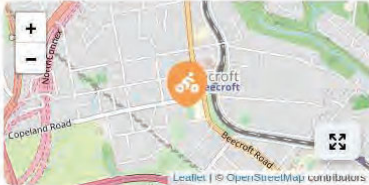
Please join us at the Pennant Hills Bowling Club to learn how to simply and effectively engage in the political landscape. Issues such as the "safe schools" agenda, life issues and the ability to practice our **faith will be addressed.**

Please take a few hours out of your busy lives to attend and bring like-minded people as we try to turn the tide within the current political landscape.

570 Views - 25/06/2018 Last update

Bowling

The Beecroft Bowling Club
128 COPELAND ROAD, BEECROFT, NSW, Beecroft, 2119, NSW, Australia



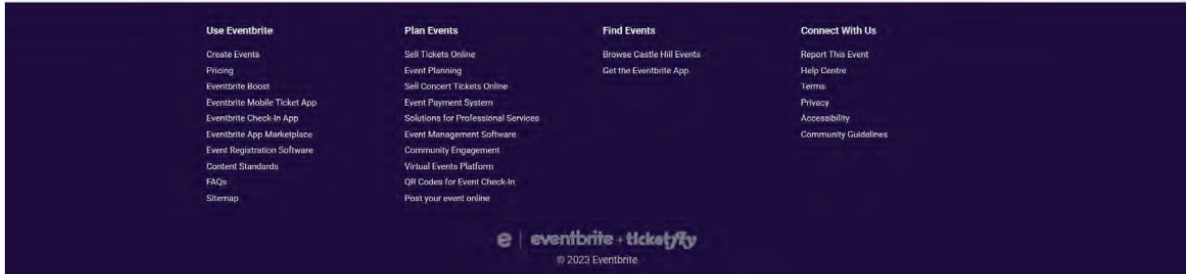
Event from
eventbrite.com

Report this event

Are you an event organizer?
Create events for free. They will be immediately recommended to interested users.

CREATE AN EVENT

The screenshot shows an Eventbrite event page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Eventbrite logo, a search bar, and links for 'Browse Events', 'Organise', 'Help', 'Log In', and 'Sign Up'. The main header features a large portrait of Alan Jones, a man in a dark suit and pink tie, smiling. Below the portrait, the event title 'Conservative Policy Series: Special Guest Alan Jones' is displayed in large, bold, dark blue text. To the right of the title, a 'Sales Ended' badge is visible, and below it is a 'Details' button. The event is organized by 'NSW Reformers', who have 18 followers. A 'Follow' button is located next to the organizer's name. Under the 'When and where' section, the date and time are listed as 'Mon., 10 June 2019, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm AEST'. The location is 'Castle Hill RSL Club 77 Castle Street, Castle Hill, NSW 2154'. A map shows the location in the Castle Hill area, with various landmarks like 'Berrie Mullane Sports Complex', 'Flower Power Garden Centre', and 'Castle Hill' marked. Below the map, there are icons for different transport modes: car, walking, bus, and bicycle. The 'Refund Policy' section states 'Contact the organiser to request a refund.' The 'About the organiser' section identifies the organizer as 'NSW Reformers' with 18 followers and includes 'Contact' and 'Follow' buttons. At the bottom, a short description reads: 'The NSW Reformers is aimed at turning the tide in the political sphere against the march of the left.'



CONSERVATIVE POLICY SERIES

with special guest

Alan Jones AO



COAL IS KING: HOW THE LEFT'S FAKE NEWS IS KILLING AUSTRALIA

Monday, 10 June 2019 at 6.30pm

Castle Hill RSL

77 Pennant Street, Castle Hill

if you're interested in attending please email
nswreformers@gmail.com



New South Wales
REFORMERS

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Sign Up

This event has ended.



Sep. 18

Abortion Bill in Review - The Lefts March Through the Institutions

Abortion Bill in Review - The Lefts March Through the Institutions

By **NSW Reformers**
18 followers
Follow

When and where

Date and time

Wed., 18 September 2019,
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm AEST

Location

3 Holly Rd 3 Holly Road Cherrybrook,
NSW 2126

[Hide map](#)



How to get there

🚗
🚶
🚘
🚲

Sales Ended

Details

About this event

Abortion Bill in Review - The Lefts March Through the Institutions

The Abortion Bill has passed the NSW Legislative Assembly and is to be voted on in the NSW Upper House next week. Over the last few weeks we have seen conservative organisations and pro life groups rallying the conservative base, marching in martin place, writing letters to members of parliament and visiting politicians offices.

For too long conservatives have stood back and watched as legislaation has been passed through government. So if you are interested in attending a talk on how we have found ourselves in this political climate and what can be done going forward come along to a talk on the 26th of September at 7pm.

Page 47

Report 18 - March 2023 219

We hope you can make it!

Cheers,

NSW Reformers

Tags

[Australia Events](#) [New South Wales Events](#) [Things to do in Cherrybrook, Australia](#)

About the organiser

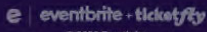
Organised by
NSW Reformers

18
Followers

[Contact](#) [Follow](#)


The NSW Reformers is aimed at turning the tide in the political sphere against the march of the left.

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This event has ended.



Nov. 08

Abortion Bill NSW - Where to now for Christian Values

Sales Ended

[Details](#)

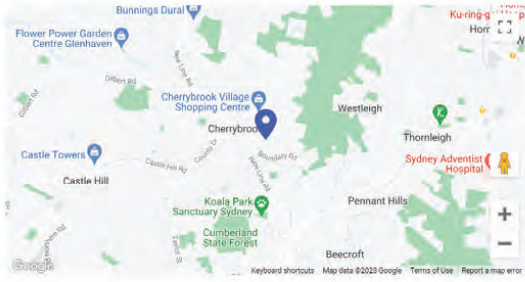
The March of the Institutions - The Lefts take over - Where to Now for Conservative Christians.

By **NSW Reformers**
18 followers [Follow](#)

When and where

Date and time
Fri, 8 November 2019
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm AEDT

Location
3 Holly Rd 3 Holly Road Cherrybrook,
NSW 2126
[Hide map](#)



About this event

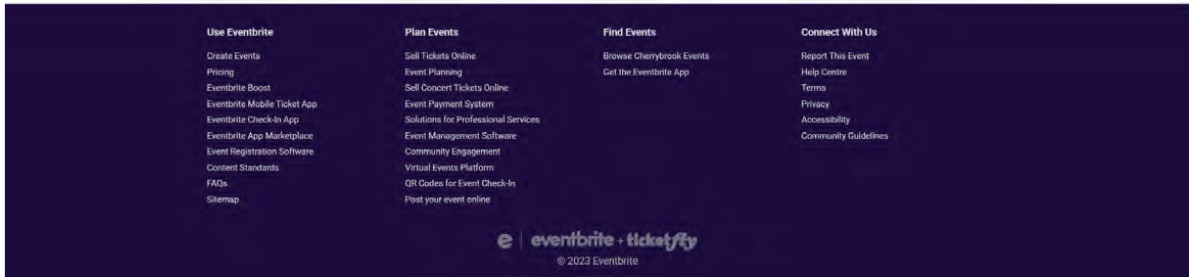
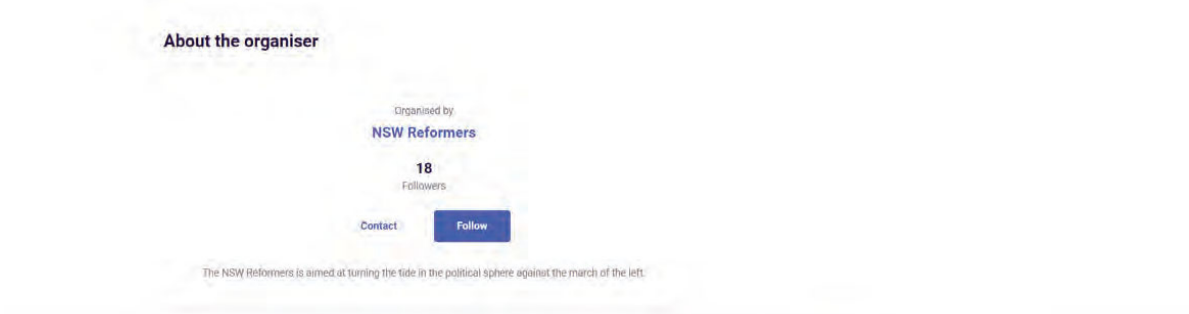
NSW recently passed the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019, which will make abortion laws in NSW some of the most extreme in the country. With many thousands protesting against this extreme abortion bill, how is it that this and other anti-life policy continues to be pushed through parliament?

Join us for an informational talk on how we can begin to implement conservative policy that respects life, human dignity, and freedom.

Please come to a talk on Friday the 8th of November.

Tags

[Australia Events](#) [New South Wales Events](#) [Things to do in Cherrybrook, Australia](#)



The screenshot shows an Eventbrite event page for "Abortion Religious Freedom" with the subtitle "With Australian Christian Lobby NSW Director, Kieran Jackson". The event is marked as "Sales Ended". The main title is in large, bold, orange and black text. Below the title, the date "Nov. 22" is shown. The event description reads: "Abortion is passed, Euthenasia is on its way - Where to from Here?". The organizer is "NSW Reformers" with 18 followers. The event details include: "Date and time: Fri., 22 November 2019, 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm AEDT" and "Location: Pennant Hills Bowling Club 52 Yarrara Road Pennant Hills, NSW 2120". A map shows the location in the Pennant Hills area. The "About this event" section states: "You are invited to a private talk hosted by the NSW Reformers with special guest Kieran Jackson. Kieran is the NSW State Director of the Australian Christian Lobby and is on the forefront of the fight for our Christian values. Come and hear from Kieran and other speakers on Abortion and the threat to Religious Freedom and what you can practically do about it." The "Tags" section includes "Australia Events", "New South Wales Events", and "Things to do in Pennant Hills, Australia".

About the organiser

Organised by
NSW Reformers

18
Followers

Contact Follow

The NSW Reformers is aimed at turning the tide in the political sphere against the march of the left.

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Event Payment System
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Event Management Software
Community Engagement
Virtual Events Platform
QR Codes for Event Check-In
Post your event online


Find Events
Browse Penrith Hills Events
Get the Eventbrite App

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Report This Event
Help Centre
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Privacy
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Community Guidelines

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This event has ended.



Dec. 17

Religious Freedom - Why did Morrison Delay with Lecturer Stephen Chavura

Sales Ended

Details

Stephen Chavura - Religious Freedom bill why did Morrison delay.


By NSW Reformers
18 followers

Follow

When and where

Date and time
Tue., 17 December 2019,
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm AEDT

Location
Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School B
Diana Avenue Kellyville, NSW 2155
[Hide map](#)



How to get there

About this event

You are encouraged to attend a talk on Tuesday the 17th of December with Stephen Chavura - Lecturer at Macquarie University and Campion College.

Please reserve a free ticket.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Location - School Hall.

The screenshot shows an Eventbrite event page for 'NSW Reformers'. At the top, there are tags for 'Australia Events', 'New South Wales Events', and 'Things to do in Kellyville, Australia'. Below this is the 'About the organiser' section, which identifies the event as organized by 'NSW Reformers' and shows they have 18 followers. There are 'Contact' and 'Follow' buttons. A short description reads: 'The NSW Reformers is aimed at turning the tide in the political sphere against the march of the left.' The footer is a dark blue bar with four columns of links: 'Use Eventbrite' (Create Events, Pricing, Eventbrite Boost, Eventbrite Mobile Ticket App, Eventbrite Check-In App, Eventbrite App Marketplace, Event Registration Software, Content Standards, FAQs, Sitemap), 'Plan Events' (Sell Tickets Online, Event Planning, Sell Concert Tickets Online, Event Payment System, Solutions for Professional Services, Event Management Software, Community Engagement, Virtual Events Platform, QR Codes for Event Check-In, Post your event online), 'Find Events' (Browse Kellyville Events, Get the Eventbrite App), and 'Connect With Us' (Report This Event, Help Centre, Terms, Privacy, Accessibility, Community Guidelines). The footer also features the Eventbrite and Ticketify logos and the copyright notice '© 2023 Eventbrite'.

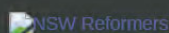
ALMOST SOLD OUT - Conservative Q&A - Education in Australia Edition

From: **NSW Reformers** <admin@nswreformers.emailnb.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2020 at 4:26 PM

Subject: ALMOST SOLD OUT - Conservative Q&A - Education in Australia Edition

To: [REDACTED]



We are just sending you the email to let you know that tickets for this event have almost sold out with just over a month to go before the event! If you haven't done so already, click the button below to secure your place before they all run out!

Our last Conservative Q&A on the topic 'Religious Freedom' was a smashing success!

And as promised our next Conservative Q&A will be on the topic, 'Education in Australia'.

Our last Conservative Q&A was sold out over a week before the event so please be sure to register for a free ticket before they run out!

Our guest panellists for this edition of 'Conservative Q&A' are:

Dallas McInerney - CEO of Catholic Schools NSW

Kevin Conolly MP - Member for Riverstone, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, former teacher.

Marie Yeo - A product of Home-Schooling and current Research student in Theology at the University of Notre Dame Australia

Blaise Joseph - Senior Research Fellow on Education at the Centre for Independent Studies

Dr Paul Morrissey - President of Campion College

Come along and be a part of the crowd of the 'Conservative Q&A - Education in Australia Edition'.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR A FREE TICKET](#)

Spaces are VERY limited so please click on the button below or above to secure your place in the crowd:

Regards,

NSW Reformers

NSW Reformers - Australia

This email was sent to [REDACTED] To stop receiving emails, click here.

Created with NationBuilder, software for leaders.

eventbrite Search events Browse Events Organise Help Log In Sign Up

This event has ended.

Conservative Q&A Panel 'Education in Australia' Edition



Dallas McInerney
CEO, Catholic Schools NSW



Kevin Conolly MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Education



Marie Yeo
Home-schooler
Research Student



Blaise Joseph
Research Fellow in Education
Centre for Independent Studies



Dr Paul Morrissey
President
Campion College

Date: Thursday 27 February 2020
Time: 7:00pm - 8:30PM
Location: Phoenix Room, Castle Hill RSL, 77 Castle St, Castle Hill NSW 2154

Feb. 27

Conservative Q&A - 'Education in Australia' Edition

Sales Ended

[Details](#)

By **NSW Reformers** [Follow](#)

When and where

Date and time

Thu., 27 February 2020,
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm AEDT

Location

Phoenix Room, Castle Hill RSL Club 77
Castle Street Castle Hill, NSW 2154

[Hide map](#)



How to get there

[Car](#) [Walking](#) [Bus](#) [Bicycle](#)

Description

You are invited to the next edition of Conservative Q&A - 'Education in Australia' Edition. The guest panelists for this event all have a deep understanding of varying aspects to do with education in Australia. This is a great opportunity to ask your questions to the panel and hear their thoughts on the big issues surrounding education in Australia. The Guest Panelists for this edition are:

Dallas McInerney - CEO of Catholic Schools NSW
Kevin Conolly MP - Member for Riverstone, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, former teacher.
Marie Yeo - A product of Home-Schooling and current Research Student in Theology at the University of Notre Dame Australia
Blaise Joseph - Senior Research Fellow on Education at the Centre for Independent Studies
Dr Paul Morrissey - President of Campion College

Last Conservative Q&A was sold out and tickets for this event are limited. Registrations are essential to ensure your ability to attend.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Regards,
NSW Reformers

About the organiser

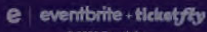
About the Organiser

Organised by
NSW Reformers

Contact Follow

NSW Reformers is a movement that seeks to promote Christian values in society

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SOUTH WEST SYDNEY REFORMERS

The Threat to Religious Freedom - What is Next?

WITH SPECIAL GUEST NATHANIEL SMITH MP

Picton Bowling Club, Cliffe Street, Picton
7pm on the 18th of March 2020



The screenshot shows an Eventbrite event page for "SOUTH WEST SYDNEY REFORMERS The Threat to Religious Freedoms - What is Next?". The event is scheduled for Wednesday, 18 March 2020, at 7:00 pm AEDT, at the Picton Bowling Club. The special guest is Nathaniel Smith MP. The page indicates that the event has ended and that ticket sales are also ended. The page includes a map of the location, details about the date and time, and information about the organizer, South West Sydney Reformers.

eventbrite Search events Browse Events Organise Help Log In Sign Up

This event has ended.

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY REFORMERS

The Threat to Religious Freedoms - What is Next?

WITH SPECIAL GUEST NATHANIEL SMITH MP

Picton Bowling Club, Cliffe Street, Picton
7pm on the 18th of March 2020

Mar. 18

The Threat to Religious Freedoms - What is Next?

Sales Ended

Details

You are invited to a private talk with special guest Nathaniel Smith MP on the topic of the threat to religious freedom.

By South West Sydney Reformers [Follow](#)

When and where

Date and time
Wed, 18 March 2020, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm AEDT

Location
Picton Bowling Club 10 Cliffe Street, Picton, NSW 2571
[Hide map](#)

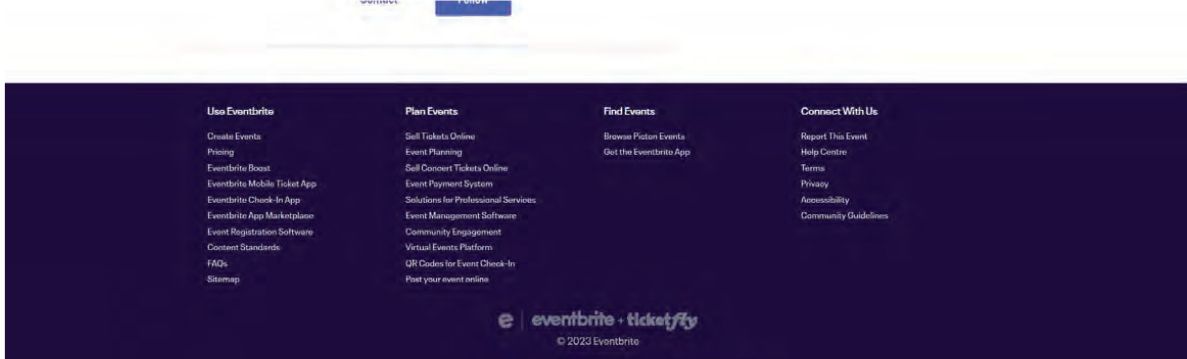
How to get there

About this event

Come and hear about how we as a country have arrived in the situation we are currently in and what you can practically do about it to push back. We are pleased to have as a special guest at this event Nathaniel Smith MP, Member for Wollondilly.

About the organiser

Organised by South West Sydney Reformers [Follow](#)



The screenshot shows an Eventbrite event page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Eventbrite logo, a search bar, and links for 'Browse Events', 'Organise', 'Help', 'Log In', and 'Sign Up'. Below the navigation bar, a message states 'This event has ended.' The main visual is a red banner with a gold silhouette of the Nativity scene and the text: *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14*. Below the banner, the event title is 'Christmas Drinks with Tanya Davies MP, Member for Mulgoa' with the date 'Dec. 18'. A 'Sales Ended' badge and a 'Details' button are visible. The page indicates the user is invited to the event and lists the organizer as 'NSW Reformers'. The 'When and where' section provides the date and time (Fri, 18 December 2020, 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm AEDT) and the location (Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club 2/8, Twin Creeks Drive Luddenham, NSW 2745). A map shows the location relative to nearby landmarks like Patons Lane RRC, FedEx Station, and Fire and Rescue NSW Emergency. The 'About this event' section describes the event as a celebration for Liberal members with Tanya Davies MP and notes the attire as 'Smart casual'. At the bottom, there is a red invitation card with the text: 'You are invited to: Christmas Drinks With Tanya Davies MP Date: Friday 18 December 2020' and a small Nativity scene illustration.

Time: 7:00pm - 10:00pm
Location: Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club,
2/8 Twin Creeks Drive, Luddenham, NSW, 2745

*And the Lord was with flock, and death among us, (and we
killed his glory, the glory in of the world beyond of the
Sabbath) for of peace and truth.
John 1:14*

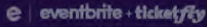
About the organiser

Organised by
NSW Reformers

Contact [Follow](#)

NSW Reformers is a movement that seeks to promote Christian values in society.

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The Sydney Morning Herald

Exclusive National State Parliament

This was published 3 years ago

Conservative Christian plot to take 'control' of NSW Liberal Party

Tom Rabe and Jacqueline Maley

August 8, 2019 – 12.00am

A group promoting religious freedom is working to recruit 5000 Christian conservatives to the NSW Liberals as part of an ambitious scheme aimed at taking "control" of the state division of the party.

Leaked documents obtained by the *Herald*, which contain metadata leading back to Federal and NSW parliaments, reveal the NSW Reformers group hopes to recruit thousands of members across Sydney.



The group believes greater control of preselection would ensure a strong "conservative representation in Parliament". JAMES ALCOCK

A 900-word document titled 'NSW Reformers - Taking Back Our Nation Through Good Government' lays out the group's intentions to exert influence on politicians by joining Liberal branches and gaining pre-selection votes.

“If we recruit 5000 Christian conservatives we will control the NSW division of the Liberal Party,” it reads.

“We will organise information sessions for local coordinators as to how the intricate parts of the party work ... Politicians are far more receptive to people and causes if they directly impact their chances of being in Parliament.”

The group believes greater control of state and federal preselection in NSW would ensure a strong “conservative representation in Parliament”.

The document’s metadata suggests it was written by a staff member in a federal ministerial office last year. The staffer did not return calls or text messages.

The *Herald* [revealed on Tuesday that several Liberal MPs were concerned](#) the NSW Reformers were working to erode their support base in Sydney’s Hills District.

Other documents show names, addresses and contact details of hundreds of constituents were collated from a series of petitions advertised on the NSW Reformers’ page.

The petitions that netted the data of hundreds of constituents refers to “gender ideology”, “gay surrogacy”, religious freedom and Zoe’s Law legislation, which would make it a crime to cause death to a fetus.

The spreadsheets also contain lists of dozens of churches across Sydney to be targeted in the recruitment drive.

The forms outline plans to call a specific amount of phone numbers listed in the documents per day, and estimate how many party memberships could be recruited.

The NSW Reformers manifesto also outlines why the group is targeting the Liberal Party and not Labor or the Australian Conservatives.

“The Australian Conservatives’ survival relies upon a supportive silent majority. This silent majority does not exist,” it says, arguing this was proven by the same-sex marriage survey result.

“We cannot afford to flee from a major party as this will forever reduce Conservative Christians to a minor influence in society with very little ability to determine legislation.”

Several Liberal MPs have told the *Herald* of anger within the party at what they believe is a concerted effort to stack out their electorate branches.

One federal NSW Liberal MP said he believed the Reformers was run by factional allies of the party’s hard-right conservative Liberals.

“They’re using the [abortion bill](#) to try to recruit numbers,” the federal MP said.

“They’re taking those views and leveraging them for political advantage. Their dearest wish would be to get rid of Alex Hawke.”

Mr Hawke is a powerful centre-right factional player close to Prime Minister Scott Morrison. His defection from the hard-right faction of the NSW Liberals a decade ago caused great enmity among conservatives.

NSW Liberal president Philip Ruddock said he didn't have a problem with "branch development".

"My view, as the party president, is if you're worried about being stacked, then outstack," he said.

The NSW Reformers have no contact numbers on their website, and there is no indication on the site of who leads the group.

The *Herald* called a mobile number published on a NSW Reformers flyer and the man who answered said he had no association with the group and had not heard of it until he read about it in the *Herald*.

He said he did not know why his number was printed as a contact number. The man, who declined to give his name, said he was a Liberal party member.

Liberal branches nationally have seen a considerable bump in members since the federal election was called. Victoria received an extra 600 members on their 10,000 base, while NSW is understood to have experienced a 10 per cent jump.

Federal Liberal party president Nick Greiner said while he did not have access to membership numbers to the various state branches, "common sense dictates that when you have an unexpected victory that might generate some interest".

"I think that [increased membership] was happening for a while before the election and it seems to be accelerating," he said.

But the membership bump was "unfortunately off a relatively low base," Mr Greiner said, "which is where major political parties around the world are".

He said it had "zero to do with religion", and was due to the success of the party and to Mr Morrison's popularity.

"It's success and authenticity ... it's undoubtedly true that Scott came across in an authentic manner, it's the John Howard thing of, 'you know what you're getting with me'."

with Rob Harris



Tom Rabe is a State Political Reporter with The Sydney Morning Herald. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [email](#).



Jacqueline Maley is a columnist. Connect via [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



 **Liberal party**

The Right stuff: why shellshocked NSW Liberal moderates are fearing factional fights

Tim James's preselection in Gladys Berejiklian's former NSW seat shows the growing influence of the hard right in the state



Anne Davies

 @annefdavies

Sun 23 Jan 2022 06.00 AEDT

Last week, a prominent member of the Liberals' right faction, Tim James, snared the safe **New South Wales** state seat of Willoughby replacing the former Liberal premier Gladys Berejiklian, a leading moderate, in the lower north shore Sydney seat.

No one saw it coming. The lower north shore is a moderate stronghold within the party and the popular former Willoughby council mayor Gail Giles-Gidney, a moderate with a high local profile, was seen as the frontrunner.

Giles-Gidney had the endorsement of the people who count in those parts: Berejiklian and the moderate powerbroker Trent Zimmerman, the federal MP for North Sydney.

But by the end of a three-hour preselection meeting attended by more than 100 members of the local branch and state executive, moderates were left shellshocked.

The new “**Warringah rules**” for choosing the candidate via a plebiscite of local members, with a 25% voting component from the state executive, had delivered an unexpected result.

James, an acolyte of the former prime minister **Tony Abbott** with a record of pushing development of gas and opposing higher carbon emissions reduction targets, was on his way to becoming the member for Willoughby.

Just a suburban soap opera? Or a sign of something deeper happening in the NSW **Liberal party**?

Peace and prosperity

In other states, notably **Western Australia** and **South Australia**, there has been an influx into the party of conservative members recruited from Pentecostal churches and other religious groups. It has fundamentally changed the Liberal party in WA and caused tensions in SA. In **Queensland there were similar concerns** in 2020 about the growing influence of climate-denying Christian conservatives.

In Victoria, there have been highly publicised reports of organised attempts at branch stacking by the conservative right, including recruitment drives run out of MPs’ offices.

But in NSW, at least on the surface, there appeared to be peace within the warring factions, of which there are three: the moderates, the hard right and the smaller centre right. **The hard right is dominated by conservative Catholics with the premier, Dominic Perrottet, its poster boy.**

The centre right, controlled by the federal immigration minister, Alex Hawke, is more closely aligned with Pentecostal and Protestant churches and boasts **Scott Morrison** as its high-profile member.

The moderates are led by the NSW treasurer, Matt Kean, and Zimmerman.

The animus between the factions a decade ago, when John Brogden was the state opposition leader, is legendary: brawls in local branches, fierce branch stacking and chronic destabilisation of the parliamentary leader. During this time the right also split, mainly on sectarian lines.

But after a decade in the wilderness a desperate Barry O’Farrell convinced the factions they should declare a detente in the interests of winning government.

The peace was cemented under Berejiklian. Hard-right leaders like Perrottet, who has been a central player in the factions since he was in the Young Liberals, and Damien Tudehope, who commands influence in the north-west of Sydney, prospered, becoming treasurer and finance minister. David Elliott, a leading figure of the centre right, has risen too. So did the leading moderates such as Kean.

At least in cabinet, the factions had checked their weapons at the door.

But there was always the question of who would succeed Berejiklian.

The new deal

About three years ago, Kean is said to have struck a further deal with Perrottet to make Perrottet premier, even though he came from the right, while Kean would become treasurer. Until that point the moderates, the biggest faction, had laid claim to the premier's job.

Kean and Perrottet have never confirmed the deal, but subsequent events appear to confirm it.

Despite a senior moderate, Rob Stokes, nominating for premier after Berejiklian resigned, Perrottet won with support from Kean's bloc of moderates. Both men have now risen to the top before turning 40: Perrottet as premier and Kean his treasurer.

But has the deal emboldened the right and diminished the moderates?

"It's been the best infiltration I have seen in my life," says one disillusioned moderate. "Rather than beat us up, they got us to do what they want."

How much Perrottet's rise has strengthened the right is debated within the party - there have so far been no attempts to push a conservative social agenda.

"Perrottet is not offensive to most moderates - he mainly sticks to economic issues and he's endorsed net zero by 2050," says a senior moderate.

"I don't think he's sitting watching Sky after Dark night after night. He's probably reading Margaret Thatcher's biography - and we can live with that."

But the new rules for preselecting candidates have provided an avenue for increased influence and there are signs right operatives are active.

"The right are taking the car out for a spin to see what's possible," says one factional player who asked not to be named.

Abbott's original Warringah rules establishing branch member plebiscites to choose candidates were substantially modified before being adopted.

Safeguards against branch stacking, such as being a member for two years and monthly limits on new members signing up, were included. A quarter of the vote was allocated to the state executive council in the broader party interest.

James's preselection, only the second under the new rules, raises questions about whether the moderates have underestimated the right.

Grassroots action

James, a long-time participant in the faction, had hoped to succeed Abbott in the federal northern beaches seat of Warringah until the independent Zali Steggall made it unwinnable for a person with a track record of support for fossil fuels.

James has also made two unsuccessful tilts at the state seat of North Shore, also regarded as moderate territory. So Willoughby was a real surprise.

There were about 110 selectors assembled for the preselection on 12 January. James came second to Giles-Gidney in the first round of voting but edged her out in the second round.

"He was just hungrier for it," said one attendee.

By all accounts he gave a strong speech and demonstrated his policy depth as a former director of the Menzies Research Centre.

Some say Covid-19 played a role, with older members who supported Giles-Gidney reluctant to attend in person.

The NSW Liberal party said: "There were three outstanding candidates contesting the preselection, with Tim James selected by members to represent the party at the upcoming election, based on his vision for the community."

**/// I don't agree with the process that has taken place within the Liberal party or how we got here
Michelle Byrne**

James had a bloc of 11 Young Liberals from the right who were eligible to vote under party rules that allow Young Liberals to attend branches where they live or adjoining branches. They included Thomas Ryan, who is married to Francesca Perrottet, the premier's sister; Anthony Swales, an electorate staffer for state minister Anthony Roberts; Pierre Okosdinossian, a graduate of Redfield College, the conservative Catholic school attended by Perrottet; and Benedict Kang,

In 2018 Kang wrote in the conservative Spectator: "At the heart of the political process is grassroots action ... Something is astir in the air, and the winds of change, of reform, are blowing. This article may very well be prophetic, and I sincerely hope

that it is. Join a party, be the conservative voice, change the tide of battle. Believe me, there has never been a better time to be young, restless, and right-wing.”

There is clear evidence elsewhere that conservatives have heeded the call and signed up to branches in anticipation of the Warringah rules.

Branches that had just five or 10 members have seen numbers swell to the 30s in the past two and half years.

The MP most under threat is the federal environment minister, Sussan Ley, in the seat of Farrer in southern NSW. She is facing a **challenge from conservative Christian Ellis**, a member of the right faction, who moved to Deniliquin from Sydney. He previously worked for Perrottet and the former federal resources minister Matt Canavan.

He also ran as a candidate for Family First against the Liberal Philip Ruddock, earning him a suspension from the party.

Ellis was one of the organisers of a right group known as the **NSW Reformers**, which gained publicity in 2019 over a plan to recruit 5,000 members to the Liberal party through conservative churches.

In Farrer, Ellis has been running on water issues and several members of the local group “Speak up for Water” have joined local branches.

Unless there is an intervention by the state executive or by the prime minister, Ley will lose, local Liberals say.

Escalating competition

Since the Willoughby upset there are also concerns about what could occur in preselection for the federal seat of North Sydney, held by Zimmerman, which overlaps Willoughby.

Until now, moderates have brushed off a preselection challenge from the right’s Hamish Stitt and the centre right’s Jessica Collins as a distraction with no chance. Now no one is so sure. Zimmerman declined to comment.

And in the north-west of Sydney there are also renewed concerns about the seat of Mitchell, currently held by the centre right’s organiser, Hawke, but under challenge from the right.

In a sign of the escalating competition between the factions, **the Hills shire mayor, Michelle Byrne** - backed by the centre right - found herself without a position on the Liberal ticket for the local government elections.

“I don’t agree with the process that has taken place within the Liberal party or how we got here,” Byrne said in her resignation statement.

So has there been a recruitment drive since in anticipation of greater democracy under the Warringah rules?

A spokesman for the NSW Liberal party said numbers had steadily increased over the last five years but declined to give details.

“The party welcomes new members from across the community, and we have had members continue to join us from a diverse range of geographic, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds,” he said.

With a federal election due to be held by May, the NSW Liberals appears to have adopted a strategy of delaying remaining preselections rather than risking the uncertainties of the Warringah rules. There is constant talk of a peace deal to carve up the seats using urgency powers.

“Whoever holds the parliamentary seats ends up being reflected in the culture and control of the party,” says one long-time factional player.

“So what happens in this election will determine how much influence the right has in NSW. If North Sydney and Wentworth were to go [to independents], they are two very important seats held by the moderates,” he says.

“While Morrison remains prime minister, then the centre right is a force, but they are the smallest group and query what happens if he is no longer the leader,” he says.

And if the right claim more seats as well as the premiership, their influence will increase.

“After the Willoughby result,” says a senior party member, “no one is at all confident about what’s happening.”

State Council Election Results and Women's Council Election Results

Chris Stone <chg@nsw.liberal.org.au>

Thu, Nov 28, 2019 at 11:22 AM

To: [REDACTED]

No images? [click here](#)

Dear Liberal Party Member,

The results of the recently concluded 2019 State Council elections and 2019 Women's Council elections are as follows:

STATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**President:**

- Hon Philip Ruddock

Urban Vice-Presidents:

- Penny George
- Christopher Rath

Country and Regional Vice-Presidents:

- Tobias Lehmann
- Aileen MacDonald

Urban Representatives:

- James Wallace
- Matthew Camenzuli
- Matthew Hana
- Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond
- Martin Zaiter
- Sally Betts
- Zac Miles
- Michelle Byrne
- Christian Ellis
- Jacqui Munro

Country and Regional Representative:

- Michelle Bishop
- Damien Jones
- Patrick Doherty
- Mark Croxford
- Anna Chandler
- Jemma Tribe

Chair of Convention Committee:

- Alexander Dore

Convention Committee:

- Samuel Uno
- Robert Assaf
- Mark Rusev
- Kellie Sloan
- Pallavi Sinha
- James Hannah
- Dylan Whitelaw

Delegates to Federal Council:

- Ned Mannoun
- Dallas McInerney
- Tobias Lehmann
- Penny George
- Caity McLoughlin
- Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond
- Naji Najjar
- Dimitry Palmer
- Michael Stublely
- Jacqui Munro

Joint Standing Committee on State Policy:

- Julia Prieston
- Kevin Baker
- David Hull
- Jessie Nguyen
- Robert Assaf
- Leo Wei

Constitution Standing Committee:

- Tobias Lehmann
- Bran Black
- Wade McInerney
- Martin Zaiter
- Rory Amon
- Matthew Hana
- Edwin Nelson

Rural and Regional Committee:

- Mitchell Nadin
- Luke Sikora

- Blake Keating
- Michael Banasik
- Zac Baylis
- Alan Akhurst
- Troy Wilkie

Local Government Oversight Committee:

- Peter Poulos
- Jeff Egan
- Charles Perrottet
- Harold Stutchbury
- Karen Howard
- Dallas McInerney
- Aaron Henry

WOMEN'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS

President:

- Mary-Lou Jarvis

Urban Vice-President:

- Cristina Talacko
- Jacqui Munro

Country Vice-President:

- Amy Lehmann
- Margo Johnstone

Secretary:

- Melanie Brown

Treasurer:

- Shayne Miller

Membership Secretary:

- Natarsha Terreiro

At Large General Committee Members:

- Laura Boomsma
- Sharon Ani-Watts
- Joanne Bromilow
- Brigid Meney
- Sophie Winton
- Amanda Choularton
- Adelaide Cuneo
- Belinda Russell
- Julia Prieston

- Christine Kay

I congratulate all those who have been elected to positions, and sincerely thank those who were not successful, for being part of this most important process.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stone
State Director

Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal Party of Australia NSW Division.
Level 12, 100 William Street, East Sydney NSW 2011.

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Results of the 2021 State Council Elections

Chris Stone <sc@nsw.liberal.org.au>

Tue, Oct 4, 2022 at 5:05 PM

To: [REDACTED]

[No Images? click here](#)

Dear [REDACTED]

Results of the 2021 State Council Elections

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the ballot count process for the 2021 State Council Elections has been completed and I am now able to declare the results of the poll as follows:

President

Maria Kovacic

Urban Vice-Presidents

James Wallace

Sarah McMahon (Richards)

Country and Regional Vice-Presidents

Michelle Bishop

Geoffrey Pearson

Urban Representatives

De Yi Wu

Kyle Kutasi

Sally Betts

Carmelo Pesce

Sam Elmir

Michelle Byrne

Susan Carter

Naji Najjar

Zac Miles

Alexander Dore

Country and Regional Representatives

Paul Ell

Shayne Miller

James Owen

Jean Haynes

Jennifer Martin

Wayne Brown

Chair of Convention Committee & Director of Policy Engagement

Hugo Robinson

Convention Committee

Jane Buncle

Jonathan Malota

Liam Covi

Magdi Mikhail

Gisele Kapterian
Devendra Sapkota
Alexia Lancaster

Delegate to Federal Council

Sally Betts
Lucy Wicks
Dallas McInerney
Gisele Kapterian
Jane Buncle
Sam Elmir
Sarah McMahon (Richards)
Christian Ellis
Michael Stubley
Martin Zaiter

Joint Standing Committee on State Policy

Georgia Lovell
Reena Jethi
Naji Najjar
Leane van Essen
Leigh Wang
Sophie Lara-Watson

Constitution Standing Committee

Rory Amon
Kenneth Stanton
Edwin Nelson
Julia Prieston
Matthew Hana
Christian Ellis
Charles Camenzuli

Rural & Regional Committee

Troy Wilkie
Krist Hillins
Michael Davis
Ben Mitchell
Julia Ham
Serena Copley
Daniel Hill

Local Government Oversight Committee

David Tricca
Martin Zaiter
De Yi Wu
Dallas McInerney
Dylan Whitelaw
Naji Najjar
Matthew Hana

I congratulate all those who have been elected to the above positions, and sincerely thank those Members who were not successful for being part of this important process for the Division.

Kind regards,

Chris Stone
State Director

Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal Party of Australia NSW Division.
Level 2, 131 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

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The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Our Stars



Name: The Hon. Dominic Perrott MP

Current Positions:
Premier of NSW

Former Positions:
Treasurer of NSW



Name: Charles Perrottet

Current Positions:
Missing In Action

Former Positions:
Deputy Chair of the Local Government Oversight Committee (Liberal Party)
Member of the State Redistribution Advisory Committee (Liberal Party)



Name: The Hon. Peter Poulos MLC

Current Positions:
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliamentary Secretary for Wollongong and the Illawarra

Former Positions:
Chair of the Local Government Oversight Committee (Liberal Party)
Employee of Minister Matt Kean
Deputy Chair, Committee on the Ombudsman, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the Crime Commission (NSW Parliament)



Name: The Hon. Matt Kean MP

Current Positions:
Treasurer of NSW
Member for Hornsby

Former Positions:

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire



Name: The Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

Current Positions:
President of the Legislative Council

Former Positions:



Name: Christian Ellis

Current Positions:
Member of Constitution Standing Committee (Liberal Party)

Former Positions:
Member of State Executive (Liberal Party)
Member of Party Affairs Committee (Liberal Party)



Name: The Hon. Chris Rath MLC

Current Positions:
Member of the Legislative Council
Temporary Chair of Committees

Former Positions:
Vice-President of the NSW Liberal Party



Name: The Hon. Mark Coure MP

Current Positions:
Member of the Legislative Council
Temporary Chair of Committees
Premier's Representative on State Executive (Liberal Party)

Former Positions:



Name: Peter Gangemi

Current Positions:
Mayor of Hills Shire Council

Former Positions:
Councillor on Hills Shire Council

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire



Name: Ray Williams MP

Current Positions:

Member for Castle Hill
Member of the Committee on the Independent
Commission Against Corruption
Chair of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law
and Safety

Former Positions:



Name: The Hon. David Elliott MP

Current Positions:

Minister for Transport
Minister for Western Sydney
Member for Baulkham Hills

Former Positions:

Minister for Police and Emergency Services



Name: The Hon. Aileen MacDonald MLC

Current Positions:

Member of the Legislative Council

Former Positions:

Vice-President of the NSW Liberal Party

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Our Story



A multi-year plan was orchestrated by a core group of conspirators to change the Constitution, occupy decision-making positions and deliberately manipulate processes to install Councillors onto the Hills Shire Council that are loyal to this core group- and when they could not do it semi-legitimately, they did it illegitimately.

The Liberal party has three factions:

The Moderates: Traditionally progressive faction with members such as Matt Kean MP, Chris Rath MLC and Peter Poulos MLC.

The Centre Right: Traditionally centrist faction with members such as Alex Hawke MP, David Elliott MP, Ray Williams MP and former Hills Shire Council Mayor Michelle Byrne

The Right: Traditionally conservative faction with members such as Dominic Perrottet MP, Damien Tudehope MLC and Anthony Roberts MP.

In the Hills Shire Council area there are no branches aligned with the Moderate faction. The majority of branches are and have been aligned to the Centre Right faction, which has seen the majority of Councillors on the Hills Shire council being aligned to the Centre Right.

The Right faction has been predominantly governed by Catholics associated with the Opus Dei sect. As shown in Chapter One, the NSW Reformers were a recruitment/stacking vehicle by and for the Right faction, with their predominant operations focused in the Hills Shire LGA.

At the 2021 Local Government Elections, almost all of the incumbent Hills Shire Councillor were replaced with new Councillors that were aligned to the Right. This was done through manipulation and abuse of the selection process using two bodies, the State Executive and the Local Government Oversight Committee with the help of the Moderate faction.

The main core of this conspiracy were the following individuals.



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Over the last several years the Moderate faction led by Matt Kean MP and the Right faction led by Dominic Perrottet have been in coalition in a deal known as ‘**unity**’. This deal saw a number of quid pro quo agreements made with senior faction leadership, including the Dominic and Matt, where they would support one another to ensure that certain areas were delivered to the faction that wanted it.

One such area was the Hills Shire which was to be given to the Right faction, as the Moderate faction had no branches in the entire area.

To ensure control of the Hills Shire Council by the Reformers and the Right, the Constitution was changed, branches were moved into conferences, a branch was suspended, dates were set and missed, processes were delayed and ultimately candidates were parachuted without a preselection.

At a glance: Unity deal between the Moderates & the Right to suppress the Centre Right



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Background concepts within the Liberal Party

To understand fully what transpired to install select people as candidates in winnable spots on the Hills Shire Council, a few concepts within the NSW Liberal Party have to be explained.

State Council

The peak decision body of the NSW Liberal Party consisting of over 800 members including MPs, Senators, MLC, State Executive, limited representatives from each Branch and Conference, and life members.

This is the equivalent of the NSW Labor State Conference or the NSW Greens State Delegates Council.

State Executive

The governing body of the NSW Liberals constituting of up to 28 voting members most elected by the State Council that have vast powers to make decisions from day-to-day and meet monthly, or in between as required. Powers of the State Executive include the ability to suspend members, suspend or dissolve branches, endorse or dis-endorse candidates, determine which seats will be contests, and enter into coalition arrangements with other parties.

This is the equivalent of NSW Labor Administration Committee and NSW Greens Committee of Management.

Local Government Oversight Committee / LGOC

This is a standing committee of the NSW Liberal Party elected by the State Council at the Party AGM whose purpose is to oversee Local Government and related matters within the party and make recommendations to the State Executive. The Local Government Oversight Committee, often abbreviated to LGOC (/l gok/), has other proscribed duties and powers and may also conduct activities requested of them by the State Executive.

Out of time provisions / Urgency clause / 21.6.4

This is clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution of the NSW Liberal Party which permits the State Executive with a simple majority to suspend and/or replace any or all of the standard preselection process for any other made-up process, or the direct installation of Liberal candidates for that position. Despite its name having out of time or urgency in it, the wording of the clause permits the State Executive to determine, once again with simple majority, whether they are out of time or not.

Local Government Conference / LGC

A Conference is a body made up of a collection of branches that are allocated to a specific electorate (Federal, State, Local). A Local Government Conference is the body made up of branches allocated to a Local Government Area by the State Executive. LGC's have their own executive and are elected by the executive of the Branches in the conference.

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Unlike Federal and State, it is NOT mandatory to have an LGC in your Local Government Area, as an LGC can be dissolved or may not have been formed (formation is not automatic).

Electronic Ballot

An Electronic Ballot is a type of ballot that can only be issued by the Party President to the State Executive via email to vote on any type of motion that could be otherwise voted on at a meeting of State Executive. Unlike a regular motion moved during a meeting, an Electronic Ballot has a response time where a response must be received by. After the time to vote in the Electronic Ballot has elapsed, the returning office typically emails the result of the ballot which shows the total number of votes for, against and abstentions. The full results of an Electronic Ballot, which shows how each person voted, are not available until the agenda and papers are issued for the next meeting of State Executive.

There are no rules regarding Electronic Ballots. They can be used in any circumstance for any matter. The main difference between Electronic Ballots and motions at meetings is that Electronic Ballot motions do not need to be seconded, cannot be amended, cannot be deferred and there is no discussion on the matter. This is their primary benefit- it allows the Party President to push through a motion that would otherwise have been amended, deferred or had questions raised about the subject matter.

Taking control of the State Executive

There are two important pass marks for motions considered by the State Executive, 50% and 60%. Different powers of the State Executive require different thresholds, some of these are:

50% - Set preselection dates, delay preselection's, parachute candidates for Local Government when there is no time left for a selection, commence suspension proceedings

60% - Suspend or dissolve a branch, suspend or expel a member, move branches in and out of LGCs

At the election of the 2019 NSW Liberal Party AGM, the unity deal ensured that the Right and the Moderate factions had 1 vote less than 60%. The subsequent appointment of **Michael Hughes**, a member of the Right faction, to the State Executive by the State Executive at the nomination of **Philip Ruddock** saw the unity faction now control 60% of the State Executive.



Chris Rath was appointed as the person responsible for ensuring the attendance of members and delivery of votes for State Executive members in the Moderate faction.

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Christian Ellis was appointed as the person responsible for ensuring the attendance of members and delivery of votes for State Executive members in the Right faction.

Mark Coure was the Premiers representative on State Executive and responsible for using his authority and gravity to ensure desired outcomes were achieved.

Charles Perrottet was the person responsible for getting his brother, **Dominic Perrottet**, to express support or disapproval for things as was needed to ensure the outcomes were achieved, and if necessary to talk to people or to pressure them.

Peter Poulos was the person responsible for getting his boss, **Matt Kean**, to express support or disapproval for things as was needed to ensure the outcomes were achieved, and if necessary to talk to people or to pressure them.

Matt Kean was the person responsible for ensuring that then Party President (and Mayor of Hornby Shire) **Philip Ruddock** only put out favourable Electronic Ballots and prevented or allowed Motions as needed to ensure the outcome of the Hills Shire council being delivered to the Right.

Taking control of the Local Government Oversight Committee

Similar to the State Executive result, the 2019 AGM saw unity having 5 of the 7 members elected to the Local Government Oversight Committee. At the first meeting of the LGOC, three office bearers were elected.

Member	Faction	Notes
Peter Poulos	Moderate	Employee of Matt Kean at the time
Jeff Egan	Centre Right	
Charles Perrottet	Right	Brother of Dominic Perrottet
Harold Stutchbury	Moderate	2IC and best friend of Chris Rath
Karen Howard	Centre Right	
Dallas McInerney	Right	CEO of Catholic Schools NSW
Aaron Henry	Moderate	Friend of Chris Rath

With 5 of the 7 members of the LGOC and all 3 office bearer positions, unity could ensure that LGOC only decided in a way that allowed the Moderate and Right factions to secure their outcomes. **Peter Poulos** and **Charles Perrottet** made sure to use this to ensure the Hills Shire Council had specific candidates.



Chair	Deputy Chair	Secretary
Peter Poulos	Charles Perrottet	Dallas McInerney

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

The unofficial process for controlling Local Government outcomes

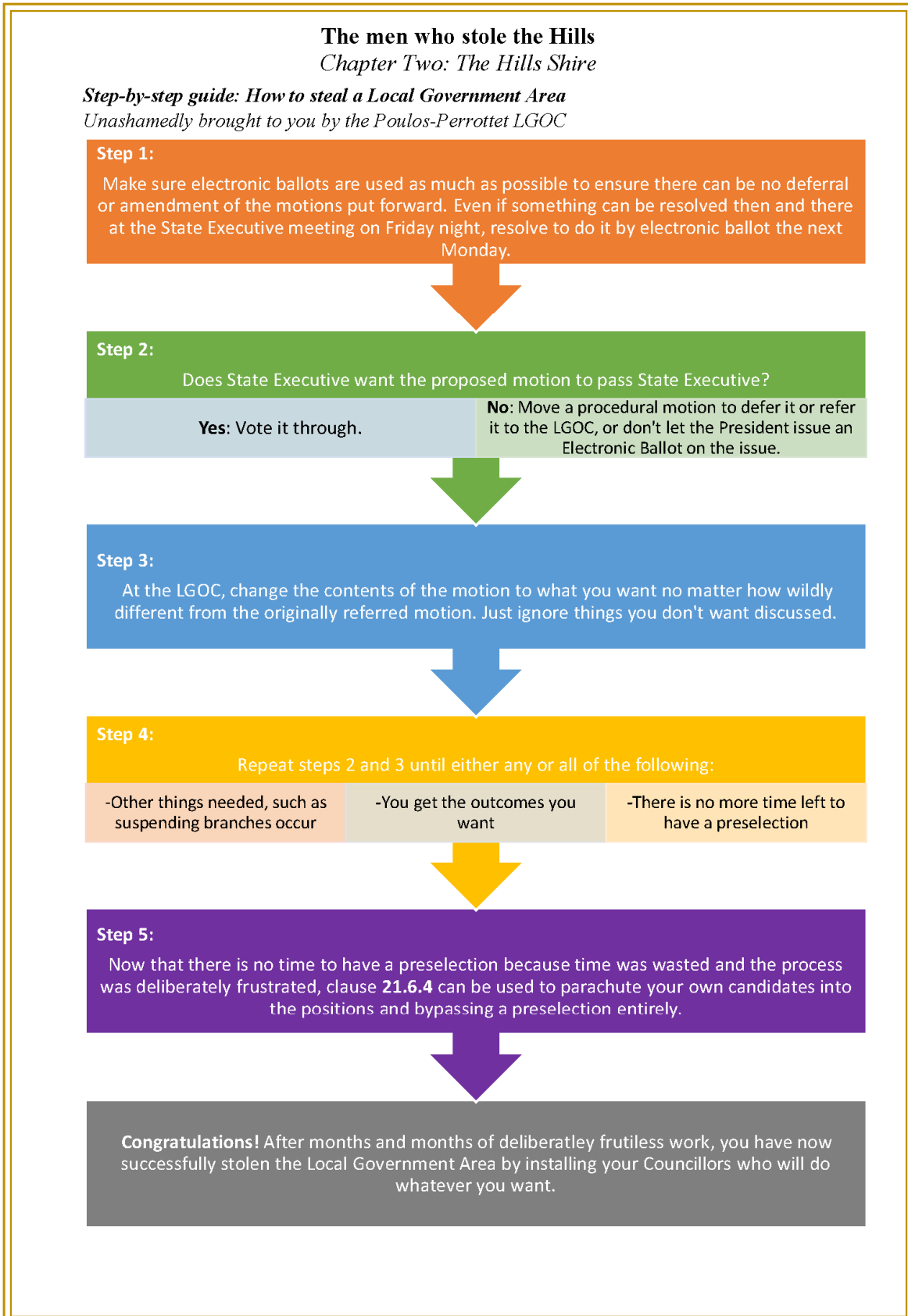
Having achieved the requisite control of the State Executive and LGOC, a process was devised amongst the unity State Executive on how they would control the Local Government outcomes they wanted.

Against the advice of the Liberal Party State Director and against convention, the LGOC decided to determine which areas would run Liberals and the order of preselection's by groups which were called 'Series'. A handful of LGAs would be recommended by the LGOC to the State Executive to approve at a time.

LGAs of Councillors or aspiring Councillors were deliberately left until after desired outcomes of the LGOC were achieved, thus allowing the LGOC Chair **Peter Poulos** and Deputy Chair **Charles Perrottet** to coerce and hold over those outcomes over those State Executive members.

An unprecedented 7 series were put forward by the LGOC. In contrast, Federal and State preselection's are typically done in 3 to 4 groups.

Whilst the State Executive could have at any time resolved differently, **Chris Rath** and **Christian Ellis** on State Executive would ensure that the Moderate and Right wing State Executive members would not go out of line. This led to growing frustration by numerous members of the State Executive who could see that the processes was being subverted, but factional and political, at times threatening or coercive, pressure was applied to members to keep them in line.



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

In a matter that was heard by the Supreme Court of NSW (Case No.: 2021/00194083) relating to the installation of candidates to contest the Local Government elections as Liberal Party candidates, an affidavit was supplied to the court that outlines how this parachuting process was openly and blatantly promoted by **Charles Perrottet**.

In the affidavit, a conversation is recounted by between the then incumbent Councillor and **Charles Perrottet** in which **Charles Perrottet** states that that the Councillors will be endorsed using the urgency clause if he is not aligned with **Charles Perrottet**.

Evidence: An affidavit in the Supreme Court of NSW outlining a conversation which shows this process being used by Charles Perrottet.

Council. I said words to the effect in reply *'This whole issue has been frustrating, and I will only agree to giving one position subject to the Wentworthville YLs complaint being withdrawn officially and nominations being opened in Cumberland with a guarantee of my team remaining.* He said words to the effect that 'I'm sure we can do this, and I'll have **Charles Perrottet** our contact you.'

32 **On Saturday 3 July 2021 at about 4pm I was telephoned by the named Far Right faction influential member Mr Charles Perrottet also the Deputy Chair of the LGOC and a close factional colleague of Mr M Camenzuli who said to me words to the effect:**

*'The moderates do not want you on council and the intention is not to have endorsed Liberals on Cumberland City Council. I will try very hard to convince the moderates to first open nominations for Cumberland and then try and convince them to endorse you for the Council. There is no way we will endorse anyone who is aligned to the Centre Right which includes one of your colleagues on Cumberland. **The next meeting of the LGOC will be 12 July 2021 and I will then tell the team you are one of us and we should have you with us. You will then be endorsed with others using the urgency powers and the LGOC.*** I said in reply in words to the following effect: *'If you are serious about this, I will allow one position to the Far Right so long as the preselection process is guaranteed in writing with my whole team, and you withdraw the Wentworthville YLs complaint.'* I have since received no response.

Rigging, and when that didn't work, stealing

In order for the Right to have won a preselection they needed three things to occur prior to a selection occurring:

1. Moving favourable Right wing branches into the Hills LGC
2. Suspending or dissolving the Centre Right controlled Baulkham Hills Branch
3. Having State Executive pick a date for the selection that would allow the greatest number of Right wingers and fewest Centre Righters to vote in the selection (based on the 2-year membership rule).

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

Each task was a monumental endeavour in and of itself, the completion of all three would require months and months of effort and a workload that would require almost a full-time job.

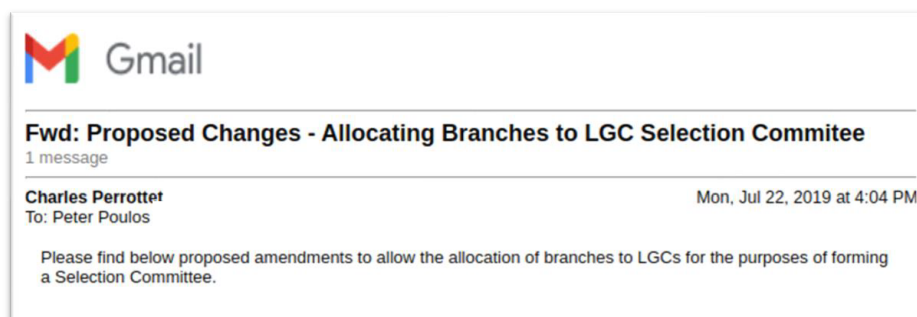
If a cost benefit analysis were conducted that weighed up the effort and time used to achieve these outcomes, it would show that only a demonstrably significant benefit could make all this worthwhile.

It was only upon the completion of these tasks that the LGOC would give the go ahead for Liberal Party to consider nominations for the Hills Shire council.

Moving Branches

The plan to move the favourable Branches into the Hills Shire LGC began years before the election took place. The initial problem faced was that **there was no mechanism in the Constitution for the State Executive to move individual branches outside of a redistribution.**

An email sent from the personal Gmail account of **Charles Perrottet** to the private Gmail account of **Peter Poulos** on 22 July 2019 (prior to either being elected to the LGOC) shows the wording for two proposed changes to the Constitution to permit the moving of Branches to different LGCs. An attachment included in the email shows that there was a drafted Clause that would permit a branch to move ONLY if approved by the LGOC which they would subsequently ensure their election to the AGM later in the year.



7.4.2.2 Transfer between LGC

(1) A Local Branch may only transfer from one LGC to another, after resolution of the Local Government Oversight Committee, then approved by motion, carried by simple majority, of the State Executive.

The Moderates involved in these discussions were **Matt Kean**, Trent Zimmerman and **Chris Rath**. The Moderates were amenable to these the changes to allow these powers to be created for the LGOC and the State Executive but requested two changes:

1. State Executive requires 60% to move a Branch into an LGC; and
2. The ability for the State Executive to move a Branch into an LGC expires at the end of 2020.

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Two: The Hills Shire

An additional change put forward by **Charles Perrottet** shows his intention to change the Constitution to remove the mandatory requirement to hold preselection's where nominations were received. When viewed in conjunction with his other proposed changes the reasons for this become clear.

Another change was to allow the State Executive to bypass preselection's for Federal, State and Local office if there was no 'functional' (an undefined term with very broad discretionary scope) conference **OR** if the State Executive never formed a preselection committee (which his previous change would permit them not to).

An email from sent from the personal email address of **Chris Rath** to **Charles Perrottet** and **Dallas McInerney** on 22 July 2019 shows **Chris Rath** giving the Moderates tick of approval for all of these changes.

Re: Proposed changes - Non Functioning LGCs
2 messages

Chris Rath Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 6:56 PM
To: Charles Perrottet Dallas J McInerney

Looks good.

I don't have an editable version of the constitution on me.

Can you amend to include:

If in any Federal electorate, State electorate, or Local Government Area, **before 31 December 2020:**

(2) State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's Candidate **by motion passed by a majority of not less than 60% of the members of State Executive present and voting**, but State Executive must:

From: Charles Perrottet
Sent: 22 July 2019 11:15
To: chris rath Dallas J McInerney
Subject: Proposed changes - Non Functioning LGCs

Hi Chris,

Proposing that the below will resolve issues for Non-Functioning LGCs...can you please confirm with your people that this is suitable and include the sunset clause Trent proposed?

Proposed changes (Red = Remove, Blue = Add)

26.1.1 Formation If more than one person nominates for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in local government, a Selection Committee **must** be formed to select the Liberal candidate.

21.6.1 Local Bodies not functioning

If in any Federal electorate, **or** State electorate, or Local Government Area:

- (1) there is no functioning FEC, FEB, SEC **or**, SEB, or LGC (as the case may be); or
- (2) **all the Branches that are allocated to the FEC or SEC fail, or the FEB or SEB fails, to elect members of a Selection Committee within a reasonable time after request by State Executive.**
- (2) no Selection Committee has been formed

State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate, but State Executive must:

- (3) confer with the Committee or the members of the FEC, SEC, or LGC (if any), or the Committee of the FEB or SEB (if any); and

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In the second half of 2020, Charles Perrottet began informally lobbying members of State Executive to move branches that were not aligned with the Right out of the Hills Shire LGC and move branches that were aligned with the right into the Hills Shire LGC.

The branches that were going to be moved against their will protested to Party President Philip Ruddock. Subsequently, a view formed amongst Party HQ and the Party President that despite the Constitution not stating so, a branch could not be moved in or out of an LGC against its wishes. In an attempt to nullify this view, a teleconference call was conducted in which **Charles Perrottet and Matt Kean** were going to convince Philip Ruddock to abandon this view.

They were unsuccessful in doing so. It is important to note that no such criteria were imposed for the outgoing or incoming LGCs to also agree.

This was an unexpected setback for **Charles Perrottet** and **Peter Poulos**. Despite this they persisted with their intention to move branches that the Right controlled into the Hills Shire LGC. In the months of September 2020 and October 2020 three branches controlled by the Right moved motions expressing their desire to transfer into the Hills Shire LGC, these being Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Cherrybrook Branch.

Despite the suburb of Cherrybrook being in the Hornsby Shire LGA, to justify a connection to the Hills Shire LGC, the branch moved a motion to officially rename itself to 'Round Corner', a geographic feature that was within the Hills Shire LGC.

The Hills Shire LGC officially objected to this move and passed resolutions as such.



1. Glenorie Branch
2. West Pennant Hills Branch
3. Round Corner Branch
(formerly Cherrybrook Branch)



On 20 November 2020 **Philip Ruddock** issued an Electronic Ballot to transfer those 3 branches to the Hills Shire LGC. The ballot subsequently passed and after more than 16 months of work, the branches were moved.

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Suspension of Baulkham Hills Branch

The Baulkham Hills Branch is in the Hills Shire LGC and has been aligned to the Centre Right. There was an attempt made to take the Branch over by the Right, but this was subsequently challenged and competing paperwork was submitted.

The Right needed to suspend this branch in order to prevent the centre right members in the branch from being able to vote. The basis of the suspension would be the contradicting minutes and paperwork submitted to Liberal HQ as regards to which members were accepted into the branch and could participate in the pre-selection.

A large number, if not all of these members were the friends and family of a local property developer.

It is important to note that the federal member, **Alex Hawke MP**, the state member, **David Elliott MP** and the local Mayor at the time, **Michelle Byrne** were all members of the branch.

A complaint was lodged to Liberal HQ by a branch member in regards to the contradicting minutes. This complaint was supposed to be the basis of the suspension for the branch. Unfortunately for the Right, the complainant withdrew his complaint as he felt that there were sinister ulterior motives for the basis of the complaint. Without a complaint there was no basis to suspend the branch, which would cause the Right to lose a preselection if it were permitted to vote.

Not deterred by this major setback, the Right faction, in what is a shocking move that could never stand up to scrutiny, lodged the complaint again but this time signed by two different members of the party: one was a lady who joined the party after the events took place and the other was a man who was on the State Executive that had not attended the meeting or was not even a member of the branch.

Liberal HQ received advice from junior barrister, Sam Duggan, that it would not be appropriate for the complainant to participate in the vote to suspend the branch. Had the complainant not been permitted to vote, then the vote to suspend the branch would not have passed.

Christian Ellis obtained and then provided to the State Executive, at either cost to him or paid for by someone else, advice from senior council Jeffrey Phillips SC which put forward the view that the complainant could indeed vote. As such, the complainant participated in the vote and was counted. The suspension passed by 1 vote.

A Vice-President of the Party requested a formal ruling from the party State Director on whether this was adherent to the Constitutional. Significant pressure was placed on the State Director to rule in favour of that 1 conflicted person.

The State Director officially declined to make a ruling and the branch was suspended, thereby making all members in the branch ineligible to participate in the preselection for the Hills Shire council.

Avoiding a preselection

Despite all the work having been done to try to rig the preselection in favour of the right, such as the inclusion of 3 right wing branches into the Hills Shire LGC and the suspension of 1

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Centre Right branch, the Right found themselves still not having the majority to win a preselection.

The LGOC and Right's strategy now became one to run the clock and waste time to avoid having a preselection. Unfortunately for them, on 25 July 2021 the then Minister for Local Government postponed the Local Government elections for a further 3 months. This postponement meant there was now sufficient time to have a preselection despite the time wasting by the LGOC and the Right.

Nonetheless, the LGOC persisted on its course to install candidates into the Hills Shire Council without a preselection.

In anticipation of a State Executive meeting being held on 27 August 2021, the LGOC met on 23 August 2021 and put to State Executive a recommendation to contest the Hills Shire Council in accordance with clause 21.6.4 of the constitution- the urgency clause that would permit the parachuting of councillor candidates.

This report was prepared by **Peter Poulos** and only sent to the State Director on 25 August 2021. The report from Party President **Philip Ruddock** noted that this late sending not allowing time for the consideration of the report. The dates for State Executive meetings are published 12 months in advance and the LGOC had the schedule. This meant that the LGOC report was not considered by the State Executive at their August 2021 meeting.

At the next State Executive meeting on 24 September 2021 the State Director recommended to have a preselection committee for the Hills Shire to be held between 4 October 2021 and 18 October 2021. The Reformers and the Right not wanting to have a preselection ignored the recommendation of the State Director and instead, once again, asked the LGOC to provide their recommendations.

However, the State Executive was already aware that the report from the LGOC on 25 August 2021 signed and prepared by **Peter Poulos** outright stated that the LGOC recommend use to clause **21.6.4**. The deferral to LGOC was just another way to run the clock to ensure there was no pre-selection in the Hills Shire LGA.

Finally, on 27 September 2021, the LGOC met and produced a list of people who were to be installed as candidates using urgency clause for the Hills Shire Council. There was no expression of interest, no nomination process, no public advertisement of this processes in any way. It was never explained how the LGOC came up with this name or why these candidates should be installed. Almost all the candidates were not incumbents and a large number of them were friends and family of the Reformers. This report was signed off by **Charles Perrottet**.

In the same report, a list of names to install via urgency was produced for the **Bayside** Local Government Area. This is the area that **Peter Poulos** was secretary of and that his wife was a Councillor for. These names were once again achieved through a secret process.

Bizarrely, there was a list of names for candidates to install via urgency for the **Wagga Wagga** LGA which had been provided by **Matthew Mason-Cox**, once again, in a secret non advertised process. The most bizarre thing about the Wagga Wagga recommendations was that this was the first time over 18 months that there was the consideration of running Liberal Councillors in Wagga Wagga.

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Lastly there was a recommendation for the installation of candidates for the **Burwood LGA**, which saw the installation of a candidate who is aligned with and supported by **Chris Rath** to the #1 spot.

In an email sent by **Charles Perrottet** to the State Director and Party President, he shares the nomination forms of all the candidates with them via Dropbox. The Nomination form is a document that is over 30 pages when completed in its entirety, with copies of documents and a CV included. To have arranged the nomination forms of over 30 candidates would have taken weeks.

Due to reasons best described by him, **David Elliott** was successful in reaching an agreement with **Charles Perrottet** whereby two incumbent Hills Shire Councillors would be reinstated as Liberal Party candidates. But largely the **Poulos-Perrottet LGOC** ticket remained unchanged.

An Electronic Ballot was issued to State Executive on 15 October 2021 to install the candidates for **Hills Shire Council**. **Chris Rath, Aileen MacDonald** and **Mark Coure** all voted in favour of the parachuting of these candidates, despite concerns raised by others. The ballot was successful.

A number of incumbent Hills Shire Councillors, including the mayor, who were not returned applied for permission to run as an independent. The Right and the LGOC lobbied State Executive to block these candidates, as they did not want to reduce the chances of their now Liberal endorsed candidates being elected. Once again, **Chris Rath, Aileen MacDonald** and **Mark Coure** all voted against letting the incumbent Councillors run as independents.

Timeline for Selection of Liberal Candidates for the Hills Shire Council

2019 July 22

Charles Perrottet emails **Peter Poulos** his ideas to make changes to the Liberal party Constitution that would allow the moving of branches to different LGCs and the prevention of preselection's.

2019 July 22

Chris Rath on behalf of the Moderate faction gives the tick of approval to **Charles Perrottet's** proposals with some slight changes.

2019 July 23

Dallas McInerney submits a list proposed of Constitutional changes to the Party Affairs Committee of State Executive which include the changes designed by **Charles Perrottet**.

2019 November 9

The Liberal Party 2019 AGM occurs and the proposed constitutional reforms are adopted, including **Charles Perrottet's** ideas.

2019 November 28

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The results of the 2019 AGM are finalised. **Chris Rath** and **Christian Ellis** is elected to State Executive, and **Peter Poulos**, **Charles Perrottet** and **Dallas McInerney** are elected to LGOC.

2020 March 25

The Minister for Local Government postpones the 2020 Local Government Elections for 12 months.

2020 May 1

State Executive officially abandons the started Local Government process and the whole-of-state report.

2020 November 12

The LGOC meets and approves the transfer of 3 right wing branches into the **Hills Shire LGC** despite objection from the Hills Shire LGC.

2021 March 26

An Electronic Ballot is issued to commence proceedings to suspend the **Baulkham Hills Branch**. The ballot passes.

2021 April 23

State Executive meets and considers the suspension of the **Baulkham Hills Branch**

2020 March 14

LGOC meets and puts forward a whole-of-state package to contest and seek nominations for LGAs including **the Hills Shire**.

2020 March 27

State Executive resolves to table the whole-of-state LGOC package and seek advice on what to do with the Local Government selection process in light of the postponement.

2020 September – October

3 of Right wing branches ask to be transferred into the **Hills Shire LGC**.

2020 November 20

An Electronic Ballot is sent to State Executive to approve the transfer of those 3 Right wing branches into the **Hills Shire LGC**. The ballot passes.

2021 April 16

The LGOC meets to propose series 5 for LGAs to contest, which includes the **Hills Shire**. This report has dates for when the preselection must occur and notes that selections must take place prior to 30 June 2021.

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and the LGOC report. Issues are raised as to legality with the suspension and the issue is differed pending legal advice. The LGOC report is also delayed until Baulkham Hills Branch is suspended.

2021 June 1

Chris Ellis obtains his own legal advice that the complainant can vote and provides it to the state executive. The complainant votes on the ballot. The ballot passes.

2021 June 4

The State Director officially notifies the State Executive that he refuses to make a ruling as to the complaint. The branch is deemed suspended.

2021 July 25

The Minister for Local Government postpones Local Government elections for 3 months.

2021 August 27

The State Executive meets. **Philip Ruddock** states that there has not been time to consider the LGOC report and it will be considered at the next meeting.

2021 May 31

An Electronic Ballot is issued to suspend **Baulkham Hills Branch**. Legal advice was obtained and attached to the ballot that the complainant, who is on State Executive, could not vote.

2021 June 1

A Vice President lodges a complaint and requests a ruling on whether the complainant was permitted to vote, given that the suspensions only passed with his vote.

2021 June 28

A Member of the State Executive commences legal proceedings on the question as to whether State Executive could use urgency clause 21.6.4 in certain circumstances.

2021 August 25

The **LGOC** meets recommends to use urgency clause to parachute candidates into the **Hills Shire**.

2021 September 24

The State Executive meets. The State Director proposes dates to have a preselection in the Hills Shire. The State

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2021 September 27

The LGOC meets and composes a list of candidates who are to be installed into the Hills Shire Council by urgency. This process was a secret process that was not advertised.

Executive declines this and asks the LGOC for its report again.

2021 October 15

An Electronic Ballot is issued to install candidates into the Hills Shire Council via urgency. The list is largely that of the LGOC with only 2 names changed. The ballot passes.

2021 October 29

An Electronic Ballot is issued where a number of incumbent Hills Shire Councillors have asked for permission to run as independents. The ballot fails.

2021 November 1

Another Electronic Ballot is issued where more incumbent Hills Shire Councillors have asked for permission to run as independents. The ballot fails.

2021 December 4

The Local Government Elections take place.

Conflicts of interest by Members of the Legislative Council

Several Liberal Members of the Legislative Council have a conflict of interest in regards to matters relating to the installation of Liberal Councillors in the Hills Shire Council.

Of the 11 current Liberal MLC's, 7 have a conflict of interest with 3 of those having a significant conflict. It is concerning that 2 of the 3 MLCs who have a significant conflict of interest have been placed onto this inquiry.



Chris RATH
SIGNIFICANT CONFLICT



Aileen MacDONALD
SIGNIFICANT CONFLICT

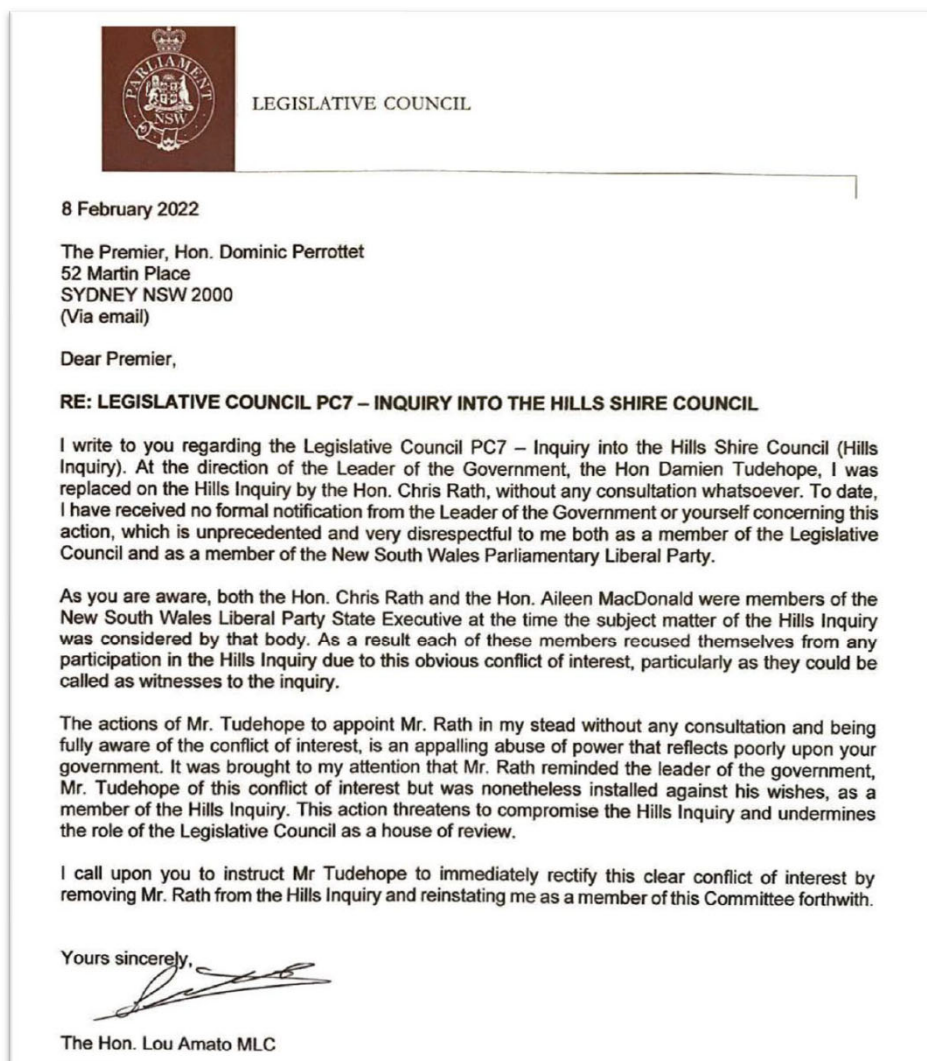
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Lou Amato was previously on this inquiry substituting for **Shayne Mallard**. It is important to note that both did not have a conflict of interest in regards to his matter. It is interesting to note that both will not be returning to the Legislative Council after the Liberal Party's State Executive voted to parachute alternative candidates to replace them keeping Chris Rath and Peter Poulos, both of whom have a significant conflict.

This replacement was supported and endorsed by Damien Tudehope and Dominic Perrottet, both of whom are senior leaders of the NSW Reformers. This issue was covered widely by the mainstream media.

Lou Amato sent a formal letter to the Premier **Dominic Perrottet** where he noted that he was replaced by **Chris Rath**, who has a significant conflict, at the direction **Damien Tudehope**, who has a conflict.

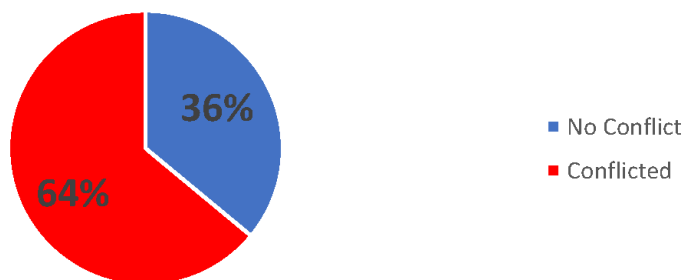


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Member	Conflict of Interest	Conflict
Lou AMATO	No	
Scott FARLOW	Yes	Scott’s wife, _____, was a member of the State Executive of the NSW Liberal Party and voted in matters related to the Hills.
Aileen MacDONALD	Significant	Aileen was a member of State Executive of the NSW Liberal Party and voted in favourable on matters related to the Hills.
Natasha MACLAREN-JONES	Yes	Natasha’s husband, _____, was a member of the State Executive of the NSW Liberal Party and voted in matters related to the Hills.
Shayne MALLARD	No	
Taylor MARTIN	No	
Matthew MASON-COX	Yes	Matthew provided a letter with names of people that he wanted installed in the Wagga Wagga Council during the same secret process that determined most of the candidates that were installed in the Hills, which he was somehow aware of.
Peter POULOS	Significant	Peter was the chair of the Liberal Party’s Local Government Oversight Committee, the body that created and implemented the secret process that determined most of the candidates that were installed in the Hills. He chaired the meeting that determined those candidates.
Chris RATH	Significant	Chris was a member of State Executive of the NSW Liberal Party and voted in favourable on matters related to the Hills.
Damien TUDEHOPE	Yes	Damien is a key leader of the NSW Reformers who were the driving force behind the installation of Liberal Councillors into the Hills Shire.
Natalie WARD	No	

Liberal MLCs who have a conflict



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Questions that should be looked in

Question 1

Why was the family of a developer recruited by the Right to join the Baulkham Hills Branch?

Was there any specific purpose for this?

Why in a different faction's branch? Why not in their own branch?

Question 2

Did Chris Rath and the other Moderates know what the intention of the Right and Charles Perrottet was when they agreed to the Constitutional reforms proposed by Charles?

Did they intend for any other branches to be moved for themselves?

Were they happy for the Right to move their branches in?

Question 3

Did Chris Rath know that the Right intended to install candidates for any specific reason?

Why did he support them so much?

Is it true they could not have achieved this without Chris' help on State Executive?

What did he get in return?

Question 4

Did Christian Ellis pay for the SC advice he obtained regarding Baulkham Hills branch or did someone else pay for it?

Does he still have the invoice?

How did he find this SC? Was he referred to this SC by anyone?

Question 5

How did the LGOC come up with the names of candidates to parachute for Hills Shire and Bayside?

Who was consulted? How did they know these people would accept?

Were any criteria used?

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Question 6

How was Matthew Mason-Cox made aware of the secret LGOC process?

Was he told by Peter Poulos? Why weren't any other MPs told? When was he told?

Question 7

How many other people did Charles Perrottet try to do deals with to get them onto councils via urgency?

What was the deal? How did he select his councillors?

Question 8

How was all of this multi-year effort worth it for Local Government representation?

How much time and money were spent on this effort? What was the return?

Why not accept a regular preselection and move on?

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EVIDENCE & APPENDICES

Note: Sensitive information that could be used to identify sources, such as names and email addresses, have been redacted to protect the identities of unrelated third-parties.

Relevant sections of content have been highlighted for convenience. Where more than one colour has been used, the colour code would be in the relevant part of this document.



Fwd: Proposed Changes - Allocating Branches to LGC Selection Committee

1 message

Charles Perrotte
To: Peter Poulos

Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 4:04 PM

Please find below proposed amendments to allow the allocation of branches to LGCs for the purposes of forming a Selection Committee.

Two amendments:

1. Add blue:

7.4 ALLOCATION OF LOCAL BRANCHES TO CONFERENCES

7.4.1 Basis Upon Which State Executive is to Allocate a Branch to Conferences Upon the formation of an Ordinary Branch, Young Liberal Branch or Women's Branch, by motion, or following a redistribution, State Executive must allocate each Ordinary Branch, Young Liberal Branch or Women's Branch to an FEC, SEC and LGC as follows:

2. Insert: 7.4.2 Transfer to Another Conference - attached.

 **7.4.2 amendments.pdf**
32K

**7.4.2 Transfer to
Another
Conference**

7.4.2.1 Transfer between FEC or SEC

(1) A Local Branch may carry a motion to transfer from one FEC ~~or~~ SEC ~~or~~ LGC to another.

(2) A Local Branch may only transfer from one FEC ~~or~~ SEC ~~or~~ LGC to another after a motion to that effect is also carried by State Council and the FEC ~~or~~ SEC ~~or~~ LGC to which the Branch wishes to transfer.

7.4.2.2 Transfer between LGC

(1) A Local Branch may only transfer from one LGC to another, after resolution of the Local Government Oversight Committee, then approved by motion, carried by simple majority, of the State Executive.



Re: Proposed changes - Non Functioning LGCs

2 messages

Chris Rath
To: Charles Perrottet, Dallas J McInerney
Mon, Jul 22, 2019 at 6:56 PM

Looks good.

I don't have an editable version of the constitution on me.

Can you amend to include:

If in any Federal electorate, State electorate, or Local Government Area, **before 31 December 2020:**

(2) State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's Candidate **by motion passed by a majority of not less than**

60% of the members of State Executive present and voting, but State Executive must:

From: Charles Perrottet
Sent: 22 July 2019 11:15
To: chris rath, Dallas J McInerney
Subject: Proposed changes - Non Functioning LGCs

Hi Chris,

Proposing that the below will resolve issues for Non-Functioning LGCs...can you please confirm with your people that this is suitable and include the sunset clause Trent proposed?

Proposed changes (Red = Remove, Blue = Add)

26.1.1 Formation If more than one person nominates for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in local government, a Selection Committee ~~must~~ **may** be formed to select the Liberal candidate.

21.6.1 Local Bodies not functioning

If in any Federal ~~electorate~~, ~~or~~ State electorate, ~~or~~ Local Government Area:

- (1) there is no ~~functioning~~ FEC, FEB, SEC ~~or~~, SEB, or LGC (as the case may be); or
- (2) ~~all the Branches that are allocated to the FEC or SEC fail, or the FEB or SEB fails, to elect members of a Selection Committee within a reasonable time after request by State Executive;~~
- (2) **no Selection Committee has been formed**

State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate, but State Executive must:

- (3) confer with the Committee or the members of the FEC, SEC, ~~or~~ LGC (if any), or the Committee of the FEB or SEB (if any); and
- (4) in selecting the candidate, must as far as practicable comply with the Selection Committee rules and procedures in **Appendix F**.



Fwd: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 4:30pm, Tuesday, 23 July 2019

1 message

Charles Perrottet
To: Peter Poulos

Tue, Jul 23, 2019 at 12:41 PM

FYI - principles attached.

We need to now draft these and give to Simon McInnes to send to CSC once we get these passed tonight.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dallas J McInerney** <dallas_mcinerney@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jul 23, 2019 at 12:26 PM

Subject: Re: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 4:30pm, Tuesday, 23 July 2019

To: Simon McInnes

james r.m. wallace

, chris-rath

simonfontana7

Melissa McIntosh

au>

Philip Ruddock

Thanks Simon

To assist this afternoon's meeting, below is a list of issues with suggested remedies supported by myself and Patrick

Regards

Dallas

Unresolved constitutional changes

The following proposals should be considered by the Party Affairs Committee as a means to brokering a resolution to the outstanding and unresolved constitutional changes:

Issue	Comments	Clause references
Legislative Council and Senate	The constitution provides that selection committee meetings will be held for "winnable positions" in full or half Senate elections. However, there is no mechanism to determine what a 'winnable' position is. The State Executive should determine the number of winnable positions at the time of setting the selection timetable, based on the recommendation of the state director. Candidates for non-winnable positions will be determined by the State Executive (not by State Council). The same position should apply for the legislative council elections.	3.8.1 (Appendix F)
Suspended members	Clarify that members who are suspended for longer than 6 months will no longer hold any office bearer position or voting rights.	3.10.4
Young Liberal female vice president	No change required since the position already exists- one of the two urban vice presidents must be a woman.	15.6.1 (Row F)
SEBs	All references to SEBs should be removed from the constitution. An SEB should function as both a separate branch and a separate SEC and be hold such entitlements.	8.2 and throughout the constitution
Exhaustive balloting	Compulsory preferential voting should be used for selection meetings for the Legislative Assembly, House of Representatives and each position in a Local Government selection.	N/A

Local conferences not functioning	If in any Federal electorate, State electorate, or Local Government Area, before 31 December 2020, there is not a functioning FEC/SEC/LGC and no selection committee has been formed then State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's Candidate by motion passed by a majority of not less than 60% of the members of State Executive present and voting and follow Appendix F as far as practicable.	21.6.1
Transfer to another conference	A Local Branch may only transfer from one LGC to another, after resolution of the Local Government Oversight Committee, then approved by motion, carried by a simple majority, of the State Executive.	7.4.2
Allocation of local branches to conferences	State executive "by motion" can allocate local branches to conferences, not only as part of a redistribution. Previously this would have been done by special powers and is impractical for the constitution not to include this flexibility.	7.4.1
Two years continuous membership	Two month grace period (i.e. 31 August) in which a member can renew their membership before their continuity of financial membership is interrupted.	
General Membership	Proposed amendments to be deferred.	

From: Simon McInnes

Sent: Tuesday, 23 July 2019 12:33 AM

To: james r.m. wallace

Melissa McIntosh

; chris-rath

; simonfontana7

Philip Ruddock

Subject: RE: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 4:30pm, Tuesday, 23 July 2019

Dear All,

This is just a quick email to confirm that the teleconference meeting of the Party Affairs Committee is on this afternoon, starting at 4:30pm.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- Welcome and apologies;
- Further discussion on the inconsistencies and potentially unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution be taken offline with the areas to be agreed upon being:
 - o What is the grace period in which a member can renew their membership before their continuity of financial membership is interrupted? Will it be July and August (which reflects the grace period in the Constitution before an office-bearer loses their position) or will be July, August, September and October (after which a member ceases to be a Local Branch Member); and
 - o Should periods of general membership count towards a members continuous financial membership and, if not, can members who become general members for a short period of time (for example, Young Liberal ageing out and temporarily becoming general members) be excluded from this exclusion?
- Other potential changes to the Constitution that still required discussion offline, being:
 - o For Senate and Legislative Council selections, should and how do State Executive determine what are winnable positions? It was suggested that winnable positions could be determined by State Executive on the written recommendation of the State Director, backed up by research. It was noted that if State Executive are to determine winnable positions then candidates for non-winnable positions would also be determined by State Executive. It was discussed that including all positions in a proportional representation system ballot lowers the quota.
 - o What the impact of suspending a member should be. That is, do they lose their office-bearer positions immediately or after, for example, one month? Should they also lose their 'voting rights' for a period of time or get them back immediately once the suspension has finished?

- o Does the Constitution need to be amended to exclude the concept of an SEB or should the entitlement to State Council Delegates for SEBs be amended so that they only get 1 delegate if they have less than 20 members but more than 10 members?
- o Does the Young Liberal Executive position of Female Vice-President need to be reinstated given that there currently is a requirement that one of the existing Vice-President positions must be a female?
- o A number of issues regarding local government selections:
 - § Should the Constitution be amended so that in the situation of State Executive deciding to contest a local government election in a local government area where there is no LGC, that State Executive be given the power to resolve that State Executive can move a motion to form a Selection Committee in these situations from members of branches within the local government area;
 - § The Regulations need to be amended to include how local government selections will take place and what balloting method should be used. Previously exhaustive balloting has been used with each position on each ticket being determined separately;
 - § It was suggested that State Executive only call for nominations for winnable positions in each ward (at the written recommendation of the State Director) with candidates for unwinnable positions on the ticket being determined by State Executive, in consultation with the lead candidate on each ticket; and
 - § Consideration be given, if each winnable position on the ticket entails a selection, that a compulsory preferential ballot be used rather than exhaustive balloting as this will save time at the Selection Committee meeting.

I had noted in my previous email that I would attempt to draft some of the other changes agreed upon by the Party Affairs Committee to discuss at this reconvened meeting. Unfortunately, I have not had this opportunity so these changes will be drafted with whatever outcomes there are from today's meeting.

Call in details are the same as previous, that is, the teleconference number is 02 9083-3131, the conference code is 1043101831, the conference PIN is 7703 and it is your responsibility to dial into the teleconference meeting.

Kind regards,
Simon

From: Simon McInnes
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 4:09 PM
To: 'James Wallace' ; chris-rath ; simonfontana7
 'Melissa McIntosh'
 Philip Ruddock'
Subject: RE: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 4:30pm, Tuesday, 15 July 2019

Dear All,

The State President has advised that he is unable to attend the reconvened meeting of the Party Affairs Committee planned for this Friday afternoon.

As such, I have rescheduled the meeting to 4:30pm on Tuesday, 23 July 2019.

Please let me know if this causes you any issues.

Kind regards,
Simon

From: Simon McInnes
Sent: Tuesday, 16 July 2019 11:53 AM
To: 'James Wallace' ; chris-rath ; simonfontana7
 'Melissa McIntosh'
 'Philip Ruddock'
Cc: Dorina Ilievska ; Chris Stone
Subject: RE: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 5:00pm, Monday 15 July 2019
Importance: High

Dear All,

My understanding of the outcome from last night's meeting of the Party Affairs Committee is as follows:

- The draft changes to the Constitution (as previously circulated) that reflect the changes adopted at previous Party Affairs Committee meetings are adopted with the following changes:
 - o Clause 9.4.1 revert to the earlier suggestion: "or such other date as State Executive may determine, which must be within 3 months of 30 November in each odd year";
 - o Clause 15.5.1 revert to the earlier suggestion: "or such other date as State Executive may determine, which must be within 3 months of 31 October in each odd year"; and
 - o Clause 16.6.1 revert to the earlier suggestion: "or such other date as State Executive may determine, which must be within 3 months of 31 October in each odd year".
- It was noted that the Party Affairs Committee is happy for Young Liberal Executive elections to be held every 2 years and that the draft changes circulated reflect this;
- That these draft changes now be put to State Executive by electronic ballot to consider and, if agreed, to then instruct the Constitution Standing Committee to draft (or in this case concur with) the changes for State Executive to consider prior to putting to members at the State Council meeting on 7 September 2019;
- That further discussion on the inconsistencies and potentially unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution be taken offline with the areas to be agreed upon being:
 - o What is the grace period in which a member can renew their membership before their continuity of financial membership is interrupted? Will it be July and August (which reflects the grace period in the Constitution before an office-bearer loses their position) or will be July, August, September and October (after which a member ceases to be a Local Branch Member); and
 - o Should periods of general membership count towards a members continuous financial membership and, if not, can members who become general members for a short period of time (for example, Young Liberal ageing out and temporarily becoming general members) be excluded from this exclusion?
- Other potential changes to the Constitution, raised in James Wallace's paper, that still require discussion offline, as follows:
 - o For Senate and Legislative Council selections, should and how do State Executive determine what are winnable positions? It was suggested that winnable positions could be determined by State Executive on the written recommendation of the State Director, backed up by research. It was noted that if State Executive are to determine winnable positions then candidates for non-winnable positions would also be determined by State Executive. It was discussed that including all positions in a proportional representation system ballot lowers the quota.
 - o What the impact of suspending a member should be. That is, do they lose their office-bearer positions immediately or after, for example, one month? Should they also lose their 'voting rights' for a period of time or get them back immediately once the suspension has finished?
 - o Does the Constitution need to be amended to exclude the concept of an SEB or should the entitlement to State Council Delegates for SEBs be amended so that they only get 1 delegate if they have less than 20 members but more than 10 members?
 - o Does the Young Liberal Executive position of Female Vice-President need to be reinstated given that there currently is a requirement that one of the existing Vice-President positions must be a female?
 - o A number of issues regarding local government selections:
 - § Should the Constitution be amended so that in the situation of State Executive deciding to contest a local government election in a local government area where there is no LGC, that State Executive be given the power to resolve that State Executive can move a motion to form a Selection Committee in these situations from members of branches within the local government area;
 - § The Regulations need to be amended to include how local government selections will take place and what balloting method should be used. Previously exhaustive balloting has been used with each position on each ticket being determined separately;
 - § It was suggested that State Executive only call for nominations for winnable positions in each ward (at the written recommendation of the State Director) with candidates for unwinnable positions on the ticket being determined by State Executive, in consultation with the lead candidate on each ticket; and

- § Consideration be given, if each winnable position on the ticket entails a selection, that a compulsory preferential ballot be used rather than exhaustive balloting as this will save time at the Selection Committee meeting.
- Potential changes to the Constitution that were raised in James Wallace's paper that were agreed upon and will require draft changes to the Constitution are as follows:
 - o Amend the definition of "Proscribed Organisation" to include 'active' membership of GetUp or other like organisations, with the State Director to prescribe what organisations this may include and what constitutes 'active' membership, details of which are to be published on the Division's website;
 - o Amend clause 9.1.3 of the Constitution to stipulate that where the State Director removes a State Council Delegate in accordance with this clause, that the State Director also be compelled to advise the delegate of their removal and also the President and Secretary of the relevant body;
 - o That clause 3.12 of the Regulations: Conduct of Selections be amended so that the definition of an absolute majority be a majority of votes cast and does not include abstentions, votes not cast or invalid votes;
 - o Eliminate the requirement in clause 2.3 of the Regulations: Conduct of Elections, that the Returning Officer select State Executive scrutineers to witness the drawing of scrutineers for State Council, Young Liberal Executive and Women's Council elections.
 - o Amend the Constitution and the Regulations: Conduct of Elections so that candidates for Vice-Presidential positions can appoint their own scrutineers should they so wish;
 - o Amend clause 15.6.1 of the Constitution, line 5, column B, with respect to Directors and Officers of Young Liberal Council, to read: "The first 3 elected candidates are to be Directors of Young Liberal Council" and "The next 3 elected candidates are to be Officers of Young Liberal Council"; and
 - o Amend the Constitution such that Conference meetings must be held at a location within the Conference or an adjoining Conference, as long as the venue is no more than 100 kilometres from the border of that Conference.
 - There was one other potential change to the Constitution that was raised in James Wallace's paper which the Party Affairs Committee did not believe required changes to the Constitution. That is, there is no need to clarify in the Constitution that where a State Executive member abstains from casting a vote in a ballot, they are not counted for the purpose of determining the total number of voters. It was noted that this a common meeting practice as well as being the practice adopted by the Division and, as such, it was not necessary to enshrine this in the Constitution.

It was also agreed that Party Affairs Committee members would discuss the offline matters noted above and agree a position before the Party Affairs Committee reconvenes at 5:00pm on Friday, 19 July 2019. In the meantime I will:

- Draft an electronic ballot to send to State Executive for the agreed changes; and
- Draft some initial changes to the Constitution that reflect the extra agreed changes noted above, for discussion on Friday's reconvened meeting.

I hope that I have correctly captured the outcomes from last night's meeting, however, if I have not, then please get back to me as soon as possible.

Kind regards,
Simon

From: Simon McInnes

Sent: Monday, 15 July 2019 2:26 PM

To: 'James Wallace'

chris-rath

simonfontana7

Melissa McIntosh
Greg Smith

; Philip Ruddock

Cc: Chris Stone

; Dorina Ilievska

Subject: RE: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 5:00pm, Monday 15 July 2019

Dear All,

Just a quick email to confirm that tonight's meeting of the Party Affairs Committee will be at 5:00pm and will be held by teleconference. Call in details are the same, that is, the teleconference number is 02 9083-

3131, the conference code is 1043101831, the conference PIN is 7703 and it is your responsibility to dial into the teleconference meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Welcome and apologies;
2. Draft changes to the Constitution (as previously circulated) that reflect the agreed changes adopted at the previous Party Affairs Committee meeting (refer email below). Once the Party Affairs Committee agrees that these draft changes reflect the agreed changes, then it is proposed that these draft changes be put to State Executive by electronic ballot. From there it needs to go to the Constitution Standing Committee to confirm that the draft changes to the Constitution reflect the agreed changes, after which it will come back to State Executive to resolve to then put it before State Council on 7 September;
3. Discussion on the inconsistencies and potentially unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution. Thank you to James for his note on this. If these are the principles we are trying to encapsulate then the changes to Constitution are reasonably simple;
4. Discussion on other "offline" items including Young Liberal Executive election frequency, conducting Selection Committee meetings where there is no LGC and having a semi-special powers clause in the regulations; and
5. Other areas of the Constitution that may require amending. Thank you again to James to his helpful note on this.

Kind regards,
Simon

From: James Wallace

Sent: Friday, 12 July 2019 10:59 AM

To: Philip Ruddock

Cc: Simon McInnes

Melissa McIntosh

Chris Stone

Greg Smith

; chris-rath

simonfontana7

Dorina Ilievska

Subject: Re: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 5:00pm, Tuesday 9 July 2019

Hi All

As discussed, I attach a note on the local component selection eligibility and additional changes to the constitution.

Chris - it would be helpful to understand if you think any of the proposed changes are already addressed by the constitution.

Regards

James

On Wed, Jul 10, 2019 at 7:41 PM Philip Ruddock

wrote:

Thanks Simon for the brief i am only Free Monday at 5pm by Tele-Conference. Regards Philip

Sent from my iPhone

Hon Philip Ruddock

On Jul 10, 2019, at 7:01 PM, Simon McInnes

wrote:

Dear All,

As discussed at last night's Party Affairs Committee meeting, please find attached the following documents:

- Extract from the Constitution showing marked up changes that reflect the following agreed changes:

- o AGMs for State Council, Women's Council and Young Liberal Executive be held biennially in each odd year, with the term of office to be until the next AGM (refer below with respect to Young Liberal Executive election frequency);
 - o State Council elections be held by 30 November in each odd year or at such other date as State Executive may determine, but only by motion of 90%;
 - o Women's Council and Young Liberal Executive elections be held by 31 October in each odd year or at such other date as State Executive may determine, but only by motion of 90%;
 - o For State Council elections only, nominations open date, nominations closing date, ballot opening date and ballot closing date be adjusted so that balloting can commence after the Presidential speeches at the AGM;
 - o For Women's Council and Young Liberal Executive elections, an extra week be built into the election timeframes to allow for the production and dispatch of ballot papers;
 - o Allow postal voting by delegates from branches from regional electorates, similar to that currently allowed for delegates from branches from country electorates;
 - o Change the notice provisions of Appendix 2 so that members of branches of conferences receive notice of the meeting of the conference as is currently allowed under local branch membership rights;
 - o Clarify that in the situation of branches entitlement for additional delegates decreasing that it is the last person elected that is removed;
 - o Including a mechanism for State Executive to allocate branches to LGCs when boundary changes or amalgamations occur;
 - o Clarifying that a Councillor, during a meeting to decide if an LGC is to be formed, forms part of the quorum for the meeting;
 - o Clarifying that the State Director or staff member nominee not only convenes the meeting to decide if an LGC is to be formed but that the State Director or staff member nominee also chairs the meeting. The same provision to apply for the inaugural meeting of the LGC;
 - o Adjust the Regulations: Conduct of Elections, to ensure that proper reference is allowed for elections of Liberal Local Government Assembly;
 - o For the sake of clarity, rename the 10 elected general members of Women's Council as the "At Large Members of the General Committee of Women's Council";
 - o In the Standing Orders, rename a "Point of Procedure" as a "Point of Order"; and
 - o Correct typographical errors in clauses 4.1.5, 8.3.1, 22.1.3(2)(b), Appendix b.3, Row 1, paragraph 5 and Appendix D4, Row 3, Column B.
- Legal advice from Michelle Harpur regarding the inconsistencies and potentially unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution.

It was agreed that discussion on a number of items would be taken offline, namely;

- Whether the Young Liberal Executive elections should be each odd year or should stay as yearly elections;
- Whether the Constitution needs adjusting to take into account situations where there is no LGC which, in its current form, means there can be no local government Selection Committee, that is, if there is no LGC, there can be no endorsed Liberal local government candidates;

- Whether the Regulations: Conduct of Elections, needs a semi-special powers clause that would allow State Executive to determine, by a majority of 90%, whether to override the provisions of the Regulation and allow another mechanism for conducting elections (e.g. electronic balloting);
- To discuss the inconsistencies and potentially unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution with a view to determining what are the principles that were trying to be encapsulated, using a series of examples to demonstrate who would be eligible to be a selector and who would not be eligible to be a selector; and
- Discussing other areas of the Constitution that require amending.

The Party Affairs Committee is to reconvene on the late afternoon either Monday, 15 July or Tuesday, 16 July 2019 with a view to resolving the above matters so that an electronic ballot can be issued to State Executive, so that State Executive can then issue appropriate instructions to the Constitution Standing Committee to draft the changes (or agree to those already proposed), so that State Executive can then adopt those changes at its next face-to-face meeting at the end of the month with a view to recommending the adoption of the changes at the State Council meeting of 7 September 2019, noting 3 weeks' notice of the changes needs to be given to State Council members.

Let me know if you think I have missed anything and please don't hesitate to call me if any of the above requires clarification.

Kind regards,

SIMON MCINNES

Deputy State Director

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From: Simon McInnes

Sent: Monday, 8 July 2019 2:54 PM

To: chris-rath
simonfontana7

>; james r.m. wallace
'Melissa McIntosh'

Cc: Chris Stone

Dorina Ilievska

Subject: RE: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting - 5:00pm, Tuesday 9 July 2019

Dear All,

In preparation for tomorrow night's teleconference meeting of the Party Affairs Committee, please find attached the following documents;

- Extract from the Constitution with marked up changes to reflect changes to the Constitution required to overcome conflicts and practical impediments as set out the report tabled at the State Executive meeting on 28 June 2019 including;

- o Holding on Young Liberal and Women's Council AGMs by 31 October in odd years;
- o Holding State Council AGM by 30 November in odd years;

- o Office-bearer terms being until the next AGM;
 - o State Council nominations opening and closing earlier and balloting commencing at the AGM;
 - o Adjusted timeframes for Young Liberal and Women's Council elections to allow for preparation of ballot papers between nominations closing and balloting commencing; and
 - o Allowing members from branches within Regional Electorates to not have to vote in person (like members from branches within Country Electorates).
- A list of other "non-controversial" issues within the Constitution that require clarification and/or guidance.
 - For ease of reference, another copy of the papers tabled at the State Executive meeting with respect to;
 - o Holding of AGMs/internal elections and inconsistencies; and
 - o Unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria.

Please note that the list of other "non-controversial" issues in the Constitution is not all encompassing. There are quite a few other matters, which we think may be controversial, which we will raise at future meetings of the Party Affairs Committee to seek guidance on.

The teleconference number is 02 9083-3131, conference code 1043101831, conference PIN 7703. It is your responsibility to dial into the teleconference meeting.

Kind regards,

SIMON MCINNES

Deputy State Director

www.nsw.liberal.org.au

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NSW DIVISION

NSW
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From: Simon McInnes

Sent: Tuesday, 2 July 2019 4:42 PM

To: chris-rath
simonfontana7

james r.m. wallace
; 'Melissa McIntosh'

Cc:

Chris Stone

Dorina

Ilievska

Subject: Notice of Party Affairs Committee Meeting

Importance: High

Dear All,

The State President has called a meeting of the Party Affairs Committee, to be held by teleconference, for 5:00pm on Tuesday, 9 July 2019.

As discussed at last Friday's State Executive meeting, the meeting is to discuss:

- Changes to the Constitution to enable Young Liberal Executive, Women's Council and State Council elections this calendar year;
- Other, non-controversial changes required to the Constitution; and
- Inconsistencies and unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution.

For your convenience, a copy of the paper tabled at last Friday's State Executive meeting regarding proposed constitutional changes to enable Young Liberal Executive, Women's Council and State Council elections to be held this calendar year along with the paper on the inconsistencies and unintended construction errors within the new preselection eligibility criteria in the Constitution, are attached for your reference.

Further papers and teleconference call in details will be sent out in the ensuing days.

Kind regards,

SIMON MCINNES

Deputy State Director

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<http://www.mailguard.com.au/mg>

<Extract from NSW Constitution adopted 10 February 2018 (v1.4 - Nov 2018) - with draft amendments.pdf>

<Legal Advice - Inconsistencies & Construction Errors in Preselection Eligibility Criteria.pdf>

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image001.jpg
40K

State Council Election Results and Women's Council Election Results

6 messages

Chris Stone

Thu, Nov 28, 2019 at 11:22 AM

To: [REDACTED]

No images? [click here](#)

Dear Liberal Party Member,

The results of the recently concluded 2019 State Council elections and 2019 Women's Council elections are as follows:

STATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS**President:**

- Hon Philip Ruddock

Urban Vice-Presidents:

- Penny George
- Christopher Rath

Country and Regional Vice-Presidents:

- Tobias Lehmann
- Aileen MacDonald

Urban Representatives:

- James Wallace
- Matthew Camenzuli
- Matthew Hana
- Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond
- Martin Zaiter
- Sally Betts
- Zac Miles
- Michelle Byrne
- Christian Ellis
- Jacqui Munro

Country and Regional Representative:

- Michelle Bishop
- Damien Jones
- Patrick Doherty
- Mark Croxford
- Anna Chandler
- Jemma Tribe

Chair of Convention Committee:

- Alexander Dore

Convention Committee:

- Samuel Uno
- Robert Assaf
- Mark Rusev
- Kellie Sloan
- Pallavi Sinha
- James Hannah
- Dylan Whitelaw

Delegates to Federal Council:

- Ned Mannoun
- Dallas McInerney
- Tobias Lehmann
- Penny George
- Caity McLoughlin
- Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond
- Naji Najjar
- Dimitry Palmer
- Michael Stublely
- Jacqui Munro

Joint Standing Committee on State Policy:

- Julia Prieston
- Kevin Baker
- David Hull
- Jessie Nguyen
- Robert Assaf
- Leo Wei

Constitution Standing Committee:

- Tobias Lehmann
- Bran Black
- Wade McInerney
- Martin Zaiter
- Rory Amon
- Matthew Hana
- Edwin Nelson

Rural and Regional Committee:

- Mitchell Nadin
- Luke Sikora

- Blake Keating
- Michael Banasik
- Zac Baylis
- Alan Akhurst
- Troy Wilkie

Local Government Oversight Committee:

- Peter Poulos
- Jeff Egan
- Charles Perrottet
- Harold Stutchbury
- Karen Howard
- Dallas McInerney
- Aaron Henry

WOMEN'S COUNCIL ELECTIONS

President:

- Mary-Lou Jarvis

Urban Vice-President:

- Cristina Talacko
- Jacqui Munro

Country Vice-President:

- Amy Lehmann
- Margo Johnstone

Secretary:

- Melanie Brown

Treasurer:

- Shayne Miller

Membership Secretary:

- Natarsha Terreiro

At Large General Committee Members:

- Laura Boomsma
- Sharon Ani-Watts
- Joanne Bromilow
- Brigid Meney
- Sophie Winton
- Amanda Choularton
- Adelaide Cuneo
- Belinda Russell
- Julia Prieston

- Christine Kay

I congratulate all those who have been elected to positions, and sincerely thank those who were not successful, for being part of this most important process.

Yours sincerely

Chris Stone
State Director

Authorised by Chris Stone, Liberal Party of Australia NSW Division.
Level 12, 100 William Street, East Sydney NSW 2011.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The State Director advised the Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) on Monday 2 March 2020 that the State Executive resolved:

“to defer discussion on the 3 draft motions and that these 3 draft motions be referred to the Local Government Oversight Committee for consideration at their 4 March 2020 meeting and for the Local Government Oversight Committee to report back to State Executive on their recommendation regarding these 3 draft motions no later than 1 week before the next State Executive on 27 March 2020.”

The LGOC met on Wednesday 4 March 2020 to explore the next series of preselection options and resolved to defer these matters for further consideration.

Following this, the Local Government Oversight Committee met again on Thursday 12 March 2020 and proposed a selection timetable for Series 2 and 3.

It also determined a sensible pathway towards comprehensively addressing opportunities in other council areas not identified by the aforementioned motions.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendations from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020.

Each recommendation reflects the issues raised for consideration by the State Executive on Friday 28 February 2020.

Recommendations to form Local Government Conferences:

- 1. The Local Government Oversight Committee recommends immediate approval for the formation of the Shoalhaven LGC and the Coffs Harbour LGC.**
- 2. The Local Government Oversight Committee continues to consult and carefully assess matters in relation to the Burwood, Hunters Hill and Strathfield applications pursuant to clauses 8.3.1(3) and 14.3.4.**

Recommendation to Run Endorsed Liberal Candidates (Series 2):

State Executive open Series 2 nominations for the following Council areas:

Armidale Regional Council, Blue Mountains, Coffs Harbour, Liverpool, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Shoalhaven, Sutherland, Sydney (Lord Mayoralty) and Wollongong.

Nominations for Series 2 Council Areas open at 9am on Wednesday 25 March 2020 and close at 5pm on Wednesday 15 April 2020.

Recommendations to Run Endorsed Liberal Candidates (Series 3):

State Executive open Series 3 nominations for the following Council areas:

Bayside, Burwood, Fairfield, Georges River, Hornsby Shire, Hunters Hill, Inner West, City of Parramatta, Penrith, Strathfield City and The Hills Shire.

Nominations for Series 3 Council Areas open at 9am on Friday 15 May 2020 and close at 5pm on Friday 29 May 2020.

Any outstanding deemed unwinnable positions from the previous Series 1 and 2 to be completed during this period.

NB: That the nominations for Cumberland LGC and Blacktown LGC be deferred for further consultation and assessment by the Local Government Oversight Committee.

[The Chair recused himself during the consideration of Series 3 Council areas]

Criteria for referring Council areas into Series 3

- Branches have outstanding disputes yet to be finalised;
- Some LGAs are in strong Liberal areas which require less time to field candidates compared to others;
- Key stakeholders have requested their LGCs hold selection meetings at a later date;
- Branches are in the process of being established or shifted between LGCs;
- LGCs have a history of simmering internal tensions or LGCs are suspended;
- LGCs do not exist and might be established;
- A number of LGAs should be encouraged to provide for Liberal representation as this opportunity cannot be realised at a State/Federal level;
- Endorsed Liberal Councillors have already served a term in Local Government without a functioning LGC in place;
- Concern that some LGAs will not pursue the 40% female target;
- Reputational risk to the Division as some tickets consist of potential candidates who have strong links to the property development sector;
- Potential legislative or internal constitutional changes designed to prohibit property developers might occur.

Recommendation to Determine Winnable Positions (Series 2):

With respect to the Local Government Election being held on 12 September 2020, the number of winnable positions by Local Government Council Area for Series 2 Pre-selections shall be determined as follows:

COUNCIL	TOTAL POSITIONS	WINNABLE POSITIONS
Armidale	11	1
Blue Mountains	12	3
Coffs Harbour	8	1
Liverpool	10 plus Mayor	4 and contest Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang	11	1
Shoalhaven	12 plus Mayor	3 and contest Mayor
Sutherland	15	8 in total and applied as follows: A Ward=2 B Ward=2 C Ward=2 D Ward=1 E Ward=1
Wollongong	12 plus Mayor	3 and contest Mayor
Sydney	Lord Mayor	1

Recommendation to Determine Winnable Positions (Series 3):

That the determination of winnable and unwinnable positions for the Series 3 Council areas be deferred and considered at a later date by the Local Government Oversight Committee following further consultation and review.

[The Chair recused himself during the consideration of Series 3 Council areas]

Recommendations to the Constitutional Standing Committee

That the Constitutional Standing Committee (CSC) urgently proposes amendments to the Constitution by addressing the following:

- a) That the provisions of clauses 21 and 26 be amended so that Prohibited Property Developers and Associates as defined under the Electoral Funding Act 2018 (NSW) are ineligible to nominate for selection as an endorsed Liberal candidate for office in local government elections.**
- b) Any other minor matters related to Local Government.**

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos, Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

14 March 2020



Office of
Local Government

Circular to Councils

Circular Details	20-10 / 25 March 2020 / A696536
Previous Circular	20-06 <i>Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Development Updates</i>
Who should read this	Councillors / General Managers / All council staff
Contact	Council Governance Team/ 02 4428 4100/ olg@olg.nsw.gov.au
Action required	Information

Postponement of the September 2020 Local Government Elections

What's new or changing?

- The Minister for Local Government has announced that the September 2020 local government elections will be postponed to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus.
- The *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) has been amended to confer on the Minister, a time-limited power to postpone council elections.
- The amendment, which operates for only a limited period of 12 months, allows the Minister by an order published in the Gazette, to postpone elections for 12 months from the date of the order. The order may be extended for an additional period to 31 December in the year after the order is made.
- The postponement of the next election will not change the future schedule of council elections, and the subsequent election will still proceed in September 2024.

What this will mean for your council

- Where the Minister exercises the power to postpone elections under section 318B, the election requirements of the Act are suspended for the period specified in the order and current councillors will continue to hold their civic offices.
- Popularly elected mayors will continue to hold their office until an ordinary election is held. In the case of mayors elected by councillors, mayoral elections will need to be held for mayors elected in September 2018 when their two year-terms expire. Mayors elected in September 2019 will continue to hold office until September 2021, once the election date is determined.
- The composition of joint organisation boards may need to change if mayors of member councils elected by councillors are not re-elected.
- The postponement of elections will have implications for the activities councils may be required to undertake in the current and next integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) cycles. In general, OLG will seek to extend the current IP&R cycle for 12 months, with a next cycle to be truncated to 3 years. The Office of Local Government will be providing further detailed guidance on this and other changes to statutory timeframes that may become necessary as a result of deferring elections.

Where to go for further information

- For further information please contact the Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Tim Hurst
Deputy Secretary
Local Government, Planning and Policy

Office of Local Government
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T 02 4428 4100 F 02 4428 4199 TTY 02 4428 4209
E olg@olg.nsw.gov.au W www.olg.nsw.gov.au ABN 20 770 707 468

Minutes of a meeting of State Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division – 27/03/2020

<u>Issue/Matter</u>	<u>Discussion/Resolution</u>
Strategic Discussion - 2020 Local Government Elections:	<p>A report by the Local Government Oversight Committee, in response to a request from State Executive at its last meeting, regarding contesting further local government areas, was tabled (pages 41-44). It was noted that this report had been circulated earlier, however, since then the 2020 local government elections have been deferred until September 2020.</p> <p>After discussion, it was agreed to defer discussion on the report until the next face to face meeting of State Executive.</p> <p>Motion: State Executive resolves that the report of Local Government Oversight Committee tabled be discussed at the next face to face meeting of State Executive.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p> <p>State Executive also discussed what would happen with regard to nominations already received for the 20 local government areas that the Party has already resolved to contest. Questions were raised whether these nominations were valid given they refer to local government elections in 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed that the State Director would seek advice and put forward a firm proposal for State Executive to consider at its next meeting.</p>
Party Affairs – General Members:	<p>A report on new applications from people applying as general members and on those new members who had applied to join branches but were not accepted, was tabled (pages 45-46) and discussed.</p> <p>Motion: That State Executive resolves to note the new general members accepted by the State Director and to accept as new general members the applicants whose membership to join a local branch was rejected, as is detailed in tabled report.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Party Affairs – Other Party Affairs Matters:	<p>A report on Other Party Affairs Matters was tabled and discussed (pages 47-51).</p> <p><u>Membership Application of Bohdan Brumerskyj</u> It was noted that the Secretariat is still consulting with local Members of Parliament as requested at the previous meeting of State Executive.</p> <p><u>Membership Application of Ian Abbott</u> It was noted that the Secretariat has received an application from Ian Abbott to join the Cheltenham Branch. Mr Abbott was previously a member of the Australian Conservatives and is prohibited from joining the Party until 11 April 2021.</p> <p>It was noted that Mr Abbott seeks a waiver from State Executive to allow him to join the Division prior to the expiration of his prohibition period. He states that he joined the Australian Conservatives “hoping to make a difference on family and other social issues”, but subsequently decided that he would be better served by joining the major party most aligned to his views.</p>

BODY: State Executive

DATE: 1 May 2020

SUBJECT: Local Government Elections

Recommendation(s): That State Executive resolve to note and adopt the motions as set out below.

1. Background

- 1.1 The 2020 local government elections were originally scheduled to be held on Saturday 12 September 2020.
- 1.2 By electronic ballot declared on 24 February 2020, State Executive resolved to contest elections in 20 local government areas and set the date for the opening and closing of nominations along with setting the period for campaign powers.
- 1.3 The text of the motions carried are as follows:

Resolution 1

“That State Executive resolves, pursuant to clauses 21.1.1(1) and 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, to contest the following local government areas at the 2020 local government elections and that nominations for selection as a Liberal endorsed candidate open at 9:00am on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 and close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, 11 March 2020:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Camden | • Mid-Coast |
| • Campbelltown | • Newcastle City |
| • Canada Bay | • Northern Beaches |
| • Canterbury-Bankstown | • Port Stephens |
| • Central Coast | • Randwick |
| • Cessnock | • Ryde City |
| • Hawkesbury | • Sydney |
| • Lake Macquarie | • Tweed Shire |
| • Lane Cove | • Waverley |
| • Maitland | • Woollahra” |

Resolution 2

“That State Executive resolves, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(5) of the Constitution, with respect to the local government areas set out on motion 1 above, that the winnable and unwinnable positions in these areas are as set out in Annexure A attached.” [as attached to the original ballot]

Resolution 3

“That State Executive resolves, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(3) of the Constitution, that the manner of nomination for the 2020 local government elections is as set out in Annexure B attached.” [as attached to the original ballot]

Resolution 4

“That State Executive resolves, pursuant to clause 3.17.2(1) of the Constitution, that the Campaign Period for the 2020 local government elections will be from 9:00am on Wednesday, 26 February 2020 through until 5:00pm on Friday, 25 September 2020.”

1.4 In accordance with Resolution 1, nominations for selection as a Liberal endorsed candidate for the specified Local Government Areas (Series 1 LGAs) opened on 26 February 2020 and closed on 11 March 2020. Nomination Review Committees (NRC) were then convened. A small number of NRCs have completed their deliberations but most have not.

1.5 On 25 March 2020, the Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Minister for Local Government, issued a media release postponing the local government elections for 12 months.

1.6 The text of the media release is as follows:

"The NSW Government has made the regrettable decision to postpone the September local government elections for 12 months in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local government elections are a vital part of the democratic process, ensuring local councils are accountable to their local communities.

Therefore, the decision to postpone them has not been taken lightly but is necessary to ensure the health and safety of voters, NSW Electoral Commission staff and election candidates.

The decision follows Parliament passing amendments to the Local Government Act to provide me with the power to postpone the elections.

The NSW Electoral Commissioner has also requested that the Government postpone the council elections.

This decision provides certainty for local councils, communities and election candidates."

1.7 The various Public Health Orders made in response to the COVID-19 pandemic make it administratively difficult to proceed with selection of candidates for the Series 1 LGAs in compliance with the Constitution.

1.8 At its meeting on 27 March 2020, State Executive, in light of the deferral of the local government elections, deferred discussion on whether to open or close nominations for offices for LGAs, not being a Series 1 LGA, until the next face-to-face meeting of State Executive.

1.9 At the same meeting, State Executive discussed what would happen with regard to nominations already received for Series 1 LGAs that the Party has already resolved to contest. Questions were raised whether these nominations were valid given they refer to local government elections in 2020.

1.10 It was agreed that the State Director would seek advice and put forward a firm proposal for State Executive to consider at its next meeting.

2. Proposal

2.1 Essentially there are two alternatives on how to proceed. The first is to start the process again, including Series 1 LGAs. The second alternative is to complete the nomination process for candidates for Series 1 LGAs, but not proceed to selection. Nominations and selections for candidates for all other LGAs to be contested will be deferred until next year.

2.2 The Constitution does not provide any express guidance on either of these alternatives, however, a decision must be made that is in the best interests of the Party.

2.3 It is the State Director's firm view that the selection process has essentially been frustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic and postponement of the 2020 local government elections. Therefore, it would be in the best interests of the Party for the existing process to be abandoned and restarted fresh closer to the date of the elections. This is because the process of nomination, selection, campaigning and election is usually one continuous sequential process.

2.4 If the deliberations of all NRCs for candidates for Series 1 LGAs were to be completed, there would be a considerable passage of time of around 12 months between the acceptance of nominations and selection of candidates. This gives rise to a number of negative outcomes:

- Different Members may wish to nominate for the Series 1 LGAs next year than have nominated this year. Party members make decisions as to whether or not to nominate based on the knowledge that the elections will be held at a certain time, and according to their own circumstances at the time. In the course of the next 12 months, the cohort of people who wish to nominate for Series 1 LGAs may change. Some people may not have nominated in February had they known the elections would be postponed to September 2021. Others may have nominated this year, but due to events over the next 12 months, may not wish to nominate next year. Others may not have nominated in February for personal reasons (such as the illness of a family member), but would wish to nominate next year. In other words, different people may wish to nominate next year than have nominated this year. Whilst those who no longer wish to contest the election can withdraw their nomination, those who did not nominate in February will be disenfranchised by the loss of the opportunity to do so, should nominations not be re-opened;
- The criteria for nomination and selection may change. Motions have been moved but not carried that property developers should be prohibited from running for local councils, and with the deferral of the elections for 12 months, there may be time for a constitutional amendment to that effect;
- A candidate may cease to meet the eligibility criteria for nomination (set out in clause 21.2.1) in the 12 months between acceptance of their nomination and convening of selection committees;
- It is not the best or most efficient administration of the Division;
- Disclosures given in nomination forms will not be current at the time of selection.

2.5 Further, the State Director notes that:

- Resolution 1 refers to the "2020 local government elections. There are no elections to be held in 2020 and there is no purpose to the Series 1 LGAs NRCs. The State Executive resolutions passed in February 2020 were made in contemplation that the local government elections would be held in September 2020, as required by the Local Government Act.
- The resolution was passed at a time when the eventual impact of COVID-19 on our society was not known or understood, and before both State and Federal Governments brought in emergency measures from mid-March.
- The elections are now to be held in September 2021, with a possibility for the postponement to be extended to 31 December 2021. There is no doubt that Resolution 1 was valid at the time it was made, however, the basis on which the resolution was predicated, and NRCs formed, no longer exists, as the elections which were to be held in 2020 are now to be held in 2021.

- The Constitution implicitly contemplates that the process of nomination and selection within the Party for federal, state or local government office be one continuous process.
- The eligibility criteria at clause 21.2.1 is a pre cursor to nomination and is not restated for selection. The timetable for the steps in the nomination and selection process is set under clause 21.1.2 and implies that one step follow the other in an orderly fashion.

2.6 The State Director has sought advice in relation to this matter and it is also the view of our advisor that the preferred approach is that the process be started again.

2.7 It is the opinion of our advisor that should the Division's decision be challenged in Court, the Court would likely prefer an approach which takes account of the shutdown of normal society occasioned by COVID-19, makes adjustments to the norm where needed, is seen to be fair to all members, and shows flexibility. As such, the option of restarting the process is most likely to result in a logical and fair outcome with good prospects of withstanding legal challenge.

2.8 Should State Executive agree with the State Director's recommendation, the following motions will need to be carried by a simple majority:

Motion 1

That State Executive *RESOLVES* that the Division will no longer contest the offices for the Series 1 Local Government Areas specified in Resolution 1 in 2020, noting that there are now no local government elections to be held in 2020.

That State Executive *NOTES* that as a consequence of the passing of this Motion, the deliberations of all Nomination Review Committees convened for the purposes of clause 21.3.3 following the close of nominations for the Series 1 LGAs need not proceed, there being no purpose to them.

That State Executive further *NOTES* that as a consequence of the passing of this Motion, any candidate deemed to be accepted pursuant to clause 21.3.4(3) is no longer a candidate for office in the Series 1 LGAs.

Motion 2

That State Executive *RESOLVES* that, as there are no local government elections to be held in 2020, the Campaign Period will now conclude at midnight on 1 May 2020.

Chris Stone
State Director

.....

Minutes of a meeting of State Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division – 01/05/2020

<u>Issue/Matter</u>	<u>Discussion/Resolution</u>
Government Assembly Pres.:	He noted that local governments are also dealing with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Fundraising and Income Generation – State and Federal Fundraising:	A report updating State Executive on State and Federal fundraising activities was tabled and discussed (pages 39-40). The Honorary Treasurer, Michael Hughes, spoke to the report and also talked about the Federal Forum webinar.
Fundraising and Income Generation – Direct Marketing and CRM:	A report updating State Executive on regular giving, marketing campaigns and other CRM activities was tabled (pages 41-42). The State Director spoke briefly to the report. The report was noted.
Strategic Discussion - 2020 Local Government Elections:	<p>A report on the 2020 local government elections was tabled (pages 43-46) and discussed. Conflicts declared earlier in the meeting from all local government Councillors on State Executive were noted.</p> <p>The State Director advised that he has sought advice regarding the 2020 local government elections and the areas that the Party had already resolved to contest in tranche 1. He advised that the opinion was that the Division should start the process again, noting the risk of conducting the vetting process so far out if the other alternative was adopted.</p> <p>The State Director also advised that he no longer wished to stop the campaign period outlined in the second motion in the papers as we are now in a by-election period.</p> <p>State Executive discussed the paper and proposal in detail and it was agreed that the proposed should be amended such that the advice be supplied to the Local Government Oversight Committee and that the Committee be requested to report back to State Executive on their advice regarding contesting the local government elections in 2021.</p> <p>Motion: That State Executive resolves that the Division will no longer contest the offices for the Series 1 Local Government Areas specified in Resolution 1 in 2020 (of the tabled report), noting that there are now no local government elections to be held in 2020. That State Executive notes that as a consequence of the passing of this motion, the deliberations of all Nomination Review Committees convened for the purposes of clause 21.3.3 following the close of nominations for the Series 1 LGAs need not proceed, there being no purpose to them. That State Executive further notes that as a consequence of the passing of this motion, any candidate deemed to be accepted pursuant to clause 21.3.4(3) is no longer a candidate for office in the Series 1 LGAs. That the report tabled be provided to the Local Government Oversight Committee and the Committee be requested to provide advice to State Executive on contesting the 2021 local government elections.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Party Affairs – General Members:	A report on new applications from people applying as general members and on those new members who had applied to join branches but were not accepted, was tabled (pages 47-48) and discussed.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met at 7pm on **Thursday 12 November 2020** and adopted recommendations for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendation from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2020.

Recommendation for Current Branch Allocations and Transfer of Branches between LGCs:

That under Clause 7.4.2(3), the Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) are transferred into The Hills Local Government Conference.

Background:

Clause 7.4.2(3) enables a Local Branch to transfer from one LGC to another after a motion to that effect is carried by the LGOC after consulting with the Local Branch and the LGC to which it wishes to transfer.

As part of the consultation process which included such interactions as branch meetings, email correspondence, via telephone and advice received from the LGC, the overwhelming consensus amongst the Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch is to transfer into The Hills Local Government Conference.

The Hills Local Government Conference has formally objected to these branch transfers.

Consultation and Notifications with the Glenorie Branch occurred on 13 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 23 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

Consultation and Notifications with the West Pennant Hills Branch occurred on 15 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 2 October 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

Consultation and Notifications with the Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) occurred on 15 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 29 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

Consultation and Notifications with The Hills LGC occurred between 18 October 2020 and until 6pm, 12 November 2020.

Glenorie Branch and Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) were previously allocated in The Hills LGC and remain aggrieved that both were transferred out of The Hills LGC by a previous decision of State Executive without any notification or consultation.

The West Pennant Hills Branch asserts that the suburb of West Pennant Hills is located within The Hills LGA and seeks a remedy.

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos, Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

15 November 2020

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 20 November 2020
RE: Transfer of Branches to New LGC

TRANSFER OF BRANCHES TO A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Clause 7.4.2 of the Constitution states:

- (1)
- (2)
- (3) *A Local Branch may also transfer from one LGC to another after:*
 - (a) *a motion to that effect is carried by the Local Government Oversight Committee, after consulting with the Local Branch and the LGC to which it wishes to transfer; and*
 - (b) *that motion is ratified by State Executive by a motion of 60% of those present and voting.*

The operation of this clause 7.4.2(3) is to cease from close of business on 31 December 2020.

The Local Government Oversight Committee met on Thursday 12 November 2020 and considered applications from three branches to transfer from their existing LGC to The Hills LGC. The three branches are Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch (formerly Cherrybrook Branch).

The Local Government Oversight Committee advised that the Committee consulted with the relevant branches through branch meetings, email correspondence and telephone, noting that the overwhelming consensus was that each of the branches wished to transfer to The Hills LGC. The Committee also pointed out that The Hills LGC formally objected to these branch transfers.

The Committee advised that consultation with Glenorie Branch occurred on 13 September 2020 (branch meeting), 23 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020, with West Pennant Hills Branch on 15 September 2020 (branch meeting), 2 October 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020 and with Round Corner Branch on 15 September 2020 (branch meeting), 29 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020. The Committee also advised that consultation with The Hills LGC occurred between 18 October 2020 and until 6pm, 12 November 2020.

The Committee noted that Glenorie Branch and Round Corner Branch were previously allocated in The Hills LGC and remain aggrieved that both were transferred out of The Hills LGC by a previous decision of State Executive without any notification or consultation whilst the West Pennant Hills Branch asserts that the suburb of West Pennant Hills is located within The Hills Local Government Area and seeks a remedy.

A copy of the report from the Local Government Oversight Committee is attached at **Annexure A**.

The Local Government Oversight Committee is recommending that State Executive resolve, pursuant to clause 7.4.2(3)b) of the Constitution that, Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch are transferred into The Hills LGC.

A motion to this effect follows:

Motion 1: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 7.4.2(3)(b) of the Constitution, by a motion of 60% of those present and voting, that that Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch be transferred into The Hills LGC.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motion by email to be received by
by **12:00pm, Monday, 23 November 2020**. Time to be according to the
Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20201120 - Branch Transfer to LGC

Name	Motions		Method/Note
	Able to Vote	1 Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	N	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	N	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	N	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	N	Text (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	N	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	Text (CS)
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	Y	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes	N	Text (SM)
Jemma Tribe	Yes	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	Y	Email
Hugo Robinson	Yes	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	N	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	N	Email
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	
	Total	17	
	Voting Pool	28	
	Percentage Requirement	60%	
	Result	Carried	



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met on Monday 23 August 2021 and adopted the following recommendation for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendation from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 August 2021 given the current COVID-19 pandemic and various "lockdowns" have produced an unprecedented situation in NSW.

Recommendation to Contest in Local Government Areas with LGCs:

That the Party contests in the LGAs of **The Hills**, Blacktown, and Cumberland, and **in accordance with 21.6.4 of the Constitution**, the State Executive **commences consultation with The Hills**, Blacktown, and Cumberland LGCs with respect to a **truncated process for candidate selection** given the State Executive has previously decided that there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise constitutionally provided.

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos
Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee
25 August 2021

LGOC August Recommendation to State Executive and the State Director

1 message

Peter Poulos

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 9:52 AM

To: President

Cc: Chris Stone
Perrottet

Simon McInnes
Dallas J McInerney

, Charles

Good morning Mr President,

I hope that you are well and keeping safe.

I have attached for your consideration a recommendation **unanimously adopted by the Local Government Oversight Committee** on Monday 23 August 2021.

Once again, I reiterate my appreciation to you and the State Executive together with the State Director for methodically and patiently working through all the challenges associated with the upcoming Local Government Election.

As always, I would be happy to respond to any questions that you or the State Director might have and I invite the State Executive to favourably consider our recommendation at its next meeting.

Kind regards

Peter Poulos
Chair-Local Government Oversight Committee

 **LGOC Recommendations to SE 25 August 2021.pdf**
25K

BODY: State Executive
DATE: 27 August 2021
SUBJECT: Local Government Matters
REPORT OF: State President
Purpose: To update State Executive on recommendations from the Local Government Oversight Committee.
Recommendation(s): Nil.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is a report by the Local Government Oversight Committee resulting from their meeting on 23 August 2021.
- 1.2 The report deals with contesting the 2021 Local Government elections in the local government areas of The Hills, Blacktown and Cumberland and commencing a consultation process under clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution with respect to a truncated selection process in those areas.
- 1.3 This report was only provided to the Secretariat mid-morning on 25 August 2021. As such, at the time of reporting, the Secretariat has not had the opportunity to adequately consider the recommendations or make any reasonable determination as to whether the Division is sufficiently resourced to implement them.

Philip Ruddock AO
State President
.....

Minutes of a meeting of State Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division – 24/09/2021Issue/MatterDiscussion/Resolution

- 4) Christine Kay
- 5) Hugh Eriksson
- 6) Sam Ngai
- 7) Jessica Keen

- Directors (Rural/Regional) –
 - 1) Cameron Walters
 - 2) Alice Glachan
 - 3) James Owen
 - 4) Julia Ham
 - 5) Kevin Schreiber

CARRIED

Consultation with The Hills, Blacktown and Cumberland LGAs

It was noted that at its meeting on 27 August 2021, State Executive passed a motion “that the Division contest and consult in The Hills, Cumberland and Blacktown local government areas.”

It was further noted that the papers tabled included a report from the State Director advising that the Division had consulted with the relevant LGCs. The report noted that the State Director advised that it is now less than 2 weeks before nominations with the NSW Electoral Commission open for the postponed 2021 local government elections, that there is not enough time, nor does the Secretariat have the resources, to open nominations in any other local government areas where it hasn't already called for nominations, including Blacktown and Cumberland.

In the report the State Director noted that State Executive has already called for nominations for The Hills, nomination reviews have been conducted, the preliminary roll has been distributed and challenges have been received. In the report he advised that all that is required is that those challenges be ruled upon and a selection committee held, pursuant to the truncated selection process already adopted by State Executive, and for State Executive to then endorse those candidates selected.

In the report the State Director recommended that State Executive resolve to set a selection committee meeting date range for The Hills selection to be held between 4 October 2021 and 18 October 2021 (inclusive) and that State Executive resolve not to contest any local governments areas that it has previously contested, but has not yet resolved to contest or has not yet opened nominations in, noting that this will provide clarity to members in those local government areas so that they can consider whether they wish to run as independent candidates.

Motion: To defer consideration of the State Director's recommendations and refer them to the Local Government Oversight Committee for its consideration and recommendation, such recommendation to be supplied by 29 September 2021.

CARRIED

Selection of Unwinnable Position – Ward 1, Newcastle

In the tabled report it was noted that by electronic ballot issued 14 September 2021, a motion to select Aaron Buman as the Division's



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met on **Monday 27 September 2021** and adopted the following recommendations for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendations from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021.

Recommendation to finalise Local Government Matters

In relation to the motions referred by the State Executive on Friday 24 September 2021, LGOC recognises that there is insufficient time and accepts that the Secretariat does not have the resources to open nominations in any other local government area where it has not called for nominations, and therefore proposes that any ongoing and outstanding local government matter yet to be resolved and relevant to the 2021 NSW Local Government Election, including the endorsement of candidates, be finalised by Monday 18 October 2021 **under Clause 21.6.4**, to further assist the Secretariat and the State Executive to advance the Federal selection processes and required administration as a significant priority.

Recommendation for Unresolved Local Government Areas

That LGOC at its next meeting on Monday 11 October 2021 consider and make final recommendations to State Executive for all local government areas yet to be considered or resolved such as Blacktown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Inner West, Shellharbour, Strathfield, Tamworth and Wollondilly.

Recommendation to Select Candidates in The Hills LGA

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in The Hills LGA and endorse the following group of candidates in each ward (13 in total) as set out in the order below:

Mayor: Peter Gangemi

East Ward:

1. Alan Haseldon
2. Jerome Cox
3. Raylee Hodges

North Ward:

1. Peter Gangemi
2. Virginia Ellis
3. Mitchell Blue
4. Rory O'Connor

Central Ward:

1. Jessica Brazier
2. Mark Hodges
3. Jagmohan Dhaliwal

West Ward:

1. Rosemary Boneham
2. Michael Thomas
3. Tony Maroun

Recommendation for Urgent Endorsement Procedures in Areas without an LGC

That where there exists a local government area with no functioning LGC and subject to the following:

- i) A Member of Parliament, Patron Senator or Provincial MLC with oversight or a direct interest with a particular LGA endorses a group of candidates to contest the 2021 NSW Local Government Election; and
- ii) All nomination forms and the statutory declaration is completed by each candidate proposed on the ticket and the requirement to conduct a nomination review by the State Director is dispensed with; and
- iii) LGOC supports contesting the local government area and recommends a group of candidates, for the consideration of the State Executive to determine under Clause 21.6.4.

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Burwood LGA

That the Burwood LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in the Burwood LGA and endorse the following group of candidates (4 in total) as set out in the order below:

1. Hugo Robinson (Winnable)
2. David Hull and Mayoral Candidate (Non-Winnable)
3. Laura Middleton (Non-Winnable)
4. John Paul Baladi (Non-Winnable)

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Wagga Wagga LGA

That the Wagga Wagga LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in the Wagga Wagga LGA and endorse the following group of candidates (7 in total) as set out in the order below:

1. Robert Sinclair
2. Simon Paton
3. Rosina Gordon
4. Stephen Vieira
5. Daniel Vieira
6. Robin Dennis
7. Cathy Dennis

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Bayside LGA**[The Chair recused himself during the consideration of this matter]**

That the Bayside LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in Bayside LGA and endorse the following group of candidates in each ward (15 in total) as set out in the order below:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5
1. Nicholas Mickovski*	1. Michael Nagi*	1. Ron Bezic*	1. Tina Ayyad*	1. Vicki Poulos*
2. Prem Singh	2. Ali Jaafar	2. Anna Lazarou	2. Sally Reslan	2. Nada Abdallah
3. Vinko Bezic	3. Hussein Saab	3. David Damato	3. Yassmin Hakim	3. Vera Mickovska

*Deemed Winnable Position

Report prepared by:

Charles Perrottet

Deputy Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

28 September 2021



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
The Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox MLC

27 September 2021

The Hon. Peter Polous MLC
Chairman
Local Government Oversight Committee
Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division)

Dear Peter,

RE: Wagga Wagga City Council – Liberal Endorsement

I write to you in my capacity as the Southern Country Provincial Member of the Legislative Council to seek the opening of nominations for the Local Government Area of Wagga Wagga.

A Liberal ticket in the Wagga Wagga City council elections on 4 December 2021 will provide the opportunity for local Liberals including Rob Sinclair, Simon Paton, Rosina Gordon, Daniel Vieira, Robin Dennis, Cathy Dennis and Steve Vieira to represent our party thereby increasing the Liberal presence in regional NSW. This will be important in the lead up to the State election in March 2023 when a decision will need to be made in respect of selecting candidates in the seat of Wagga Wagga currently held by independent member Joe McGirr.

I am confident that the above team of dedicated, committed Liberals will carry our brand proudly and increase our representation in regional NSW. I also understand that there is strong, widespread local support for running a Liberal ticket for Wagga Wagga City Council.

Given that there is no functioning LGC in place in Wagga and the short time frame until the next local government election, I am seeking urgent action from the Local Government Oversight Committee to expedite the endorsement process for Wagga.

Should the committee require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 0409 228 886.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox MLC
Southern Country Provincial MLC
President of the NSW Legislative Council

CC: Mr Charles Perrottet
Deputy Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

LGOC September Recommendations to State Executive and the State Director1 message

Date: Sep 29, 2021, 10:19

From:

To:

Cc:

Subject: LGOC September Recommendations to State Executive and the State Director

Dear Philip,

I have attached for your consideration recommendations adopted by the Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) on Monday 27 September 2021 which provide both a view and a way forward to address the resourcing constraints of the Secretariat and the motions referred to our Committee by State Executive on Friday 24 September 2021.

LGOC is mindful that there is now less than two weeks before nominations open with the NSW Electoral Commission. There is now insufficient time for the Secretariat to conduct its standard procedures and processes for any outstanding local government matter or local government area yet to be resolved.

LGOC also recognises the NSW Division and the Secretariat must now focus more time and resources on its preparations for the upcoming Federal Election in support of the re-election of the Prime Minister and the Government.

However, it is just as important that the Liberal Party does not vacate the field in areas where we have previously contested in local government elections or where there is a benefit to establish some local representation.

Our supporters deserve this and there is much more to be gained by contesting in more local government areas and not less.


You will note that a number of Members of Parliament are beginning to support this proposition and it is the view of the Local Government Oversight Committee that on this occasion due to these special circumstances, State Executive favourably considers our recommendations as a matter of urgency.

I will also shortly share a link in Dropbox with the State Director and yourself of each nominee who has been proposed to contest in a number of these local government areas.

Kind regards

Charles Perrottet

Deputy Chair-Local Government Oversight Committee

3 attachments **LGOC Recommendations to SE 28 September 2021.pdf**
100K **Ltr-PPoulos-WaggaCouncil-27.9.21 (1).pdf**
492K **Burwood_Council_Liberal_Ticket_Endorsement_Letter.pdf**
773K

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

FROM: State President

DATE: 15 October 2021

RE: Local Government Elections—selection of candidates for unwinable positions where there are multiple nominations (Canterbury-Bankstown), endorsement of candidates (Canterbury-Bankstown, Ryde, Camden & The Hills), waiver to run in Port Stephens. Federal Elections – close nominations in Whitlam.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UNWINNABLE POSITIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

(1) *If, with respect to:*

- (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and*
- (b) *vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,*

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

(2) *In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.*

There have been multiple nominations for unwinable position 2 in the Roselands Ward of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. They are MD Anamul Haque and Joseph Tannous. Please note this is not the same Joseph Tannous that used to be a member of State Executive. There is insufficient time for normal selection processes to be followed. Consultation with the relevant LGC and the lead candidate, Sazedra Akter, has occurred and the preference is for State Executive to select Joseph Tannous. A motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 1: *Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Canterbury-Bankstown that:*

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 2 in Roselands Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 2 in Roselands Ward and select Joseph Tannous as the candidate to contest this position.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

On 3 June 2021 State Executive adopted, via electronic ballot, a truncated nomination and selection process for local government areas (LGAs) that it had already resolved to contest. Part of this amended process was that the nomination review process would effectively be conducted by the State Director or his nominee and that for single nominations, for both winnable and unwinnable positions, the endorsement proceed straight to State Executive for consideration. The truncated process for contested positions set out that the selection would be conducted via an online ballot and that once a result for this was known, that the endorsement for the full ticket would come before State Executive.

The State Director has now completed the nomination review process and online selection process for Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and has determined that all of the nominees for these LGAs are fit and proper persons for presentation to State Executive for endorsement. As such the State Director is now in a position to put forward for State Executive's consideration the following members for endorsement including a motion to this effect following:

MOTION 2: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motion 1 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to endorse the following members as the Division's candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions and further RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, to close nominations for unwinnable positions in these 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections at 5:00pm on 15 October 2021:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Philip Madirazza	Yes
	2	Georgios Lambropoulos	No
	3	Yali Shi	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – RYDE CITY

State Executive has previously resolved to endorse a number of candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in the Ryde City LGA. Unfortunately, one of the candidates, George Tsingolis, has withdrawn his nomination for unwinnable position 4 in East Ward.

The LGC and the lead candidate, Jordan Lane, have put forward another candidate, Christopher Galloway, to contest this position. A nomination review has been conducted on Mr Galloway and the State Director has determined he is a fit and proper person for State Executive's consideration for endorsement. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 3: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Ryde City that:

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 4 in East Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 4 in East Ward and select and endorse Christopher Galloway as the candidate to contest this position.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CAMDEN

State Executive has previously resolved to endorse a number of candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in the Camden LGA. Unfortunately, one of the candidates, Sarah von Wartburg, has withdrawn her nomination for unwinnable position 3 in South Ward.

The LGC and the lead candidate, Russell Zammit, have put forward another candidate, Anna Younan, to contest position 2 in South Ward, with John Smith, who was previously endorsed for this position, now moving to position 3 in South Ward. A nomination review has been conducted on Ms Younan and the State Director has determined she is a fit and proper person for State Executive’s consideration for endorsement. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 4: *Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Camden that:*

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 3 in South Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 3 in South Ward and select and endorse Anna Younan as the candidate to contest position 2 in South Ward and John Smith as the candidate to contest position 3 in South Ward.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – THE HILLS

The State President has been advised that there is now an agreed position with respect to selecting and endorsing candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in The Hills local government area. The proposed ticket is as follows:

Ward	Position	Nominee
N/A	Mayor	Peter Gangemi
Central Ward	1	Jessica Brazier
Central Ward	2	Mark Hodges
Central Ward	3	Jagmohan Dhaliwal
East Ward	1	Jerome Cox
East Ward	2	Reena Jethi
East Ward	3	Raylee Hodges
North Ward	1	Peter Gangemi
North Ward	2	Virginia Ellis
North Ward	3	Mitchell Blue
North Ward	4	Rory O’Connor
West Ward	1	Rosemary Boneham
West Ward	2	Frank De Masi
West Ward	3	Terisa Murray

It should be noted that proposed candidates Raylee Hodges and Rory O’Conner above have not been

vetted. It should also be noted that other candidates listed above, who did not originally nominate for these positions, will need to confirm in writing with the State Director, that they happy for their nominations to be amended to include the ward and/or position listed above.

Should State Executive agree to this proposed ticket then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 5: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of The Hills that:

- (3) there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select candidates for this local government area as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and
- (4) further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for The Hills local government area and select and endorse the following candidates

Ward	Position	Nominee
N/A	Mayor	Peter Gangemi
Central Ward	1	Jessica Brazier
Central Ward	2	Mark Hodges
Central Ward	3	Jagmohan Dhaliwal
East Ward	1	Jerome Cox
East Ward	2	Reena Jethi
East Ward	3	Raylee Hodges
North Ward	1	Peter Gangemi
North Ward	2	Virginia Ellis
North Ward	3	Mitchell Blue
North Ward	4	Rory O'Connor
West Ward	1	Rosemary Boneham
West Ward	2	Frank De Masi
West Ward	3	Terisa Murray

WAIVER REQUEST – GILBERT WHITTON

The State Director has received a request from Gilbert Whitton, seeking a waiver from State Executive so that he may run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Port Stephens local government elections in East Ward. This request is not supported by the Port Stephens LGC. Attached at **Annexure A** is a copy of an email from Mr Whitton requesting the waiver and from the LGC not supporting the waiver request

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets that a person's membership of the Division automatically terminates:

If a Member who is not a candidate endorsed by the Organisation for election to an office without the prior written permission of State Executive:

- (1) *nominates or publicly announces or causes or permits to be announced that Member's proposed nomination as a candidate for election to that office when there is a candidate endorsed by the Organisation for election to that office or State Executive has resolved to call for nominations for endorsement by the Organisation for election to that office; or*
- (2) *claims to be an endorsed candidate of the Organisation for election to any office.*

Should State Executive be willing to grant a waiver to Mr Whitton to nominate as independent in the upcoming Port Stephens local government elections, then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 6: Pursuant to clause 3.11.1 (row 2) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES to grant permission to Gilbert Whitton so that he may nominate to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Port Stephens local government elections.

CLOSING NOMINATIONS IN THE FEDERAL DIVISION OF WHITLAM

By electronic ballot carried on 3 May 2021, State Executive resolved to contest the next Federal election in the electoral division of Whitlam, with nominations opening on 3 May 2021 and closing on the recommendation of the State Director.

The State Director has now received a nomination for selection from a suitably qualified person to contest this electoral division on behalf of the Party. The State Director is, therefore, recommending that nominations close for Whitlam as at midday on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 and, consistent with other the eligibility dates for other electoral divisions, that the eligibility date be 6:00pm on Friday, 21 May 2021.

Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 7: Pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES, with respect to the next Federal election for the electoral division of Whitlam, that the close of nominations date be 12:00pm on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 and that the eligibility date be 6:00pm on Friday, 21 May 2021.

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **9:00am, Monday, 18 October 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211015 - Local Govt, Federal Elections

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Text (SM)
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	N		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	N		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N		Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes								
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Deyi Wu	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	9	9	27	27	17	2	26	
	Total - No	18	16	0	0	8	25	0	
	Total - Abstain	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
	Total - No Response	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	
	Voting Pool	28	28	28	28	26	28	28	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Lost	Lost	Carried	Carried	Carried	Lost	Carried	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 29 October 2021
RE: Close nominations in Willoughby, waiver requests to run as independents in the local government elections, selecting and endorsing a local government ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown.

WILLOUGHBY STATE BY-ELECTION

By electronic ballot adopted 18 October 2021, State Executive resolved, because of the pending resignation of the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, to open nominations in the State electoral district of Willoughby and close upon the recommendation of the State Director.

The State Director is now recommending that nominations close at 5:00pm on Tuesday, 2 November 2021. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 1: Pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES to that the close of nominations and eligibility date for any by-election in the State electoral district of Willoughby be 5:00pm on Tuesday, 2 November 2021.

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– DARRYN CAPES-DAVIS

The State Director has received a request from Darryn Capes-Davis requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Mr Capes-Davis advises:

"Good afternoon Mr President,

As per constitutional requirements of the Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division, I request written permission from State Executive to run as an Independent in North Rocks Ward for City of Parramatta Local Government Elections.

Although I have nominated for as a Liberal and understand that deliberations are ongoing at this 11th hour, I make this request now to provide time for State Executive to respond so I have confidence in nominating as an Independent Candidate prior to close of nominations next Wed 3rd Nov, 12pm.

Please can you let me know if you need anything further from myself to facilitate and finalise this request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Mr Capes-Davis' request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 2: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Mr Darryn Capes-Davis to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– ROBERT MASHFORD

The State Director has received a request from Robert Mashford requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Mr Mashford advises:

"Good evening Director,

As per constitutional requirements of the The Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division, I request written permission from State Executive to run as an Independent candidate for North Rocks Ward in City of Parramatta Local Government Election on 4th December 2021.

I make this request now to provide time for State Executive to respond so I have confidence in nominating as an Independent Candidate prior to close of nominations next Wed 3rd Nov, 12pm.

Please can you let me know if you need anything further from myself to facilitate and finalise this request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Mr Mashford's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 3: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Mr Darryn Capes-Davis to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– MICHELLE BYRNE

The State Director has received a request from Clr Michelle Byrne requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections and has endorsed candidates.

Clr Byrne advises:

"Dear State Director and Party President,

I am writing to officially request permission to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021.

It is unfortunate that I find myself in this position. As the current sitting Mayor, I have been deliberately denied the opportunity to put forward my case to 600 local Party members as to why I should again be the endorsed Liberal Mayoral candidate. Hard working local Party members have also been disgracefully denied the opportunity to determine for themselves who is best place to represent them at the next council election.

In good faith, I and other councillors submitted nomination forms. We did this only to find out we had been denied the opportunity to put our case to local Party members - with such preselection being deliberately delayed for months on end and despite a recommendation from the State Director to the State Executive meeting on 24 September 2021 to proceed with a preselection of local Party members to be held before 18 October 2021.

The end result has been that local Party members have been bypassed so that un-named people can cherry pick who they want as candidates, candidates which include individuals who never actually nominated for positions "assigned" by State Executive or at all.

What has taken place is nothing short of disgraceful and was entirely preventable and has also damaged the Liberal brand within the local community.

As one of, if not the best run Councils in NSW, and the only Council to have had a swing to the Party in 2017, I am at a loss as to why most sitting councillors would be wiped out, including the first popularly elected female Mayor.

I have been contacted by many Party members and community members who are outraged that I and my current team of councillors would be treated in this manner and replaced by people who are largely unknown to the community and who have not been subject to scrutiny by local Party members.

The argument that the Party was out of time to hold a preselection at the time the State Executive ballot opened on 15 October 2021 is farcical given that under the Constitution only 7 days' notice is required to hold a preselection. Additionally, this period can also be abridged under the Constitution to as little as two days' notice.

For a Party that claims it needs more females in politics and as the current female popularly elected Liberal Mayor, I have never felt less supported as I do right now. I feel that the Party has done a disservice not only to myself but also to women generally within the Party.

As a current Liberal Mayor who has been denied the opportunity of presenting my case to a selection committee of local Party members; it is only fair that I be given the opportunity to run as an independent against the Party - an opportunity that has been given to other non-endorsed Party members such as Councillor Nathan Zamprogno in Hawkesbury - and be allowed to directly put to the Hills Liberal voting community as to why I should remain the Mayor the Hills.

Thank you for considering my request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Clr Byrne's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Clr Michelle Byrne to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– SAMUEL UNO

The State Director has received a request from Clr Samuel Uno requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections and has endorsed candidates.

Clr Uno advises:

"Dear Simon and Chris,

Following on from Mayor Michelle Byrne's well articulated email, I too am officially requesting permission to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021.

Both of you know my long standing commitment to our party over the last 20 years of membership, and have an unwavering belief in the core values of our party. Unfortunately the our Party President and State Executive's actions have contradicted one of these core values to deny our grass root members the opportunity to select their own candidates:

"In the separation and distribution of powers as the best protection for the democratic process"

If granted permission I commit to upholding our party's values and will work constructively with the endorsed Liberal Ticket."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Clr Uno's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 5: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Clr Samuel Uno to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UNWINNABLE POSITIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

- (1) *If, with respect to:*
 - (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and*
 - (b) *vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,*

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

- (2) *In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.*

As advised in a previous electronic ballot dated 15 October 2021, there have been multiple nominations for unwinnable position 2 in the Roselands Ward of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. They are MD Anamul Haque and Joseph Tannous (not the same Joseph Tannous that used to be a member of State Executive). There is insufficient time for normal selection processes to be followed. Consultation with the relevant LGC and the lead candidate, Sazeda Akter, has occurred and the preference is for State Executive to select Joseph Tannous.

Even though State Executive has previously resolved not select Mr Tannous, the State Director has now been advised that members of State Executive will support the selection of Mr Tannous. A motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 6: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Canterbury-Bankstown that:

- (1) there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 2 in Roselands Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and
- (2) further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 2 in Roselands Ward and select Joseph Tannous as the candidate to contest this position.

NON-ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

As noted above, the State Director has been advised that Mr Tannous is an acceptable candidate to be selected at position 2 in Roselands Ward, however, he has been advised that the rest of the ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown, as selected by selectors may not be acceptable.

State Executive had previously considered a ticket of candidates for Canterbury-Bankstown that had been chosen at a Selection Committee meeting, including selecting Mr Tannous themselves, however, the motion considered by electronic ballot dated 15 October 2021 was contingent upon a motion to select Mr Tannous carrying. Because the motion to select Mr Tannous on 15 October 2021 failed, the motion to consider the full ticket on 15 October 2021 immediately became null and void.

As such, if State Executive wishes consider an alternative ticket, it must first select Mr Tannous (carry motion 6 above) and secondly, reject the candidates selected at the Selection Committee meeting. A motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 7: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motion 6 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to NOT endorse the following members as the Division’s candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Philip Madirazza	Yes
	2	Georgios Lambropoulos	No
	3	Yali Shi	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

As noted above, the State Director has been advised that there is a proposed ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown that may be acceptable to members of State Executive. Below is a motion to endorse this ticket, however, please note that this motion is contingent upon both motions 6 and 7 above carrying:

MOTION 8: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motions 6 and 7 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to endorse the following members as the Division's candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions and further RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, to close nominations for unwinnable positions in these 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections at 5:00pm on 15 October 2021:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Jessie Nguyen	Yes
	2	Jeff Tran	No
	3	Brendan Chow	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **9:00am, Monday, 1 November 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211029 - Close Willoughby, Waivers, Canterbury

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Text (SM)
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	N	N			N	Y	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	N	N	A	A	A	Y	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	Y	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N	F	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	N	N			Y	Y	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes									
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes									
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	Y					Y	Y	Y	Email
Deyi Wu	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes									
Mark Coure	Yes	Y					Y	Y	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	Y	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	25	7	7	6	7	16	17	17	
	Total - No	0	11	11	10	11	6	7	6	
	Total - Abstain	0	5	5	5	4	2	1	1	
	Total - No Response	3	5	5	7	6	4	3	3	
	Voting Pool	28	23	23	23	24	26	27	27	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Carried	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Carried	Carried	Carried	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 1 November 2021
RE: Waiver requests to run as independents in the local government elections, request to cancel endorsement of candidates in The Hills, waiver to contest preselection for Hughes.

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– CR ELIZABETH RUSSO

The State Director has received a request from Cr Elizabeth Russo requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Cr Russo advises:

"Dear State Director and Party President,

Following on from Madame Mayor, Clr. Dr. Michelle Byrne's well-articulated email who's message I echo, I too formally request permission to run as an independent candidate against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at the upcoming Local Government elections on 4th December 2021 for The Hills Shire.

I sincerely hope for a favourably response in a timely manner."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Cr Russo's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 1: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Cr Elizabeth Russo to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– CR BROOKE COLLINS OAM

The State Director has received a request from Cr Brooke Collins OAM requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Cr Collins advises:

"Gentleman,

I can't tell you how saddened I am to be writing this email to you, given the manner in which our preselection process has taken place, however more concerning is, at no time have any of you replied to the various emails sent to your office without even an acknowledgment of our emails and the concerns we have raised, which by the way are extremely serious and concerning given that democratic due process was not afforded the members of our LGC, yet Hornsby was able to conduct a successful preselection in the same time frame as our LGC.

I fully support the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and I too, am officially requesting dispensation to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Cr Collins's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 2: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Cr Brooke Collins OAM to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.*

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– MS GEORGINA VALJAK

The State Director has received a request from Ms Georgina Valjak requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Ms Valjak advises:

"Dear Chris,

Further to the below email apologies for the message via Bob Dwyer (thanks Bob) as I had some internet issues yesterday. Confirming that if it transpires that my application for preselection as No1 Liberal Candidate in the North Ricks Ward of City of Parramatta is not successful or alternatively if the Liberal Party Head Office decides not to preselect any candidates for the City of Parramatta Local Government elections on 4 December 2021, I would be most grateful if you could kindly confirm your approval by email that I may nominate and participate as an Independent candidate in an Independent Group of Candidates in the North Rocks Ward on 4 December 2021.

Thank you for your assistance."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Ms Valjak's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 3: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Ms Georgina Valjak to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.*

REQUEST TO CANCEL ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES ENDORSED FOR THE 2021 THE HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Secretary of The Hills LGC has sent to the State President and the State Director minutes, notice and an attendees list for a meeting of the Committee of The Hills LGC that took place on 31 October 2021 at which the following motion was passed:

The Hills LGC Committee requests that State Executive, pursuant to section 21.6.2(1)(A) of the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) cancel the endorsement of Liberal candidates for election to office in the 2021 Hills Shire Council election.

Clause 21.6.2 of the Constitution states:

- (1) *State Executive may cancel any selection or endorsement of a Liberal candidate for election to office in Federal, State or local government, without giving reasons and call for nominations either on its own motion or if:
 - (a) *it is requested to do so by the members or the Committee of the relevant FEC, SEC or LGC or the Committee of the relevant FEB or FEC;*
 - (b) *time or circumstance, in the opinion of State Executive, make it impracticable to hold a meeting of the members or Committee of the relevant FEC, SEC or LGC to consider the matter or the Committee of the relevant FEB; or*
 - (c) *there is no relevant FEC, FEB, SEC, or LGC.**
- (2) *State Executive may cancel a selection or endorsement only if each member of State Executive is given notice in writing that a motion to cancel the selection or endorsement will be put at a meeting of State Executive and with respect to that motion State Executive follows the procedural fairness provisions in Appendix E.*

Should State Executive be inclined to support the request of The Hills LGC Committee, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: *State Executive RESOLVES to consider at a future meeting, a motion to cancel the endorsement of Liberal candidates for election to office in the 2021 Hills Shire Council election pursuant to clause 21.6.2(1)(a) of the Constitution, and that with respect to that motion, State Executive follows the procedural fairness provisions in Appendix E.*

ENDORSEMENT OF ADDITIONAL LIBERAL CANDIDATES FOR THE HILLS SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

- (1) *If, with respect to:
 - (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and**

- (b) vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

- (2) In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.

Section 308A of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (the Act) provides that:

- (1) This section applies to an election in which there are 2 or more councillors to be elected.
- (2) Two or more candidates duly proposed for nomination for election may, before noon on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations, claim to have their names included in a group on the ballot-papers and in the order specified in the claim. The claim is to be lodged with the returning officer.
- (3) A claim under subsection (2) may also include a request for a group voting square for the group to appear on the ballot-papers to be used in the election concerned, but only if—
- (a) in the case of an area not divided into wards—the number of candidates in the group on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations is at least half the number of candidates to be elected, or
- (b) in the case of an area divided into wards—**there are at least as many candidates in the group** on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations as there are candidates to be elected.

(emphasis added)

In light of public commentary that at least two candidates are said to be considering withdrawing their nominations for the Hills Shire Council, it is proposed that the following additional candidates are added to the Wards at risk, as is allowed for under s308A of the Act, to ensure that, in the circumstance of any candidate withdrawal or failure or inability to lodge their nomination within the requisite timeframe, the Liberal Party will have a complete ticket in each Ward and as such able to run above the line in a Group.

Those candidates who are presently endorsed in the Wards at risk, but have not yet completed their nomination forms as required by the NSW Electoral Commission, must take urgent steps to ensure that their nomination forms are lodged, and documentation provided to the Secretariat, so as to ensure that the Secretariat has sufficient time in which to finalise and formally lodge their nomination.

MOTION 5: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES:

1. That if candidates in the Hills Shire Local Government Area have not submitted their candidate registration with the NSW Electoral Commission by 6.00pm, Tuesday, 2 November 2021 then the State Director will have insufficient time in which to finalise and formally lodge the candidate's nomination. The State Director is to inform all candidates for the Hills Shire Local Government Area of this requirement by 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 2 November 2021; and
2. To dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for this area and endorse the following additional candidates:

Council	Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
The Hills Shire Council	West	4	Mike Thomas	N
	West	5	Jill Dyball	N
	East	4	Alan Haselden	N

In the event that the earlier endorsed candidates do not complete the requisite nomination or registration forms by the above-stipulated deadline, then the additional candidates would move up the ticket.

WAIVER REQUEST – MS JENNY WARE

The State Director has received a request from Ms Jenny Ware who wishes to nominate as a candidate for preselection for Hughes at the next federal election.

Ms Ware was accepted into the Gynea Yowie Bay Branch at its meeting on 31 May 2021. This means that she will not have been a continuous financial member for 6 months until 30 November 2021 and, therefore, does not currently meet the minimum membership requirements to be eligible to nominate. However, State Executive can waive this requirement if it considers there are exceptional circumstances for doing so. Clause 21.2.1 of the Constitution stipulates that:

- (1) *A person may nominate for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in Federal, State or local government only if, as at the close of nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate, that person:*
 - (a) *is a financial member of the Organisation; and*
 - (b) *has continuously been a financial member of the Organisation for at least six months immediately preceding the close of nominations,*
otherwise the nomination is of no effect.
- (2) *Despite subclause 21.2.1(1) if State Executive determines there are exceptional circumstances justifying the waiving of the requirement in subclause 21.2.1(1)(b) with respect to the eligibility of a particular member of the Organisation to nominate for endorsement, State Executive may waive that requirement by motion of not less than 60% of those present and voting at the meeting of State Executive. A decision to issue a waiver in accordance with this subclause must be made by State Executive before the close of nominations for the election the subject of the endorsement.*

Nominations to be a Liberal endorsed candidate for Hughes opened at 9:00am on Monday, 1 November 2021. Ms Ware has sent the State Director a letter, which is included at **Annexure A**.

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Ms Ware's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 6: *State Executive RESOLVES by a motion of 60%, that exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver of the 6-month membership requirement in clause 21.2.1(1) of the Constitution with respect to the nomination of Ms Jenny Ware for selection as a Liberal candidate for Hughes at the next federal election.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **by 10:00am, Tuesday 2 November 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211101 - Waivers, The Hills, Hughes

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	6	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	A	A	A	N	Y	Y	By phone
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
James Wallace	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes							
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes							
Sally Betts	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes					Y	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	N	N	N	N	N	N	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	A	A	A	A	A	N	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Text (SM)
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes							
Deyi Wu	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		
Steven Issa	Yes							
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	9	9	9	9	13	7	
	Total - No	12	12	12	13	10	12	
	Total - Abstain	2	2	2	1	1	0	
	Total - No Response	5	5	5	5	4	9	
	Voting Pool	26	26	26	27	27	28	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 20 November 2020
RE: Transfer of Branches to New LGC

TRANSFER OF BRANCHES TO A NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Clause 7.4.2 of the Constitution states:

- (1)
 - (2)
 - (3) *A Local Branch may also transfer from one LGC to another after:*
 - (a) *a motion to that effect is carried by the Local Government Oversight Committee, after consulting with the Local Branch and the LGC to which it wishes to transfer; and*
 - (b) *that motion is ratified by State Executive by a motion of 60% of those present and voting.*
- The operation of this clause 7.4.2(3) is to cease from close of business on 31 December 2020.*

The Local Government Oversight Committee met on Thursday 12 November 2020 and considered applications from three branches to transfer from their existing LGC to The Hills LGC. The three branches are Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch (formerly Cherrybrook Branch).

The Local Government Oversight Committee advised that the Committee consulted with the relevant branches through branch meetings, email correspondence and telephone, noting that the overwhelming consensus was that each of the branches wished to transfer to The Hills LGC. The Committee also pointed out that The Hills LGC formally objected to these branch transfers.

The Committee advised that consultation with Glenorie Branch occurred on 13 September 2020 (branch meeting), 23 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020, with West Pennant Hills Branch on 15 September 2020 (branch meeting), 2 October 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020 and with Round Corner Branch on 15 September 2020 (branch meeting), 29 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020. The Committee also advised that consultation with The Hills LGC occurred between 18 October 2020 and until 6pm, 12 November 2020.

The Committee noted that Glenorie Branch and Round Corner Branch were previously allocated in The Hills LGC and remain aggrieved that both were transferred out of The Hills LGC by a previous decision of State Executive without any notification or consultation whilst the West Pennant Hills Branch asserts that the suburb of West Pennant Hills is located within The Hills Local Government Area and seeks a remedy.

A copy of the report from the Local Government Oversight Committee is attached at **Annexure A**.

The Local Government Oversight Committee is recommending that State Executive resolve, pursuant to clause 7.4.2(3)b) of the Constitution that, Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch are transferred into The Hills LGC.

A motion to this effect follows:

Motion 1: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 7.4.2(3)(b) of the Constitution, by a motion of 60% of those present and voting, that that Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch be transferred into The Hills LGC.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motion by email to be received by
by **12:00pm, Monday, 23 November 2020**. Time to be according to the
Secretariat mail server.

ANNEXURE A



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met at 7pm on Thursday 12 November 2020 and adopted recommendations for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendation from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Thursday 12 November 2020.

Recommendation for Current Branch Allocations and Transfer of Branches between LGCs:

That under Clause 7.4.2(3), the Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) are transferred into The Hills Local Government Conference.

Background:

Clause 7.4.2(3) enables a Local Branch to transfer from one LGC to another after a motion to that effect is carried by the LGOC after consulting with the Local Branch and the LGC to which it wishes to transfer.

As part of the consultation process which included such interactions as branch meetings, email correspondence, via telephone and advice received from the LGC, the overwhelming consensus amongst the Glenorie Branch, West Pennant Hills Branch and Round Corner Branch is to transfer into The Hills Local Government Conference.

The Hills Local Government Conference has formally objected to these branch transfers.

Consultation and Notifications with the Glenorie Branch occurred on 13 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 23 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

ANNEXURE A

Consultation and Notifications with the West Pennant Hills Branch occurred on 15 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 2 October 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

Consultation and Notifications with the Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) occurred on 15 September 2020 (Branch Meeting), 29 September 2020, 25 October 2020 and 8 November 2020.

Consultation and Notifications with The Hills LGC occurred between 18 October 2020 and until 6pm, 12 November 2020.

Glenorie Branch and Round Corner Branch (Cherrybrook being its prior name) were previously allocated in The Hills LGC and remain aggrieved that both were transferred out of The Hills LGC by a previous decision of State Executive without any notification or consultation.

The West Pennant Hills Branch asserts that the suburb of West Pennant Hills is located within The Hills LGA and seeks a remedy.

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos, Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

15 November 2020

SE Electronic Ballot - 20201120 - Branch Transfer to LGC

Name	Motions		Method/Note
	Able to Vote	1 Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	N	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	N	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	N	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	N	Text (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	N	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	Text (CS)
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	Y	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes	N	Text (SM)
Jemma Tribe	Yes	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	Y	Email
Hugo Robinson	Yes	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	N	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	N	Email
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	
	Total	17	
	Voting Pool	28	
	Percentage Requirement	60%	
	Result	Carried	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 26 March 2021
RE: Further AGM Extension Requests, Nomination Waiver Request, Baulkham Hills Branch Proposed Suspension

AGM EXTENSION REQUESTS

Clause 7.5.2 of the Constitution sets out that:

Each Local Branch must hold its AGM:

(1) by 31 October in each even year commencing 2008 or such other date as State Executive may determine for all Local Branches; or

(2) if:

(a) in any even year commencing 2008, the Local Branch makes a written application to State Executive, it may seek an extension for that Local Branch to hold its AGM. An application for an extension must be made before 31 October in that year or before the date determined by State Executive for the conclusion of Branch AGMs; and

(b) State Executive approves the application, not later than the date determined by State Executive for that Local Branch.

However, at its meeting on 28 August 2020, State Executive resolved that the date by which AGMs for branches must be held for the 2020 even year, be extended to 31 March 2021. The Secretariat has received the following Branch AGM extension requests.

SUSSEX INLET BRANCH

The State Director has received a request from David Tarbett, President of the Sussex Inlet Branch, requesting an extension. Mr Tarbett advises:

"My name David Tarbert and I am the President of the Sussex Inlet Branch and we are requesting an extension of our AGM due to the following reason. Our Secretary has been called out of town for family medical issues and I am now booked for minor leg surgery on the same day our meeting was to be held. I hope you can assist us".

Should State Executive be inclined to grant this extension then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 1: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 7.5.2(2)(a) of the Constitution, to extend the date by which the Sussex Inlet Branch must hold its 2020 AGM to 31 May 2021.*

BALMAIN/ROZELLE BRANCH

The State Director has received a request from Gordon Weiss, President of Balmain/Rozelle Branch, requesting an extension. Mr Weiss advises:

"We were struggling for a quorum for tonight's meeting, and now have one less confirmed attendee – me. I am trapped between flooded rivers and collapsed roads in the Megalong Valley and with no prospect of getting out for a couple of days.

I suggest we cancel tonight's meeting and then apply to HQ for an extension. Thoughts?

Note, communications are also very bad right now so I could be hard to catch. I also have much to do to deal with damage, and with the 25 people who are trapped and staying in our house."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant this extension then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 2: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 7.5.2(2)(a) of the Constitution, to extend the date by which the Balmain/Rozelle Branch must hold its 2020 AGM to 30 April 2021.

WALLSEND YOUNG LIBERAL BRANCH

The State Director has received a request from Callum Pull, a member of Wallsend Young Liberal Branch, requesting an extension. Mr Pull advises:

"As a member of the Wallsend Young Liberals, I ask that you provide an extension to the time allowed for our Branch to hold an AGM. As members of the Branch who aren't on the Executive, we did the right thing in allowing time for the Executive to call the AGM.

We believe that the current Executive will fail to call a meeting; many other members and I are worried that the Branch will be dissolved. I have spoken to Branch members, and we are asking for an extension as we will submit to you tomorrow a Requisition letter.

This is so that you can have the confidence that the meeting will take place as the Requisition order must be fulfilled once it is submitted. I have spoken with the FEC President, Cr Brad Luke, and he has signalled willingness to call a meeting should the Executive again fail to call the AGM in the allotted time in the Requisition order as per section 4.3.1 of the Constitution."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant this extension then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 3: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 7.5.2(2)(a) of the Constitution, to extend the date by which the Wallsend Young Liberal Branch must hold its 2020 AGM to 30 April 2021.

NOMINATION WAIVER REQUEST – DR FRED NASSER

The State Director has received a request from Dr Fred Nasser who is wishing to nominate for the Legislative Council casual vacancy (St George/Illawarra province) caused by the resignation of the Hon John Ajaka MLC.

Dr Nasser is a recent member of the Party, being accepted on 28 January 2021 and, therefore, does not currently meet the minimum membership requirements to be eligible to nominate. However, State Executive can waive this requirement if it considers there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

Clause 21.2.1 of the Constitution stipulates that:

(1) A person may nominate for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in Federal, State or local government only if, as at the close of nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate, that person:

(a) is a financial member of the Organisation; and

(b) has continuously been a financial member of the Organisation for at least six months immediately preceding the close of nominations, otherwise the nomination is of no effect.

(2) Despite subclause 21.2.1(1) if State Executive determines there are exceptional circumstances justifying the waiving of the requirement in subclause 21.2.1(1)(b) with respect to the eligibility of a particular member of the Organisation to nominate for endorsement, State Executive may waive that requirement by motion of not less than 60% of those present and voting at the meeting of State Executive. A decision to issue a waiver in accordance with this subclause must be made by State Executive before the close of nominations for the election the subject of the endorsement.

Dr Nasser advises that he has been heavily involved in the Party for over 30 years but felt that it was not appropriate, given his previous work environment, to be a member of a political party until recently. Attached at **Annexure A** is a copy of Dr Nasser's letter requesting a waiver.

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Dr Nasser's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: State Executive RESOLVES by a motion of 60%, that exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver of the 6-month membership requirement in clause 21.2.1(1) of the Constitution with respect to the nomination of Dr Fred Nasser for selection as a Liberal candidate to fill the casual vacancy on the Legislative Council caused by the resignation of the Hon John Ajaka MLC, and that this requirement should be waived.

BAULKHAM HILLS BRANCH PROPOSED SUSPENSION

State Executive would be aware of issues relating to the Baulkham Hills branch that have been aired publicly for more than 2 years, relating to a meeting by the branch on 8 October, 2018.

A dispute was put to the State Director by Kieran Walton, 24 October 2018, of which counter complaints were raised, concerning the minutes provided from the meeting revolving around:

1. The acceptance of members Bernadette Ross, Tristan Ross, Alexander Touma, Charlie Touma, Donna Touma, Jessie Touma, Magie Touma, Michael Touma, Norman Touma, Tayla Touma (together, "the Members");
2. the Members' rights to participate in or exercise a vote in the Branch; and
3. the business transacted at a meeting of the Branch on 8 October 2018 ("the Meeting") – specifically, the resolution for acceptance of the Members' applications to be members of the Branch ("the Applications").

In August, 2020, Mr Walton's dispute was removed, and shortly after so were the other complaints.

In March 2021, a new complainant, Rosina Gordon, who previously signed a statutory declaration, submitted a formal dispute with Matthew Camenzuli maintaining similar objections outlined by Kieran Walton.

There is concern regarding the media attention of the matter, as shown through various media articles and commentaries in the Parliament, including but not limited to:

1. Liberals in factional war over 'record tampering' – 13 November 2018
2. ScoMo's right-hand man probed over power play – 26 February 2020
3. Premier brushes off festering Liberal branch tensions – 22 June 2020

4. Ex-ICAC boss to lead inquiry to Lib branch scandal – 5 July 2020

As such, it is important to suspend the branch until the matter is investigated to ensure the integrity of all matters that involve the branch.

Clause 20.2 provides State Executive with the power to suspend a branch or conference. Clause 20.2.2 outlines that “State Executive may suspend a Branch or Conference under clause 20.2.1 only if each member of State Executive and that Branch or Conference is given at least 28 days’ notice in writing that a motion to suspend the Branch or Conference will be put at a meeting of State Executive and with respect to that motion State Executive follows the procedural fairness provisions in Appendix E.”

Appendix E of the constitution outlines that the State Executive must:

1. give each of its members notice in writing that the complaint or motion will be put at a general meeting of the Body;
2. give the Member who is the subject of the complaint or motion the particulars of any complaint against that Member.
3. give the Member who is the subject of the complaint or motion an opportunity to address the general meeting of the Body at which the complaint or motion is put; and
4. carry any motion by not less than 60% of the members of the Body present and voting at the general meeting.

Therefore should State Executive wish to commence suspension proceedings with respect to the Baulkham Hills Branch, it is required to provide members with procedural fairness by putting them on notice of the proposed suspension motion, together with particulars of the issues giving rise to the proposed suspension, and then granting them an opportunity to attend a future meeting of State Executive to address these matters.

Following consideration of the matters outlined in this report, State Executive is asked to consider the following motion:

MOTION 5: State Executive resolves that, following the conclusion of 28 days’ notice to the Members of the Baulkham Hills Branch which will be issued immediately, State Executive will consider the following motion at its next relevant meeting:

“That State Executive resolves to suspend the Baulkham Hills Branch of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) effective immediately on the passing of this motion.”

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motion by email to be received by **by 5:30pm, Friday, 26 March 2021.** Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20210326 - Further AGM Extension Requests, Nomination Waiver Request, Baulkham Hills Branch Proposed Suspension

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes					N	Text to Chris Stone
Martin Zaiter	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes						
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes						
Jemma Tribe	Yes						
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes						
Deyi Wu	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y		Email
Mark Coure	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Email
Steven Issa	Yes						
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total	22	22	22	22	14	
	Voting Pool	28	28	28	28	26	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Carried	Carried	Carried	Carried	Carried	

LGOC April Recommendations to State Executive and the State Director

2 messages

Peter Poulos

Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 9:00 AM

To: President
Cc: Chris Stone
Perrottet

Simon McInnes
Dallas J McInerney

, Charles

Good morning Mr President,

I have attached for your consideration recommendations adopted by the Local Government Oversight Committee on Friday 16 April 2021.


This involves a proposal to open nominations for Series 5 Local Government Areas.

On another note, I am particularly pleased to note that our first NRCs will commence this week. I do hope we will begin to accelerate this process considering we now have 26 Local Government Areas in the system with 5 more pending. There is an expectation amongst candidates that selection meetings should roll out during May.

As always, I would be happy to respond to any questions that you or the State Director might have and I invite the State Executive to favourably consider these recommendations at its next meeting.

Kind regards

Peter Poulos
Chair-Local Government Oversight Committee

 **LGOC Recommendations to SE 19 April 2021.pdf**
61K



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met on Friday 16 April 2021 and adopted the following recommendation for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendation from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Friday 16 April 2021.

Recommendation to Run Endorsed Liberal Candidates (Series 5):

State Executive opens **Series 5** nominations for the following Council areas:

Fairfield, Hornsby Shire, **The Hills** Shire, Parramatta, Penrith

Series 5 Council areas and their preselections be conducted in accordance with the public health orders and the Emergency Mandatory Code of Practice.

The State Director to determine whether a preselection is undertaken either face to face or via a virtual Tele-Town Hall meeting format.

Nominations for Series 5 Council Areas for Winnable Positions open at 9am on Wednesday 28 April 2021 and close at 5pm on Wednesday 12 May 2021.

In accordance with 21.1.2 the below timetable sets out eligibility of a person to be a member of a Selection Committee and determines the earliest and the latest dates upon which the meeting of the relevant Selection Committee is to be held.

Selection meetings to take place prior to 30 June 2021.

Nominations for Series 5 Council Areas for Unwinnable Positions open at 9am on Wednesday 28 April 2021 and close upon the recommendation of the State Director following consultation with the LGOC.

Series 5: Timetable for Local Government Council Elections: Fairfield, Hornsby Shire, The Hills, Parramatta, Penrith	
Wednesday 28 April 2021	Nominations Open (9am)
Wednesday 12 May 2021	Nominations Close (5pm)
TBA	Registration of selectors Open (9am)
TBA	Registration of selectors Close (5pm)
16 June 2021	Close of Rolls & Eligibility of being a selector (applicable for areas with LGCs)
TBA	Rolls Circulated
TBA	Challenges of the roll close (5pm)
TBA	Challenges ruled on
2 years continuous prior to 16 June 2021	Date for eligibility for person to be on Selection Committee
Between 20-30 June 2021	Selection Meeting

Recommendation to Determine Winnable Positions (Series 5):

With respect to the 2020 NSW Local Government Election which has been postponed and is now being held on 4 September 2021, the number of winnable positions by Local Government Council Area for Series 5 Pre-selections shall be determined as follows:

COUNCIL	TOTAL POSITIONS	WINNABLE POSITIONS
Fairfield	12 plus Mayor	2 in total (1 per Ward) and contest Mayor
Hornsby Shire	9 plus Mayor	7 in total and applied as follows: Ward A: 2 Ward B: 2 Ward C: 2 and contest Mayor
The Hills Shire	12 plus Mayor	9 in total and applied as follows: Central Ward: 2 East Ward: 2 North Ward: 2 West Ward: 2 and contest Mayor
Parramatta	15	6 in total and applied as follows: Dundas Ward: 1 Epping Ward: 1 North Rocks Ward: 2 Parramatta Ward: 1 Rosehill Ward: 1 All positions to be selected by SE due to no LGC
Penrith	15	5 in total and applied as follows: East Ward: 2 North Ward: 1 South Ward: 2 All positions to be selected by SE due to no LGC

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos
Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee
19 April 2021

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 31 May 2021
RE: Re-opening nominations Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills Branch suspension, Local Government nomination waiver requests

RE-OPENING NOMINATIONS – HAWKESBURY CITY COUNCIL

At its meeting on 23 April 2021, a report was tabled advising State Executive that there was no longer any nominees for winnable position 2 on the Hawkesbury local government ticket and recommending that nominations be re-opened. The reported noted State Executive had previously resolved to contest the 2021 Local Government elections in the local government area of Hawkesbury, and determined that the winnable positions on the ticket would be positions 1 through 5. Nominations for all positions then opened on 5 August 2020, and closed for winnable positions on 19 August 2020.

It was further noted that as at the close of nominations, there were multiple nominees for the winnable ticket position 2, however, earlier in April 2021, each of those nominees withdrew, leaving no valid nominations for position 2. In the circumstances, it was recommended that nominations be re-opened at 9:00am on Wednesday 28 April 2021, for a period of three weeks.

At the 23 April 2021 meeting, State Executive agreed to defer consideration of this matter and to consider it as part of an electronic ballot in the following week along with a series of Conference AGM extension requests. Unfortunately, there was a mix up in communications and an email was sent to all members advising that nominations in this position had re-opened (on 28 April 2021, closing on 12 May 2021) without it having been put to State Executive by electronic ballot. A valid nomination was received during this period.

To correct this, it is now necessary for State Executive to consider a motion, should it so wish, to retrospectively open and close nominations for this position. A motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 1: *State Executive resolves, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, that nominations for preselection as the Liberal candidate for ticket position 2 in Hawkesbury City Council for the 2021 Local Government elections open at 9:00am on Wednesday, 28 April 2021 and close at 5:00pm on Wednesday, 12 May 2021.*

BAULKHAM HILLS BRANCH PROPOSED SUSPENSION

At its meeting on 23 April 2021, State Executive deferred consideration of a motion to suspend the Baulkham Hills Branch, to enable legal advice to be obtained as to whether:

- a) Members of State Executive who are Members of the Baulkham Hills Branch, can vote on the motion to suspend the Branch; and
- b) Whether a member of State Executive who is the proponent/complainant of the substantive dispute complaint, could vote on the motion to suspend the Branch.

Advice was obtained from Sam Duggan of Counsel, and circulated to members of State Executive on 10 May, 11 May (amended advice with minor error corrected) and 18 May 2021 (supplementary advice on additional issue). A copy of the amended advice and supplementary advice are attached at **Annexure A**.

Following consideration of Counsel's advice, State Executive will need to consider the deferred motion:

Motion 2: *That State Executive, by a majority of 60% of those present and voting, resolves to suspend the Baulkham Hills Branch of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) effective immediately on the passing of this motion.*

NOMINATION WAIVER REQUEST – JOHN MOORES

The State Director has received a request from Mr John Moores who is wishing to nominate as a candidate for selection for the mayoral position and number 1 position on Ward B in the Cessnock local government elections. Both of these positions have been deemed to be unwinable.

Mr Moores is a recent member of the Party, being accepted on 20 May 2021 by Cessnock Branch and, therefore, does not currently meet the minimum membership requirements to be eligible to nominate. However, State Executive can waive this requirement if it considers there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

Clause 21.2.1 of the Constitution stipulates that:

(1) A person may nominate for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in Federal, State or local government only if, as at the close of nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate, that person:

- (a) is a financial member of the Organisation; and*
- (b) has continuously been a financial member of the Organisation for at least six months immediately preceding the close of nominations,*
otherwise the nomination is of no effect.

(2) Despite subclause 21.2.1(1) if State Executive determines there are exceptional circumstances justifying the waiving of the requirement in subclause 21.2.1(1)(b) with respect to the eligibility of a particular member of the Organisation to nominate for endorsement, State Executive may waive that requirement by motion of not less than 60% of those present and voting at the meeting of State Executive. A decision to issue a waiver in accordance with this subclause must be made by State Executive before the close of nominations for the election the subject of the endorsement.

Mr Moores advises that as an ex-general manager of a coal mining company in the area he has literally employed thousands of mine workers in the Hunter Valley and in Cessnock in particular, citing that he believes he is the perfect candidate for the Liberal Party to take back a seat in Ward B. Mr Moores' waiver application is supported by Paul Dunn, the President of Cessnock LGC. Attached at **Annexure B** is a copy of Mr Moores' email requesting a waiver along with a copy of an email from Mr Dunn supporting his waiver request.

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Mr Moores' request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 3: *State Executive RESOLVES by a motion of 60%, that exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver of the 6-month membership requirement in clause 21.2.1(1) of the Constitution with respect to the nomination of Mr John Moores for selection as a Liberal candidate for Mayor and position 1 in Ward B in the 2021 Cessnock local government elections.*

NOMINATION WAIVER REQUEST – CAROL TANNOUS-SLEIMAN

The State Director has received a request from Ms Carol Tannous-Sleiman who is wishing to nominate as a candidate for selection for the number 1 position on North Ward in the Hunters Hill local government elections. This position has been deemed to be unwinnable.

Ms Tannous-Sleiman is a recent member of the Party, having joined as a general member on 21 May 2021 and, therefore, does not currently meet the minimum membership requirements to be eligible to nominate. However, State Executive can waive this requirement if it considers there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

Clause 21.2.1 of the Constitution stipulates that:

(1) A person may nominate for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in Federal, State or local government only if, as at the close of nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate, that person:

(a) is a financial member of the Organisation; and

(b) has continuously been a financial member of the Organisation for at least six months immediately preceding the close of nominations,

otherwise the nomination is of no effect.

(2) Despite subclause 21.2.1(1) if State Executive determines there are exceptional circumstances justifying the waiving of the requirement in subclause 21.2.1(1)(b) with respect to the eligibility of a particular member of the Organisation to nominate for endorsement, State Executive may waive that requirement by motion of not less than 60% of those present and voting at the meeting of State Executive. A decision to issue a waiver in accordance with this subclause must be made by State Executive before the close of nominations for the election the subject of the endorsement.

Ms Tannous-Sleiman advises that although she is new to the Party, she has for many years been heavily involved in the Hunters Hill and Ryde community and it is her intention to help assist the team in the good work that they are doing in the Hunters Hill LGA. Ms Tannous-Sleiman's application is supported by Councillors Zac Miles and Ben Collins. Attached at **Annexure C** is a copy of Ms Tannous-Sleiman's letter requesting a waiver along with a copy of emails/letters of support from Councillors Miles and Collins.

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Ms Tannous-Sleiman's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: *State Executive RESOLVES by a motion of 60%, that exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver of the 6-month membership requirement in clause 21.2.1(1) of the Constitution with respect to the nomination of Ms Carol Tannous-Sleiman for selection as a Liberal candidate for position 1 in North Ward in the 2021 Hunters Hills local government elections.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motion by email to be received by **by 12:00pm, Tuesday, 1 June 2021.** Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20210531 - Baulkham Hills, Waivers, Hawkesbury

Name	Motions	1	2	3	3	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	Y	Y		Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	N	Y	A	Text (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Text (SM)
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Email
Deyi Wu	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	Y	Y	Y	N	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total	28	17	28	15	
	Voting Pool	28	28	28	27	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	60%	60%	60%	
	Result	Carried	Carried	Carried	Lost	



Urgent Electronic Ballot - Hawkesbury, Baulkham Hills, Waivers - PLEASE RESPOND BY MIDDAY TOMORROW

Christian Ellis Tue, Jun 1, 2021 at 10:13 AM
To: Simon McInnes, Philip Ruddock, Penelope George-Farlow, chris-rath, Tobias Lehmann, Aileen MacDonald, Mary-Lou Jarvis, "James r.m. wallace", Matthew Camenzuli, Matthew Hana, Sally Betts, David Miles, Michelle Byrne, Jacqueline Munro, Damien Jones, Patrick Doherty, Mark Croxford, Anna Chandler, Michael Hughes, Alex Hawke, Alex Dore, Steven Issa, Mark Coure, Teena McQueen, Chris Stone, Dorina Ilievska

Dear Philip

As the State Director is aware, I had concerns with the advice provided by Mr Duggan relating to Motion 2 and conflicts of interest.

In light of this I sought my own advice from Jeff Phillips SC, and am providing it to all of state executive for the consideration of people's eligibility to vote on the matter.

Kind regards

Christian

[Quoted text hidden]

J Phillips SC Legal Advice Conflict of Interest.pdf
203K



State Director Ruling 4 June 2021

Re: Eligibility of State Executive Member to Vote on Suspension Motion

Background

By electronic ballot carried on 26 March 2021, State Executive resolved to consider a motion to suspend the Baulkham Hills Branch (Suspension Motion). The basis of the Suspension Motion was to allow for the investigation of a complaint submitted to the State Director jointly by Mrs Rosina Gordon and Mr Matthew Camenzuli in March 2021, relating to the outcome of a disputed meeting of the Branch held in October 2018.

I subsequently found that Mrs Gordon was no longer a Member of the Division and therefore, when the suspension motion was considered at a meeting of State Executive on 23 April 2021 (Meeting), Mr Camenzuli, an Urban Representative on State Executive, was the sole complainant.

At the Meeting, questions were raised as to the eligibility of certain members of State Executive to vote on the Suspension Motion, and the matter was deferred so that legal advice could be obtained in relation to the members' entitlements. The affected members were:

- Mr Camenzuli, being the proponent/complainant of the substantive dispute, and
- The Hon Alex Hawke MP and Councillor Dr Michelle Byrne, who are current Members of the Baulkham Hills Branch.

Advice was obtained from Sam Duggan of Counsel, and circulated to members of State Executive on 10 May (initial advice), and 11 May 2021 (amended advice with minor error corrected). A supplementary advice on an additional issue concerning Mr Hawke and Dr Byrne's specific potential conflicts was obtained from Mr Duggan and circulated on 18 May 2021.

Mr Duggan's advice was that Mr Camenzuli was disqualified from voting, as he was properly characterised as the moving party in relation to the substantive dispute, so had an actual bias as to the outcome of the dispute that no evidence or argument is likely to overcome. Mr Duggan's opinion was that Mr Camenzuli had a conflict of interest in being both the moving party and the adjudicator (as a member of State Executive) on the question of whether the Branch should be suspended.

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA - NSW DIVISION

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As to Mr Hawke and Dr Byrne, Mr Duggan was of the opinion that they were not disqualified, as an interest in the outcome of the decision does not of itself disqualify a decision maker in a domestic tribunal, such as a voluntary association. Mr Duggan noted that the system and methods of decision making in a domestic tribunal are entirely different to those of a Court and notions of procedural fairness must accommodate those differences, including the inherently political processes by which members of the Executive are elected and/or appointed.

Following circulation of Mr Duggan's advice, an electronic ballot was issued on behalf of the State President on 31 May 2021, returnable by 12:00pm on 1 June 2021. The ballot dealt with a number of matters, including at motion 2, the deferred Suspension Motion.

Mr Hawke and Dr Byrne voted on the Suspension Motion.

Shortly before the close of the ballot, Christian Ellis, Urban Representative on State Executive, circulated to State Executive legal advice he had obtained from Jeffrey Phillips SC. Mr Phillips' advice came to the opposing conclusion to that of Mr Duggan. He was of the opinion that Mr Camenzuli was not disqualified from voting on the proposed suspension, having no personal interest in the outcome of the motion, whilst Mr Hawke and Dr Byrne were disqualified, having been present at the disputed Branch meeting and therefore, potential witnesses to the events of the day. Mr Camenzuli informed State Executive that in light of the advice from Mr Phillips SC, provided by Mr Ellis, he did not believe he had a conflict and accordingly, he cast a vote on the Suspension Motion.

With Mr Camenzuli's vote, the Suspension Motion carried. Had Mr Camenzuli not voted, the motion would have been lost.

A complaint has been lodged by Tobias Lehmann, Country Vice-President, noting that the 28 votes counted in the ballot exceed the "eligible pool" of 27 State Executive members (determined by reference to Mr Duggan's advice), and seeking a recount of the Suspension Motion without the "ineligible" vote.

The State Director has the power under clause 19.1.3 of the Constitution to make decisions on any matters within clauses 17.6.1(1) and (2). Under clause 17.6.1(1)(c) the State Director has the power to make a decision relating to a Member's right to participate in or exercise a vote in any Body of the Division.

Analysis

As State Director I am not under any obligation to exercise my powers to make a ruling, and Mr Lehmann's complaint does not in terms seek a formal ruling. However, it is appropriate in the circumstances of this case that I consider and respond to the complaint as if a ruling has been requested, to enable referral to the Disputes Panel.

LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA - NSW DIVISION

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The complaint concerns the participation of a Member in a vote of a Body of the Division (State Executive being such a Body), and therefore falls within the remit of the State Director's powers under clause 19.1.3, noting clause 17.6.1(1)(c).

However, there is no dispute as to Mr Camenzuli's constitutional eligibility to participate in, and vote upon, matters before State Executive. He is a financial Member of the Division, and has been constitutionally elected as a member of State Executive. In the normal course, Mr Camenzuli is eligible to cast a vote.

The underlying issue in Mr Lehmann's complaint, is whether Mr Camenzuli, in casting a vote on the Suspension Motion, has properly managed a conflict of interest or bias, arising from his involvement in the substantive dispute as a proponent/complainant.

Where a member of State Executive is affected by an actual or perceived conflict of interest or perceived bias, it is a matter for the individual member to manage, or alternatively, a matter for State Executive. It is not a matter for the State Director to determine, nor do I consider it appropriate for the State Director to do so.

In responding to the electronic ballot, Mr Camenzuli indicated that he had considered his position and made a determination as to his eligibility to vote on the Suspension Motion, prior to casting his vote. I decline to make a ruling as to whether Mr Camenzuli has discharged his duty as a member of State Executive appropriately in the circumstances.

Ruling

I decline to make a ruling in relation to the question of whether Matthew Camenzuli was eligible to vote on the proposed suspension of the Baulkham Hills Branch.

Chris Stone
State Director



Filed: 7 July 2021 9:47 AM



D0001FU1ED

Form 4A, 4B/ 84
Rule 6.2, 50.4, 50.12**SUMMONS****COURT DETAILS**

Court	Supreme Court of NSW
Division	Equity
List	Equity General
Registry	Supreme Court Sydney
Case number	2021/00194083

TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

First Plaintiff	Ned Attie
First Defendant	LIBERAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA NSW DIVISION INCORPORATED ABN 30046889989
Second Defendant	Hon. Phillip Ruddock AO
Number of defendants	8 Refer to Party Details at rear for full list of parties

FILING DETAILS

Filed for	Plaintiff[s]
Legal representative	Ammar Jamal-Eddine
Legal representative reference	
Telephone	0416 699 645
Your reference	AJ:LP:211161

HEARING DETAILS

Listed at Supreme Court Sydney on 26 July 2021 at 09:30 AM.

ATTACHMENT DETAILS

In accordance with Part 3 of the UCPR, this coversheet confirms that both the Summons (e-Services), along with any other documents listed below, were filed by the Court.

Summons (UCPR 4A/4B/84/85) (Signed Summons 7.7.21.pdf)
Affidavit (Sworn Affidavit of Ned Attie 6.7.21.pdf)

[attach.]

ajamale001

Page 1 of 1

Filed: 07/07/2021 09:47 AM

Form 40 (version 6)
UCPR 35.1**AFFIDAVIT OF NED ATTIE
SWORN 6 JULY 2021****COURT DETAILS**

Court	Supreme Court of New South Wales
Division	Civil
List	General
Registry	Sydney
Case number	

TITLE OF PROCEEDINGS

Plaintiff	Ned Attie
Defendants	Liberal Party of Australia NSW Division and Ors

FILING DETAILS

Filed for	Ned Attie, Plaintiff
Filed in relation to	Plaintiff's claim
Legal representative	Concordia Legal
Legal representative reference	AJ:LP:211161
Contact name and telephone	Ammar Jamal-Eddine
Contact email	info@concordialegal.com.au

- have referred had agreed to use the urgency powers clause 21.6.4 under Constitution to endorse its own team in Cumberland, being a new team that excluded sitting councillors including 2 members of the Far Right who have never been elected in local government before.
- 28 In June 2021 the President of the Wentworthville Young Liberals which is a branch in the Cumberland City Council area, a member of the Far Right faction, wrote a complaint to the State Director calling for suspension of the Cumberland LGC on the grounds that in 2019 a meeting of the LGC was held where the notice of meeting arrived 3 hours outside the 7 day notice period. This complaint has not been resolved by the State Director and is unlikely to be resolved before 4 August 2021 and I am informed by the LGOC has not and will not be considered by it in that time frame.
- 29 I say that the entire selection process to date for the Cumberland City Council ordinary councillor position elections in September 2021 has been delayed by the faction leaders of the Far Right/Moderate factions on State Executive as an excuse for using the urgency powers they have under the Constitution pursuant to clause 21.6.4 by a mere majority of State Executive members under the alliance I have referred to above, or alternatively 26.1.4 by a majority of 60%. The alliance of these two factions does not extend past a working majority of 60%.
- 30 On Thursday 1 July 2021, I was discussing the matter with a friend who is a close ally of the Far Right/Moderate factions in which he stated he will speak to Mr Gebran Habib, the President of the Wentworthville YLs and the author of the complaint against the Cumberland LGC and get back to me. He stated words to the effect 'I'm sure we can resolve this if we give Mr Habib 2 positions on Cumberland City Council for his team as Mr Habib is interested in Parramatta City Council.'
- 31 On Friday afternoon 2 July 2021 I was telephoned by the same person stating he had spoken to Mr Habib and he is willing to entertain a deal in accordance with the outcome that my team give the Far Right represented by Mr Habib 2 positions on Cumberland City Council and Mr Habib will take a Liberal position on Parramatta City Council. I said words to the effect in reply '*This whole issue has been frustrating, and I will only agree to giving one position subject to the Wentworthville YLs complaint being withdrawn officially and nominations being opened in Cumberland with a guarantee of my team remaining.*' He said words to the effect that 'I'm sure we can do this, and I'll have Charles Perrotet our contact you.'
- 32 On Saturday 3 July 2021 at about 4pm I was telephoned by the named Far Right faction influential member Mr Charles Perrotet also the Deputy Chair of the LGOC and a close factional colleague of Mr M Camenzuli who said to me words to the effect:

'The moderates do not want you on council and the intention is not to have endorsed Liberals on Cumberland City Council. I will try very hard to convince the moderates to first open nominations for Cumberland and then try and convince them to endorse you for the Council. There is no way we will endorse anyone who is aligned to the Centre Right which includes one of your colleagues on Cumberland. The next meeting of the LGOC will be 12 July 2021 and I will then tell the team you are one of us and we should have you with us. You will then be endorsed with others using the urgency powers and the LGOC.' I said in reply in words to the following effect: *'If you are serious about this, I will allow one position to the Far Right so long as the preselection process is guaranteed in writing with my whole team, and you withdraw the Wentworthville YLs complaint.'* I have since received no response.

- 33 The Constitution at the NSW Liberal Party was amended by resolution of State Council at its AGM held on 9 November 2019 to add the following new clause 26.1.4 with respect to the then proposed 2020 Council elections in NSW:

"For the purposes only of the local government elections to be held in 2020, if there is no LGC in a local government area which State Executive has resolved the Party will contest, then State Executive may endorse, by a motion of 60% of those present and voting, a Member/s to be the candidate/s to contest the election in that local government area. "

- 34 On 28 November 2020 a State Council meeting was convened, and the Liberal Party had an opportunity to pass a new resolution for the 2021 local government ordinary elections but did not do so. Numerous other motions were voted on but not on this issue.
- 35 A State Council was scheduled for 8 May 2021 but no resolution was on the agenda to make the 9 November 2019 resolution effective for 2021 by an amendment. This would have allayed any concerns about possible ambiguity of the Constitution es cl 26.1.4. This was in circumstances where it was known generally by me by others that legal advice existed to the effect that the 9 November 2019 resolution clause 26.1.4 had expired and could not be used in the 2021 local government elections.
- 36 On or about mid - April 2021, the Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met and forwarded a recommendation to the State Executive to open nominations for candidates in several LGAs which have constituted and unconstituted Local Government Councils. The LGOC is an authorised committee of the State Executive in respect of local government matters including disputes.

SWORN at AUBURN

Signature of deponent _____

Name of witness Amnor Jamal - FdA

Address of witness _____

Capacity of witness Solicitor

And as a witness, I certify the following matters concerning the person who made this affidavit (the deponent):

- 1 I saw the face of the deponent.
~~I did not see the face of the deponent because the deponent was wearing a face covering, but I am satisfied that the deponent had a special justification for not removing the covering.~~
- 2 I have known the deponent for at least 12 months.
~~I have confirmed the deponent's identity using the following identification document:~~

_____ y)

Signature of witness _____

Note: The deponent and witness must sign each page of the affidavit. See UCPR 35.7B.



Shelley Hancock
Minister for Local Government

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 25 July 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS POSTPONED

The NSW Government today announced a new date for the Local Government elections has been set for Saturday 4 December 2021.

Minister for Local Government Shelley Hancock said the decision, after extensive consultation with and advice from the NSW Electoral Commission and NSW Health, has been made in response to the COVID-19 situation.

“Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current Public Health Orders impacting Greater Sydney, we have made the difficult decision to postpone the Local Government elections until later this year,” Mrs Hancock said.

“We have taken this step to postpone the election to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our communities, voters, polling staff and candidates.”

The NSW Government has worked with the Electoral Commission and NSW Health to implement a comprehensive plan to allow voters to cast their ballot safely in person, by post or online.

iVote (electronic voting) will also be available for the first time in the local council elections and the NSW Government has implemented changes to pre-poll to ensure that voters have 13 days to cast their ballot, reducing congestion on polling day.

The NSW Government has made available a total of \$57 million for the elections in 2021, including \$37 million to deliver them in a COVID safe way.

In this election, 5.2 million voters will cast their ballots as around 5,000 candidates vie for 1,200 councillor positions across 125 local councils.

Nominations will open on Monday 25 October 2021 and close on Wednesday 3 November 2021.

Prospective candidates can find more information at the Office of Local Government website at www.olg.nsw.gov.au.

MEDIA: Caterina Polistina | 0439 196 539

LGOC August Recommendation to State Executive and the State Director

1 message

Peter Poulos

Wed, Aug 25, 2021 at 9:52 AM

To: President

Cc: Chris Stone

Perrottet

Simon McInnes

, Dallas J McInerney

, Charles

Good morning Mr President,

I hope that you are well and keeping safe.

I have attached for your consideration a recommendation **unanimously adopted by the Local Government Oversight Committee** on Monday 23 August 2021.

Once again, I reiterate my appreciation to you and the State Executive together with the State Director for methodically and patiently working through all the challenges associated with the upcoming Local Government Election.

As always, I would be happy to respond to any questions that you or the State Director might have and I invite the State Executive to favourably consider our recommendation at its next meeting.

Kind regards

Peter Poulos

Chair-Local Government Oversight Committee

 **LGOC Recommendations to SE 25 August 2021.pdf**

25K



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met on Monday 23 August 2021 and adopted the following recommendation for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendation from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 August 2021 given the current COVID-19 pandemic and various "lockdowns" have produced an unprecedented situation in NSW.

Recommendation to Contest in Local Government Areas with LGCs:

That the Party contests in the LGAs of **The Hills**, Blacktown, and Cumberland, and **in accordance with 21.6.4 of the Constitution**, the State Executive **commences consultation with The Hills**, Blacktown, and Cumberland LGCs with respect to a **truncated process for candidate selection** given the State Executive has previously decided that there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise constitutionally provided.

Report prepared by:

Peter Poulos
Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee
25 August 2021

BODY: State Executive
DATE: 27 August 2021
SUBJECT: Local Government Matters
REPORT OF: State President
Purpose: To update State Executive on recommendations from the Local Government Oversight Committee.
Recommendation(s): Nil.

1. Background

- 1.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is a report by the Local Government Oversight Committee resulting from their meeting on 23 August 2021.
- 1.2 The report deals with contesting the 2021 Local Government elections in the local government areas of **The Hills**, Blacktown and Cumberland and commencing a consultation process under clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution with respect to a truncated selection process in those areas.
- 1.3 This report was only provided to the Secretariat mid-morning on 25 August 2021. As such, at the time of reporting, **the Secretariat has not had the opportunity to adequately consider the recommendations** or make any reasonable determination as to whether the Division is sufficiently resourced to implement them.

Philip Ruddock AO
State President
.....

Minutes of a meeting of State Executive of the Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division – 24/09/2021Issue/MatterDiscussion/Resolution

- 4) Christine Kay
- 5) Hugh Eriksson
- 6) Sam Ngai
- 7) Jessica Keen

- Directors (Rural/Regional) –
 - 1) Cameron Walters
 - 2) Alice Glachan
 - 3) James Owen
 - 4) Julia Ham
 - 5) Kevin Schreiber

CARRIED

Consultation with The Hills, Blacktown and Cumberland LGAs

It was noted that at its meeting on 27 August 2021, State Executive passed a motion “that the Division contest and consult in The Hills, Cumberland and Blacktown local government areas.”

It was further noted that the papers tabled included a report from the State Director advising that the Division had consulted with the relevant LGCs. The report noted that the State Director advised that it is now less than 2 weeks before nominations with the NSW Electoral Commission open for the postponed 2021 local government elections, that there is not enough time, nor does the Secretariat have the resources, to open nominations in any other local government areas where it hasn't already called for nominations, including Blacktown and Cumberland.

In the report the State Director noted that State Executive has already called for nominations for The Hills, nomination reviews have been conducted, the preliminary roll has been distributed and challenges have been received. In the report he advised that all that is required is that those challenges be ruled upon and a selection committee held, pursuant to the truncated selection process already adopted by State Executive, and for State Executive to then endorse those candidates selected.

In the report the State Director recommended that State Executive resolve to set a selection committee meeting date range for The Hills selection to be held between 4 October 2021 and 18 October 2021 (inclusive) and that State Executive resolve not to contest any local governments areas that it has previously contested, but has not yet resolved to contest or has not yet opened nominations in, noting that this will provide clarity to members in those local government areas so that they can consider whether they wish to run as independent candidates.

Motion: To defer consideration of the State Director's recommendations and refer them to the Local Government Oversight Committee for its consideration and recommendation, such recommendation to be supplied by 29 September 2021.

CARRIED

Selection of Unwinnable Position – Ward 1, Newcastle

In the tabled report it was noted that by electronic ballot issued 14 September 2021, a motion to select Aaron Buman as the Division's



LOCAL GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Recommendations to State Executive

Background

The Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) met on Monday 27 September 2021 and adopted the following recommendations for the consideration of the State Executive.

Recommendations to State Executive

That State Executive approves the following adopted recommendations from the Local Government Oversight Committee Meeting held on Monday 27 September 2021.

Recommendation to finalise Local Government Matters

In relation to the motions referred by the State Executive on Friday 24 September 2021, LGOC recognises that there is insufficient time and accepts that the Secretariat does not have the resources to open nominations in any other local government area where it has not called for nominations, and therefore proposes that any ongoing and outstanding local government matter yet to be resolved and relevant to the 2021 NSW Local Government Election, including the endorsement of candidates, be finalised by Monday 18 October 2021 under Clause 21.6.4, to further assist the Secretariat and the State Executive to advance the Federal selection processes and required administration as a significant priority.

Recommendation for Unresolved Local Government Areas

That LGOC at its next meeting on Monday 11 October 2021 consider and make final recommendations to State Executive for all local government areas yet to be considered or resolved such as Blacktown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Inner West, Shellharbour, Strathfield, Tamworth and Wollondilly.

Recommendation to Select Candidates in The Hills LGA

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in The Hills LGA and endorse the following group of candidates in each ward (13 in total) as set out in the order below:

Mayor: Peter Gangemi

East Ward:

1. Alan Haseldon
2. Jerome Cox
3. Raylee Hodges

North Ward:

1. Peter Gangemi
2. Virginia Ellis
3. Mitchell Blue
4. Rory O'Connor

Central Ward:

1. Jessica Brazier
2. Mark Hodges
3. Jagmohan Dhaliwal

West Ward:

1. Rosemary Boneham
2. Michael Thomas
3. Tony Maroun

Recommendation for Urgent Endorsement Procedures in Areas without an LGC

That where there exists a local government area with no functioning LGC and subject to the following:

- i) A Member of Parliament, Patron Senator or Provincial MLC with oversight or a direct interest with a particular LGA endorses a group of candidates to contest the 2021 NSW Local Government Election; and
- ii) All nomination forms and the statutory declaration is completed by each candidate proposed on the ticket and the requirement to conduct a nomination review by the State Director is dispensed with; and
- iii) LGOC supports contesting the local government area and recommends a group of candidates, for the consideration of the State Executive to determine under Clause 21.6.4.

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Burwood LGA

That the Burwood LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in the Burwood LGA and endorse the following group of candidates (4 in total) as set out in the order below:

1. Hugo Robinson (Winnable)
2. David Hull and Mayoral Candidate (Non-Winnable)
3. Laura Middleton (Non-Winnable)
4. John Paul Baladi (Non-Winnable)

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Wagga Wagga LGA

That the Wagga Wagga LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in the Wagga Wagga LGA and endorse the following group of candidates (7 in total) as set out in the order below:

1. Robert Sinclair
2. Simon Paton
3. Rosina Gordon
4. Stephen Vieira
5. Daniel Vieira
6. Robin Dennis
7. Cathy Dennis

Recommendation to Select Candidates in Bayside LGA**[The Chair recused himself during the consideration of this matter]**

That the Bayside LGA be contested by the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) at the 2021 NSW Local Government Election.

That State Executive apply Clause 21.6.4 for the selection of candidates in Bayside LGA and endorse the following group of candidates in each ward (15 in total) as set out in the order below:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5
1. Nicholas Mickovski*	1. Michael Nagi*	1. Ron Bezic*	1. Tina Ayyad*	1. Vicki Poulos*
2. Prem Singh	2. Ali Jaafar	2. Anna Lazarou	2. Sally Reslan	2. Nada Abdallah
3. Vinko Bezic	3. Hussein Saab	3. David Damato	3. Yassmin Hakim	3. Vera Mickovska

*Deemed Winnable Position

Report prepared by:

Charles Perrottet

Deputy Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee

28 September 2021

LGOC September Recommendations to State Executive and the State Director1 message

Date: Sep 29, 2021, 10:19

From:

To: [m](#)

Cc:

Subject: LGOC September Recommendations to State Executive and the State Director

Dear Philip,

I have attached for your consideration recommendations adopted by the Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC) on Monday 27 September 2021 which provide both a view and a way forward to address the resourcing constraints of the Secretariat and the motions referred to our Committee by State Executive on Friday 24 September 2021.

LGOC is mindful that there is now less than two weeks before nominations open with the NSW Electoral Commission. There is now insufficient time for the Secretariat to conduct its standard procedures and processes for any outstanding local government matter or local government area yet to be resolved.

LGOC also recognises the NSW Division and the Secretariat must now focus more time and resources on its preparations for the upcoming Federal Election in support of the re-election of the Prime Minister and the Government.

However, it is just as important that the Liberal Party does not vacate the field in areas where we have previously contested in local government elections or where there is a benefit to establish some local representation.

Our supporters deserve this and there is much more to be gained by contesting in more local government areas and not less.

You will note that a number of Members of Parliament are beginning to support this proposition and it is the view of the Local Government Oversight Committee that on this occasion due to these special circumstances, State Executive favourably considers our recommendations as a matter of urgency.


I will also shortly share a link in Dropbox with the State Director and yourself of each nominee who has been proposed to contest in a number of these local government areas.

Kind regards

[Charles Perrottet](#)

Deputy Chair-Local Government Oversight Committee

3 attachments

 **LGOC Recommendations to SE 28 September 2021.pdf**
100K

 **Ltr-PPoulos-WaggaCouncil-27.9.21 (1).pdf**
492K

 **Burwood_Council_Liberal_Ticket_Endorsement_Letter.pdf**
773K

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 15 October 2021
RE: Local Government Elections—selection of candidates for unwinnable positions where there are multiple nominations (Canterbury-Bankstown), endorsement of candidates (Canterbury-Bankstown, Ryde, Camden & The Hills), waiver to run in Port Stephens. Federal Elections – close nominations in Whitlam.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UNWINNABLE POSITIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

(1) *If, with respect to:*

- (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and*
- (b) *vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,*

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

(2) *In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.*

There have been multiple nominations for unwinnable position 2 in the Roselands Ward of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. They are MD Anamul Haque and Joseph Tannous. Please note this is not the same Joseph Tannous that used to be a member of State Executive. There is insufficient time for normal selection processes to be followed. Consultation with the relevant LGC and the lead candidate, Sazeda Akter, has occurred and the preference is for State Executive to select Joseph Tannous. A motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 1: *Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Canterbury-Bankstown that:*

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 2 in Roselands Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 2 in Roselands Ward and select Joseph Tannous as the candidate to contest this position.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

On 3 June 2021 State Executive adopted, via electronic ballot, a truncated nomination and selection process for local government areas (LGAs) that it had already resolved to contest. Part of this amended process was that the nomination review process would effectively be conducted by the State Director or his nominee and that for single nominations, for both winnable and unwinnable positions, the endorsement proceed straight to State Executive for consideration. The truncated process for contested positions set out that the selection would be conducted via an online ballot and that once a result for this was known, that the endorsement for the full ticket would come before State Executive.

The State Director has now completed the nomination review process and online selection process for Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and has determined that all of the nominees for these LGAs are fit and proper persons for presentation to State Executive for endorsement. As such the State Director is now in a position to put forward for State Executive's consideration the following members for endorsement including a motion to this effect following:

MOTION 2: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motion 1 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to endorse the following members as the Division's candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions and further RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, to close nominations for unwinnable positions in these 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections at 5:00pm on 15 October 2021:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Philip Madirazza	Yes
	2	Georgios Lambropoulos	No
	3	Yali Shi	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – RYDE CITY

State Executive has previously resolved to endorse a number of candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in the Ryde City LGA. Unfortunately, one of the candidates, George Tsingolis, has withdrawn his nomination for unwinnable position 4 in East Ward.

The LGC and the lead candidate, Jordan Lane, have put forward another candidate, Christopher Galloway, to contest this position. A nomination review has been conducted on Mr Galloway and the State Director has determined he is a fit and proper person for State Executive's consideration for endorsement. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 3: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Ryde City that:

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 4 in East Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 4 in East Ward and select and endorse Christopher Galloway as the candidate to contest this position.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CAMDEN

State Executive has previously resolved to endorse a number of candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in the Camden LGA. Unfortunately, one of the candidates, Sarah von Wartburg, has withdrawn her nomination for unwinnable position 3 in South Ward.

The LGC and the lead candidate, Russell Zammit, have put forward another candidate, Anna Younan, to contest position 2 in South Ward, with John Smith, who was previously endorsed for this position, now moving to position 3 in South Ward. A nomination review has been conducted on Ms Younan and the State Director has determined she is a fit and proper person for State Executive's consideration for endorsement. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 4: *Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Camden that:*

- (1) *there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 3 in South Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and*
- (2) *further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 3 in South Ward and select and endorse Anna Younan as the candidate to contest position 2 in South Ward and John Smith as the candidate to contest position 3 in South Ward.*

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – THE HILLS

The State President has been advised that there is now an agreed position with respect to selecting and endorsing candidates to contest the 2021 local government elections in The Hills local government area. The proposed ticket is as follows:

Ward	Position	Nominee
N/A	Mayor	Peter Gangemi
Central Ward	1	Jessica Brazier
Central Ward	2	Mark Hodges
Central Ward	3	Jagmohan Dhaliwal
East Ward	1	Jerome Cox
East Ward	2	Reena Jethi
East Ward	3	Raylee Hodges
North Ward	1	Peter Gangemi
North Ward	2	Virginia Ellis
North Ward	3	Mitchell Blue
North Ward	4	Rory O'Connor
West Ward	1	Rosemary Boneham
West Ward	2	Frank De Masi
West Ward	3	Terisa Murray

It should be noted that proposed candidates Raylee Hodges and Rory O'Conner above have not been

vetted. It should also be noted that other candidates listed above, who did not originally nominate for these positions, will need to confirm in writing with the State Director, that they happy for their nominations to be amended to include the ward and/or position listed above.

Should State Executive agree to this proposed ticket then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 5: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of The Hills that:

- (3) there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select candidates for this local government area as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and
- (4) further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for The Hills local government area and select and endorse the following candidates

Ward	Position	Nominee
N/A	Mayor	Peter Gangemi
Central Ward	1	Jessica Brazier
Central Ward	2	Mark Hodges
Central Ward	3	Jagmohan Dhaliwal
East Ward	1	Jerome Cox
East Ward	2	Reena Jethi
East Ward	3	Raylee Hodges
North Ward	1	Peter Gangemi
North Ward	2	Virginia Ellis
North Ward	3	Mitchell Blue
North Ward	4	Rory O'Connor
West Ward	1	Rosemary Boneham
West Ward	2	Frank De Masi
West Ward	3	Terisa Murray

WAIVER REQUEST – GILBERT WHITTON

The State Director has received a request from Gilbert Whitton, seeking a waiver from State Executive so that he may run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Port Stephens local government elections in East Ward. This request is not supported by the Port Stephens LGC. Attached at **Annexure A** is a copy of an email from Mr Whitton requesting the waiver and from the LGC not supporting the waiver request

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets that a person’s membership of the Division automatically terminates:

If a Member who is not a candidate endorsed by the Organisation for election to an office without the prior written permission of State Executive:

- (1) *nominates or publicly announces or causes or permits to be announced that Member’s proposed nomination as a candidate for election to that office when there is a candidate endorsed by the Organisation for election to that office or State Executive has resolved to call for nominations for endorsement by the Organisation for election to that office; or*
- (2) *claims to be an endorsed candidate of the Organisation for election to any office.*

Should State Executive be willing to grant a waiver to Mr Whitton to nominate as independent in the upcoming Port Stephens local government elections, then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 6: Pursuant to clause 3.11.1 (row 2) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES to grant permission to Gilbert Whitton so that he may nominate to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Port Stephens local government elections.

CLOSING NOMINATIONS IN THE FEDERAL DIVISION OF WHITLAM

By electronic ballot carried on 3 May 2021, State Executive resolved to contest the next Federal election in the electoral division of Whitlam, with nominations opening on 3 May 2021 and closing on the recommendation of the State Director.

The State Director has now received a nomination for selection from a suitably qualified person to contest this electoral division on behalf of the Party. The State Director is, therefore, recommending that nominations close for Whitlam as at midday on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 and, consistent with other the eligibility dates for other electoral divisions, that the eligibility date be 6:00pm on Friday, 21 May 2021.

Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 7: Pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES, with respect to the next Federal election for the electoral division of Whitlam, that the close of nominations date be 12:00pm on Tuesday, 19 October 2021 and that the eligibility date be 6:00pm on Friday, 21 May 2021.

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **9:00am, Monday, 18 October 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

Annexure A - Electronic Ballot 20211015

Simon McInnes

From: TorpanInternational
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2021 12:59 PM
To: Dorina Ilievska
Subject: Re: Nominations for Local Government - Close at 5:00pm today

I live in East Ward and that is my intention.

Gill
Sent from my iPad

On 9 Sep 2021, at 12:47, Dorina Ilievska wrote:

Hi Gill

Thank you for confirming. We have not yet put your request to the State Executive, as it was a bit premature to do so back when we first corresponded, but we will do so now.

Can you please confirm which Ward in Port Stephens Council you wish to run in? I ask as the Party is only endorsing candidates for East Ward.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Dorina

DORINA ILIEVSKA

Party Affairs Manager

E dorina@torpan.com.au **T** 02 8356 0300

M Locked Bag 2, Kings Cross, NSW 1340 **W** www.nsw.liberal.org.au

From: TorpanInternational
Sent: Thursday, 9 September 2021 12:24 PM
To: Dorina Ilievska
Subject: Re: Nominations for Local Government - Close at 5:00pm today

I do propose to run as an independent

Sorry, i haven't heard any reply from the local branch or state executive

Gill Whitton
Sent from my iPad

On 9 Sep 2021, at 09:16, Dorina Ilievska wrote:

Dear Gilbert

I hope this email finds you well.

Annexure A - Electronic Ballot 20211015

With the 2021 local government elections now approaching in December, and the Party having endorsed candidates for that election, I have been reviewing some outstanding matters and came across the below emails we exchanged back in March 2020.

I wanted to confirm whether you are still intending to run as an independent in the Port Stephens Council elections, and if so, that you still wish to seek the State Executive's permission to do so. I apologise for not having raised this with you sooner, unfortunately with the ongoing impacts on in person gatherings caused by the pandemic over the last 18 months, we have had to modify our usual processes for candidate selection for local government have experienced delays across all areas as a result.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Dorina

DORINA ILIEVSKA

Party Affairs Manager

E

T 02 8356 0300

M Locked Bag 2, Kings Cross, NSW 1340 **W** www.nsw.liberal.org.au

From: TorpanInternational [<mailto:>]
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2020 6:24 PM
To: Nominations
Subject: Re: Nominations for Local Government - Close at 5:00pm today

Thanks , please , I seek the State Council , dispensation , otherwise I'll forget it.

No doubt , i would advertise my small 2nd preferences to Liberal , if the State Council , agreed.

Gill Whitton
Sent from my iPad

On 10 Mar 2020, at 17:46, Nominations

wrote:

Dear Gilbert

Thank you for your email.

You will not need to resign provided you obtain written dispensation from the Party's State Executive prior to nominating or publicly announcing your intention to nominate as an independent.

However, if State Executive declines to grant you dispensation, and you nominate regardless, then your membership of the Party will be automatically terminated. It is also relevant to note that if you resign and run against any

Annexure A - Electronic Ballot 20211015

candidates endorsed by the Party without prior dispensation from the Executive, you will become ineligible to re-join the Party for 3 years.

One final factor that you may wish to consider, is that if you do remain a member and end up running as an independent, you will be required to disclose your political party affiliation on your nomination forms.

I trust this answers your queries.

Kind regards

Dorina

DORINA ILIEVSKA

Party Affairs Manager

E [T 02 8356 0300](tel:0283560300)

M Locked Bag 2, Kings Cross, NSW 1340 **W** www.nsw.liberal.org.au

<image001.jpg>

[Like LiberalNSW on Facebook](#) | [Follow LiberalNSW on Twitter](#) | [Follow LiberalNSW on Instagram](#)

From: TorpanInternational
Sent: 8 March 2020 8:07 PM
To: Nominations
Subject: Re: Nominations for Local Government - Close at 5:00pm today

As one who is a former local government executive and a member of the Pt Stephens Liberal Party , could someone let me know whether I require to resign , as I plan stand at the council elections as an independent .

From the cost to be an endorsed candidate would be out of my financial scope.

Annexure A - Electronic Ballot 20211015

Simon McInnes

From: Jaimie Abbott
Sent: Thursday, 30 September 2021 7:44 AM
To: Dorina Ilievska
Subject: Gill Whitton

Hi Dorina,

Our LGC met this week to discuss Gill Whitton running in East Ward in Port Stephens.

We do not support him running on our council ticket, he has had a long time from when nominations opened to put his hand up this year. It is only because you reached out to him did he make his intentions known at all.

We also don't endorse him running as an independent as we need all hands on deck for our Liberal campaign.

Jaimie Abbott
President - LGC

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211015 - Local Govt, Federal Elections

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Text (SM)
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	N		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	N		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N		Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes								
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Deyi Wu	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Email
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	9	9	27	27	17	2	26	
	Total - No	18	16	0	0	8	25	0	
	Total - Abstain	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
	Total - No Response	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	
	Voting Pool	28	28	28	28	26	28	28	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Lost	Lost	Carried	Carried	Carried	Lost	Carried	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 29 October 2021
RE: Close nominations in Willoughby, waiver requests to run as independents in the local government elections, selecting and endorsing a local government ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown.

WILLOUGHBY STATE BY-ELECTION

By electronic ballot adopted 18 October 2021, State Executive resolved, because of the pending resignation of the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, to open nominations in the State electoral district of Willoughby and close upon the recommendation of the State Director.

The State Director is now recommending that nominations close at 5:00pm on Tuesday, 2 November 2021. Should State Executive agree to this recommendation then a motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 1: Pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) and (c) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES to that the close of nominations and eligibility date for any by-election in the State electoral district of Willoughby be 5:00pm on Tuesday, 2 November 2021.

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– DARRYN CAPES-DAVIS

The State Director has received a request from Darryn Capes-Davis requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Mr Capes-Davis advises:

"Good afternoon Mr President,

As per constitutional requirements of the Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division, I request written permission from State Executive to run as an Independent in North Rocks Ward for City of Parramatta Local Government Elections.

Although I have nominated for as a Liberal and understand that deliberations are ongoing at this 11th hour, I make this request now to provide time for State Executive to respond so I have confidence in nominating as an Independent Candidate prior to close of nominations next Wed 3rd Nov, 12pm.

Please can you let me know if you need anything further from myself to facilitate and finalise this request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Mr Capes-Davis' request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 2: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Mr Darryn Capes-Davis to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– ROBERT MASHFORD

The State Director has received a request from Robert Mashford requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Mr Mashford advises:

"Good evening Director,

As per constitutional requirements of the The Liberal Party of Australia, New South Wales Division, I request written permission from State Executive to run as an Independent candidate for North Rocks Ward in City of Parramatta Local Government Election on 4th December 2021.

I make this request now to provide time for State Executive to respond so I have confidence in nominating as an Independent Candidate prior to close of nominations next Wed 3rd Nov, 12pm.

Please can you let me know if you need anything further from myself to facilitate and finalise this request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Mr Mashford's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 3: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Mr Darryn Capes-Davis to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– MICHELLE BYRNE

The State Director has received a request from Clr Michelle Byrne requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections and has endorsed candidates.

Clr Byrne advises:

"Dear State Director and Party President,

I am writing to officially request permission to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021.

It is unfortunate that I find myself in this position. As the current sitting Mayor, I have been deliberately denied the opportunity to put forward my case to 600 local Party members as to why I should again be the endorsed Liberal Mayoral candidate. Hard working local Party members have also been disgracefully denied the opportunity to determine for themselves who is best placed to represent them at the next council election.

In good faith, I and other councillors submitted nomination forms. We did this only to find out we had been denied the opportunity to put our case to local Party members - with such preselection being deliberately delayed for months on end and despite a recommendation from the State Director to the State Executive meeting on 24 September 2021 to proceed with a preselection of local Party members to be held before 18 October 2021.

The end result has been that local Party members have been bypassed so that un-named people can cherry pick who they want as candidates, candidates which include individuals who never actually nominated for positions "assigned" by State Executive or at all.

What has taken place is nothing short of disgraceful and was entirely preventable and has also damaged the Liberal brand within the local community.

As one of, if not the best run Councils in NSW, and the only Council to have had a swing to the Party in 2017, I am at a loss as to why most sitting councillors would be wiped out, including the first popularly elected female Mayor.

I have been contacted by many Party members and community members who are outraged that I and my current team of councillors would be treated in this manner and replaced by people who are largely unknown to the community and who have not been subject to scrutiny by local Party members.

The argument that the Party was out of time to hold a preselection at the time the State Executive ballot opened on 15 October 2021 is farcical given that under the Constitution only 7 days' notice is required to hold a preselection. Additionally, this period can also be abridged under the Constitution to as little as two days' notice.

For a Party that claims it needs more females in politics and as the current female popularly elected Liberal Mayor, I have never felt less supported as I do right now. I feel that the Party has done a disservice not only to myself but also to women generally within the Party.

As a current Liberal Mayor who has been denied the opportunity of presenting my case to a selection committee of local Party members; it is only fair that I be given the opportunity to run as an independent against the Party - an opportunity that has been given to other non-endorsed Party members such as Councillor Nathan Zamprogno in Hawkesbury - and be allowed to directly put to the Hills Liberal voting community as to why I should remain the Mayor the Hills.

Thank you for considering my request."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Clr Byrne's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Clr Michelle Byrne to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– SAMUEL UNO

The State Executive has received a request from Clr Samuel Uno requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections and has endorsed candidates.

Clr Uno advises:

"Dear Simon and Chris,

Following on from Mayor Michelle Byrne's well articulated email, I too am officially requesting permission to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021.

Both of you know my long standing commitment to our party over the last 20 years of membership, and have an unwavering belief in the core values of our party. Unfortunately the our Party President and State Executive's actions have contradicted one of these core values to deny our grass root members the opportunity to select their own candidates:

"In the separation and distribution of powers as the best protection for the democratic process"

If granted permission I commit to upholding our party's values and will work constructively with the endorsed Liberal Ticket."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Clr Uno's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 5: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Clr Samuel Uno to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections*

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR UNWINNABLE POSITIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

(1) *If, with respect to:*

- (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and*
- (b) *vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,*

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

(2) *In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.*

As advised in a previous electronic ballot dated 15 October 2021, there have been multiple nominations for unwinnable position 2 in the Roselands Ward of the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA. They are MD Anamul Haque and Joseph Tannous (not the same Joseph Tannous that used to be a member of State Executive). There is insufficient time for normal selection processes to be followed. Consultation with the relevant LGC and the lead candidate, Sazeda Akter, has occurred and the preference is for State Executive to select Joseph Tannous.

Even though State Executive has previously resolved not select Mr Tannous, the State Director has now been advised that members of State Executive will support the selection of Mr Tannous. A motion to this effect follows:

MOTION 6: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES for the local government area of Canterbury-Bankstown that:

- (1) there is now insufficient time remaining prior to the 2021 local government elections, to select a candidate for position 2 in Roselands Ward as provided otherwise under the Constitution; and
- (2) further resolves to dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for position 2 in Roselands Ward and select Joseph Tannous as the candidate to contest this position.

NON-ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

As noted above, the State Director has been advised that Mr Tannous is an acceptable candidate to be selected at position 2 in Roselands Ward, however, he has been advised that the rest of the ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown, as selected by selectors may not be acceptable.

State Executive had previously considered a ticket of candidates for Canterbury-Bankstown that had been chosen at a Selection Committee meeting, including selecting Mr Tannous themselves, however, the motion considered by electronic ballot dated 15 October 2021 was contingent upon a motion to select Mr Tannous carrying. Because the motion to select Mr Tannous on 15 October 2021 failed, the motion to consider the full ticket on 15 October 2021 immediately became null and void.

As such, if State Executive wishes consider an alternative ticket, it must first select Mr Tannous (carry motion 6 above) and secondly, reject the candidates selected at the Selection Committee meeting. A motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 7: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motion 6 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to NOT endorse the following members as the Division's candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Philip Madirazza	Yes
	2	Georgios Lambropoulos	No
	3	Yali Shi	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

ENDORSEMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES – CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN

As noted above, the State Director has been advised that there is a proposed ticket for Canterbury-Bankstown that may be acceptable to members of State Executive. Below is a motion to endorse this ticket, however, please note that this motion is contingent upon both motions 6 and 7 above carrying:

MOTION 8: Pursuant to clause 21.6.1(1) of the Constitution, and subject to motions 6 and 7 above carrying, State Executive RESOLVES to endorse the following members as the Division's candidates for the 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections in the following positions and further RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 21.1.2(1)(b) of the Constitution, to close nominations for unwinnable positions in these 2021 Canterbury-Bankstown local government elections at 5:00pm on 15 October 2021:

Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
Bankstown	1	George Zakhia	Yes
	2	Stephanie Tran	No
	3	ANM Masum	No
Bass Hill	1	Charbel Ishac	Yes
	2	Nicholas Gad	No
	3	Fahmina Akter Hoq	No
Canterbury	1	Jessie Nguyen	Yes
	2	Jeff Tran	No
	3	Brendan Chow	No
Revesby	1	Charbel Abouraad	Yes
	2	Andrew Mortimer	No
	3	Mary-Therese Sukkar	No
Roselands	1	Sazeda Akter	Yes
	2	Joseph Tannous	No
	3	Anthony McKinley	No

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **9:00am, Monday, 1 November 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211029 - Close Willoughby, Waivers, Canterbury

Name	Motions Able to Vote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Method/Note
		Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Email
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Text (SM)
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	Y	N	N		N	Y	Y	Y	Email
James Wallace	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes	Y	N	N	A	A	A	Y	Y	Email
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes	Y	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Sally Betts	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N	F	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes	Y	N	N			Y	Y	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes									
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	Y	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes									
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes	Y					Y	Y	Y	Email
Deyi Wu	Yes	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes									
Mark Coure	Yes	Y					Y	Y	Y	Email
Steven Issa	Yes	Y	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Email
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	25	7	7	6	7	16	17	17	
	Total - No	0	11	11	10	11	6	7	6	
	Total - Abstain	0	5	5	5	4	2	1	1	
	Total - No Response	3	5	5	7	6	4	3	3	
	Voting Pool	28	23	23	23	24	26	27	27	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Carried	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Carried	Carried	Carried	

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 1 November 2021
RE: Waiver requests to run as independents in the local government elections, request to cancel endorsement of candidates in The Hills, waiver to contest preselection for Hughes.

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– CR ELIZABETH RUSSO

The State Director has received a request from Cr Elizabeth Russo requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Cr Russo advises:

"Dear State Director and Party President,

Following on from Madame Mayor, Clr. Dr. Michelle Byrne's well-articulated email who's message I echo, I too formally request permission to run as an independent candidate against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at the upcoming Local Government elections on 4th December 2021 for The Hills Shire.

I sincerely hope for a favourably response in a timely manner."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Cr Russo's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 1: State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Cr Elizabeth Russo to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– CR BROOKE COLLINS OAM

The State Director has received a request from Cr Brooke Collins OAM requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 The Hills local government elections.

Cr Collins advises:

"Gentleman,

I can't tell you how saddened I am to be writing this email to you, given the manner in which our preselection process has taken place, however more concerning is, at no time have any of you replied to the various emails sent to your office without even an acknowledgment of our emails and the concerns we have raised, which by the way are extremely serious and concerning given that democratic due process was not afforded the members of our LGC, yet Hornsby was able to conduct a successful preselection in the same time frame as our LGC.

I fully support the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and I too, am officially requesting dispensation to run as an independent against the endorsed Liberal Party candidates at The Hills Shire local government election on 4 December 2021."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Cr Collins's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 2: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Cr Brooke Collins OAM to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 The Hills local government elections.*

REQUEST TO RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT– MS GEORGINA VALJAK

The State Director has received a request from Ms Georgina Valjak requesting prior written permission from State Executive to run as independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution sets out that a member's membership will be automatically cease if they nominate for office where there is a candidate for that office endorsed by the Division or the Division has called for nominations to contest that office. The Division has resolved to contest the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.

Ms Valjak advises:

"Dear Chris,

Further to the below email apologies for the message via Bob Dwyer (thanks Bob) as I had some internet issues yesterday. Confirming that if it transpires that my application for preselection as No1 Liberal Candidate in the North Ricks Ward of City of Parramatta is not successful or alternatively if the Liberal Party Head Office decides not to preselect any candidates for the City of Parramatta Local Government elections on 4 December 2021, I would be most grateful if you could kindly confirm your approval by email that I may nominate and participate as an Independent candidate in an Independent Group of Candidates in the North Rocks Ward on 4 December 2021.

Thank you for your assistance."

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Ms Valjak's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 3: *State Executive RESOLVES, pursuant to clause 3.11.1, row 2 of the Constitution, to grant permission to Ms Georgina Valjak to run as an independent candidate in the 2021 Parramatta local government elections.*

REQUEST TO CANCEL ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES ENDORSED FOR THE 2021 THE HILLS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Secretary of The Hills LGC has sent to the State President and the State Director minutes, notice and an attendees list for a meeting of the Committee of The Hills LGC that took place on 31 October 2021 at which the following motion was passed:

The Hills LGC Committee requests that State Executive, pursuant to section 21.6.2(1)(A) of the Constitution of the Liberal Party of Australia (NSW Division) cancel the endorsement of Liberal candidates for election to office in the 2021 Hills Shire Council election.

Clause 21.6.2 of the Constitution states:

- (1) *State Executive may cancel any selection or endorsement of a Liberal candidate for election to office in Federal, State or local government, without giving reasons and call for nominations either on its own motion or if:

 - (a) *it is requested to do so by the members or the Committee of the relevant FEC, SEC or LGC or the Committee of the relevant FEB or FEC;*
 - (b) *time or circumstance, in the opinion of State Executive, make it impracticable to hold a meeting of the members or Committee of the relevant FEC, SEC or LGC to consider the matter or the Committee of the relevant FEB; or*
 - (c) *there is no relevant FEC, FEB, SEC, or LGC.**
- (2) *State Executive may cancel a selection or endorsement only if each member of State Executive is given notice in writing that a motion to cancel the selection or endorsement will be put at a meeting of State Executive and with respect to that motion State Executive follows the procedural fairness provisions in Appendix E.*

Should State Executive be inclined to support the request of The Hills LGC Committee, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 4: *State Executive RESOLVES to consider at a future meeting, a motion to cancel the endorsement of Liberal candidates for election to office in the 2021 Hills Shire Council election pursuant to clause 21.6.2(1)(a) of the Constitution, and that with respect to that motion, State Executive follows the procedural fairness provisions in Appendix E.*

ENDORSEMENT OF ADDITIONAL LIBERAL CANDIDATES FOR THE HILLS SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Clause 21.6.4 of the Constitution allows State Executive to modify or dispense with normal selection procedures if, in the opinion of State Executive, there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as otherwise provided.

Clause 21.6.4 relevantly provides that:

- (1) *If, with respect to:

 - (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and**

- (b) vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

- (2) In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.

Section 308A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) (the Act) provides that:

- (1) This section applies to an election in which there are 2 or more councillors to be elected.
- (2) Two or more candidates duly proposed for nomination for election may, before noon on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations, claim to have their names included in a group on the ballot-papers and in the order specified in the claim. The claim is to be lodged with the returning officer.
- (3) A claim under subsection (2) may also include a request for a group voting square for the group to appear on the ballot-papers to be used in the election concerned, but only if—
- (a) in the case of an area not divided into wards—the number of candidates in the group on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations is at least half the number of candidates to be elected, or
- (b) in the case of an area divided into wards—**there are at least as many candidates in the group** on the nomination day prescribed by the regulations as there are candidates to be elected.

(emphasis added)

In light of public commentary that at least two candidates are said to be considering withdrawing their nominations for the Hills Shire Council, it is proposed that the following additional candidates are added to the Wards at risk, as is allowed for under s308A of the Act, to ensure that, in the circumstance of any candidate withdrawal or failure or inability to lodge their nomination within the requisite timeframe, the Liberal Party will have a complete ticket in each Ward and as such able to run above the line in a Group.

Those candidates who are presently endorsed in the Wards at risk, but have not yet completed their nomination forms as required by the NSW Electoral Commission, must take urgent steps to ensure that their nomination forms are lodged, and documentation provided to the Secretariat, so as to ensure that the Secretariat has sufficient time in which to finalise and formally lodge their nomination.

MOTION 5: Pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, State Executive RESOLVES:

1. That if candidates in the Hills Shire Local Government Area have not submitted their candidate registration with the NSW Electoral Commission by 6.00pm, Tuesday, 2 November 2021 then the State Director will have insufficient time in which to finalise and formally lodge the candidate's nomination. The State Director is to inform all candidates for the Hills Shire Local Government Area of this requirement by 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 2 November 2021; and
2. To dispense with the selection process with respect to the 2021 local government elections for this area and endorse the following additional candidates:

Council	Ward	Ticket Position	Nominees	Winnable?
The Hills Shire Council	West	4	Mike Thomas	N
	West	5	Jill Dyball	N
	East	4	Alan Haselden	N

In the event that the earlier endorsed candidates do not complete the requisite nomination or registration forms by the above-stipulated deadline, then the additional candidates would move up the ticket.

WAIVER REQUEST – MS JENNY WARE

The State Director has received a request from Ms Jenny Ware who wishes to nominate as a candidate for preselection for Hughes at the next federal election.

Ms Ware was accepted into the Gynea Yowie Bay Branch at its meeting on 31 May 2021. This means that she will not have been a continuous financial member for 6 months until 30 November 2021 and, therefore, does not currently meet the minimum membership requirements to be eligible to nominate. However, State Executive can waive this requirement if it considers there are exceptional circumstances for doing so. Clause 21.2.1 of the Constitution stipulates that:

- (1) *A person may nominate for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for election to an office in Federal, State or local government only if, as at the close of nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate, that person:*
 - (a) *is a financial member of the Organisation; and*
 - (b) *has continuously been a financial member of the Organisation for at least six months immediately preceding the close of nominations,*
otherwise the nomination is of no effect.
- (2) *Despite subclause 21.2.1(1) if State Executive determines there are exceptional circumstances justifying the waiving of the requirement in subclause 21.2.1(1)(b) with respect to the eligibility of a particular member of the Organisation to nominate for endorsement, State Executive may waive that requirement by motion of not less than 60% of those present and voting at the meeting of State Executive. A decision to issue a waiver in accordance with this subclause must be made by State Executive before the close of nominations for the election the subject of the endorsement.*

Nominations to be a Liberal endorsed candidate for Hughes opened at 9:00am on Monday, 1 November 2021. Ms Ware has sent the State Director a letter, which is included at **Annexure A**.

Should State Executive be inclined to grant Ms Ware's request, a motion to this effect follows.

MOTION 6: *State Executive RESOLVES by a motion of 60%, that exceptional circumstances exist justifying a waiver of the 6-month membership requirement in clause 21.2.1(1) of the Constitution with respect to the nomination of Ms Jenny Ware for selection as a Liberal candidate for Hughes at the next federal election.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **by 10:00am, Tuesday 2 November 2021**. Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.

SE Electronic Ballot - 20211101 - Waivers, The Hills, Hughes

Name	Motions	1	2	3	4	5	6	Method/Note
	Able to Vote	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	Y/N/A	
Philip Ruddock	Yes	A	A	A	N	Y	Y	By phone
Penny George	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Christopher Rath	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
Tobias Lehmann	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Aileen MacDonald	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Mary-Lou Jarvis	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
James Wallace	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		Email
Matthew Camenzuli	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Matthew Hana	Yes							
Chantelle Fornari-Orsmond	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N		Email
Martin Zaiter	Yes							
Sally Betts	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Zac Miles	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	WhatsApp (SM)
Michelle Byrne	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Christian Ellis	Yes					Y	Y	Email
Jacqui Munro	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Michelle Bishop	Yes	N	N	N	N	N	N	Email
Damien Jones	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Patrick Doherty	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Email
Mark Croxford	Yes	A	A	A	A	A	N	Email
Anna Chandler	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Text (SM)
Jemma Tribe	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Alexander Dore	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Email
Michael Hughes	Yes							
Deyi Wu	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Email
Alex Hawke	Yes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Email
Mark Coure	Yes	N	N	N	N	Y		
Steven Issa	Yes							
Charlie Taylor	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Teena McQueen	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
	Total - Yes	9	9	9	9	13	7	
	Total - No	12	12	12	13	10	12	
	Total - Abstain	2	2	2	1	1	0	
	Total - No Response	5	5	5	5	4	9	
	Voting Pool	26	26	26	27	27	28	
	Percentage Requirement	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	
	Result	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	Lost	

Merry Christmas and Local Government Update

Peter Poulos (LGOC)

Tue, Dec 24, 2019 at 8:46 AM

Reply-To: "Peter Poulos (LGOC)"

To: [REDACTED]

[View this email in your browser](#)

 Local Government Oversight Committee - Peter Poulos, Chair

Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to thank the State Council Delegates who elected me to the **Local Government Oversight Committee (LGOC)**.

I am very grateful for this privilege and understand that there is much work to be done. I am here to serve you.

Together we can achieve great things for our Party in Local Government.

Similarly, I extend my appreciation to my colleagues who recently elected me as Chair.

I look forward to working with them and acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing Chair, Jeff Egan and thank him for his service.

I can advise that **Charles Perrottet was elected Deputy Chair and Dallas McInerney will serve as Secretary**. I congratulate them both on their elevation into these roles.

I also acknowledge our other Committee Members who include Harry Stutchbury, Karen Howard and Aaron Henry.

Next year will be an exceptionally busy period for those involved in Local Government.

The 2020 NSW Local Government Elections are scheduled for

Saturday 12 September 2020.

To recap, the LGOC is responsible for making recommendations to your State Executive on matters such as whether we contest as Liberals in certain Local Government Areas. Amongst other things we consider are timetables for pre-selections and as Chair I serve on the Nomination Review Committee (NRC) for all Candidates.

Last Tuesday, both the Deputy Chair and I met with the State Director and Deputy State Director to be briefed on issues pertinent to next year's Local Government Elections. I look forward to our ongoing discussions with the Secretariat.

We plan to convene a meeting of the Local Government Oversight Committee on Monday 6 January 2020 and we will meet as often as required to undertake our duties accordingly.

Early next year, the Deputy Chair and I are planning to host a networking drinks event for all our Councillors, Local Government Conferences and interested members. Stay tune for further details.

I believe in Local Government and recognise the fantastic efforts of our Councillors who serve their communities. Our Councillors often reinforce the effectiveness of grass roots advocacy when many move on to become Members of Parliament.

Local Government is a great platform to groom our next generation of leaders.

That is why I invite you to start thinking now about the calibre, expertise and the level of diversity within your Local Government Teams in anticipation of the 2020 Election.

For this reason I am eager to encourage younger members amongst our ranks to pursue their political journey into Local Government.

Most importantly I especially would like to see more Liberal Women elected into Local Government. Ideally this will mean more

women preselected into winnable positions as our current level of female representation of 22% is too low.

Regretfully, NSW is in a sombre mood. Many of our communities have been devastated by bushfires and severely impacted by the drought. The loss of life, property damage and environmental degradation cannot be overstated.

All of us will need to play a role to assist in the rebuild and restoration of these communities. Our Liberal Councillors will continue to provide a strong local voice for this purpose.

I extend to you and your family my best wishes for Christmas and 2020. As always I appreciate your feedback and can be contacted on

Kind regards
Peter Poulos

Members of the Local Government Oversight Committee: Charles Perrottet (Deputy Chair), Dallas McInerney (Secretary), Harry Stutchbury, Jeff Egan, Karen Howard and Aaron Henry.

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Authorised by Peter Poulos, Chair, Local Government Oversight Committee.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:
Local Government Oversight Committee
PO Box 136
Bexley, NSW 2207
Australia

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

NSW Division

Constitution
As amended – 9 November 2019

- (a) the creation of a casual vacancy in the relevant parliamentary office; and
- (b) the resignation, or cancellation of selection or endorsement, of a previously selected or endorsed Liberal candidate for the relevant parliamentary office,

whichever is the later to occur.

**21.6.4 Urgent
Endorsement
Procedures for
Senate,
Legislative
Council and
Local
Government**

- (1) **If, with respect to:**
- (a) **vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and**
 - (b) **vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,**

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

- (2) **In the case of vacancies in office for local government, before exercising the power in this clause State Executive must consult with the relevant LGC.**

**21.6.5 Local Bodies not
functioning**

If in any Federal or State electorate:

- (1) there is no FEC, FEB, or SEC (as the case may be); or
- (2) all the Branches that are allocated to the FEC or SEC fail, or the FEB fails, to elect members of a Selection Committee within a reasonable time after request by State Executive,

State Executive may endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate, but State Executive must:

- (3) confer with the Committee or the members of the FEC or SEC (if any), or the Committee of the FEB (if any); and

ELECTRONIC BALLOT



TO: STATE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
FROM: State President
DATE: 27 December 2022
RE: Endorsing a ticket for the Legislative Council

ENDORISING A TICKET FOR THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Cl. 21.1.1(1) of the Constitution stipulates that, for every federal, state or local government election, State Executive must decide which offices the Division will contest. Cl. 21.1.3(1), 21.1.3(4) and 21.1.4(1) further stipulate that, if State Executive decides to contest an office in federal, state or local government, it must, amongst other things:

- (a) develop and approve a timetable for the preselection of a candidate in each Federal, State or local office (as applicable) that the State Executive has decided will be contested;
- (b) by public advertisement seek from members of the Organisation nominations for endorsement as the Liberal candidate for that office;
- (c) determine and disclose the dates for the opening and closing of nominations, the close of rolls and the close of challenges to rolls;
- (d) determine and approve a date for the week that Nomination Review Committee meetings will be held;
- (e) determine the date as at which the eligibility of a person to be a member of a Selection Committee is to be determined; and
- (f) determine the earliest and latest dates upon which a selection committee meeting is to be held.

With respect to offices for the Legislative Council, cl. 24.4.1 and 24.4.2 further stipulate that:

24.4.1: Liberal endorsed candidates for office in the New South Wales Legislative Council must be presented to the electorate in the following order:

- (1) *the number of Provincial Candidates must be allocated positions one through to the number of Provincial Candidates; and*
- (2) *Candidates at Large must be allocated positions from one more than the number of Provincial Candidates until the last position on the Liberal ticket.*

24.4.2: (1) The President of the Division, after consultation with the State Parliamentary Leader, must nominate to State Executive a proposed order for the Provincial Candidates.

- (2) *State Executive must by motion carried at State Executive approve that order, with or without amendment.*

- (3) *State Executive must then submit to a Selection Committee formed under clause 24.3.1 the proposed order for the Provincial Candidates.*
- (4) *That Selection Committee must by motion approve the proposed order for the Provincial Candidates with or without amendment. The Standing Orders apply in this regard.*
- (5) *Candidates at Large for Winnable Positions are to be presented to the electorate in the order in which they are selected by the same Selection Committee.*
- (6) *Candidates at Large for Unwinnable Positions are to be presented to the electorate in the order in which they are selected by State Executive and will be allocated positions after Candidates at Large for Winnable Positions.*

State Executive will be aware that nominations for all Legislative Assembly seats have now been opened, and in many instances, closed. As such, State Executive must resolve whether the Division will contest the Legislative Council and commence the process of selecting candidates for the following positions:

- Country South West province;
- St George-Illawarra province;
- South West Metropolitan province;
- Central Metropolitan province; and
- Winnable positions 'At Large'.

There are a number of preselections for lower house seats still to be conducted, which are scheduled to take place in late January 2023. Further to this, the Secretariat office closure is now in effect, meaning that if State Executive were to resolve to contest the Legislative Council, no work can be undertaken to publicly advertise this and the opening of nominations to Members, or to begin making arrangements for Nomination Review Committee meetings or Selection Committee meetings to take place, until the office reopens on 3 January 2023. As a consequence, there is limited time remaining to undertake the work to enable preselections to be convened prior to the opening of nominations with the NSW Electoral Commission on 27 February 2023.

For the above reasons, it is the strong view of the State Parliamentary Leader's Representative (in consultation with the State Parliamentary Leader), together with the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council (Parliamentary Team), which has been expressed to me in writing, that there is insufficient time to select candidates as provided under the Constitution for all four Legislative Council provinces and the winnable 'At Large' positions.

It is also the strong view of the Parliamentary Team that State Executive's urgent endorsement powers under cl. 21.6.4 of the Constitution have been triggered. Cl. 21.6.4(1) relevantly provides that:

- (1) *If, with respect to:*
 - (a) *vacancies in parliamentary office for the Senate or Legislative Council at a general election or casual vacancies; and*
 - (b) *vacancies in elected office for local government at a general election or casual vacancies,*

State Executive decides there is insufficient time for the selection of candidates as provided otherwise in this Constitution, State Executive may by motion modify the

procedures for selection of candidates for those offices or dispense altogether with the procedures and endorse a member of the Organisation as the Division's candidate for those offices.

In the circumstances, a request has been made by the Parliamentary Team that State Executive exercise its powers under cl. 21.6.4 to dispense with and/or modify the selection procedures under the Constitution, to the extent necessary, to endorse candidates for all winnable positions on the Legislative Council ticket, subject to the proposed candidates being found to be fit and proper persons by a Nomination Review Committee (NRC).

The candidates and ticket order proposed by the Parliamentary Team for endorsement is as follows:

- Position 1: Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, as the candidate 'At Large' No 1;
- Position 3: Hon Peter Poulos MLC, as the candidate for the St George/Illawarra province;
- Position 4: Ms Susan Carter, as the candidate for the Country South West province;
- Position 6: Hon Chris Rath MLC, as the candidate for the Central Metropolitan province; and
- Position 7: Ms Rachel Merton, as the candidate for the South West Metropolitan province.

It must be noted that, to effect the above, the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC would be required to resign her seat in the Legislative Council, thereby creating a casual vacancy that would need to be filled at a joint sitting of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Members of the Legislative Council convened for that purpose. It is the strong view of the Parliamentary Team that, in order to maintain stability and cohesion within the Parliamentary Party and the Coalition, it is imperative that the position created by the resignation of Ms Maclaren-Jones not remain vacant and therefore, that this vacancy must be filled in conjunction with the endorsement of the ticket for the 2023 State elections.

The Parliamentary Team therefore contends that, with there being insufficient time to select candidates for the Legislative Council for the 2023 State elections, there is likewise insufficient time to select a candidate to fill the casual vacancy that will be created upon the resignation of Ms Maclaren-Jones. As such, it is contended by the Parliamentary Team that cl. 21.6.4(1) is also triggered with respect to this office, and State Executive is asked to exercise these powers to endorse the Hon Scott Farlow MLC for this vacancy.

It is the strong view of the Parliamentary Team that this will ensure that the Coalition can head into the election with a complete and cohesive team so as to maximise its prospects of success at the 2023 State election.

It should be noted that the position outlined in this ballot is that of the Parliamentary Team and does not necessarily represent my personal view, or the views of the Secretariat team. However, with the Secretariat closure now in effect, and there being no State Executive meetings until mid-January, this ballot is put to State Executive on an urgent basis for its consideration.

Should the State Executive agree with the views and course of action proposed by the Parliamentary Team, then motions to this effect follow:

Motion 1: *That the State Executive RESOLVE, by ordinary motion pursuant to clause 21.1.1(1), to contest the Legislative Council at the 2023 State Election.*

Motion 2: *That the State Executive RESOLVE, by ordinary motion pursuant to clause 21.6.4(1) of the Constitution, that:*

- *For the purposes of ensuring the Coalition has a complete and cohesive team so as to maximise its prospects of success at the 2023 State election, candidates for all vacancies in the Legislative Council must be selected and endorsed urgently;*
- *There is insufficient time before the 2023 State elections for the selection of candidates for the Legislative Council at the general election as provided for in the Constitution;*
- *In order to finalise all vacancies in the Legislative Council before the 2023 State election, there is also insufficient time for the selection of a candidate to fill a casual vacancy as provided for in the Constitution; and*
- *With respect to the 2023 State election for the Legislative Council and any casual vacancy created by the resignation of the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, the preselection procedures in cl. 21.1.3, 21.1.4(1), 24.4.1 and 24.3.1, 24.4.1 and 24.4.2 are dispensed with and/or modified to the extent that, for the following offices at the 2023 state election:*
 - *Legislative Council Country South West province;*
 - *Legislative Council St George-Illawarra province;*
 - *Legislative Council South West Metropolitan province;*
 - *Legislative Council Central Metropolitan province; and*
 - *the Legislative Council At Large for winnable position 1;*

State Executive may, at its discretion, endorse a Member of the Division as the Division's candidate for that office provided that:

- *the Member has submitted a completed nomination in the manner prescribed by State Executive; and*
- *a Nomination Review Committee (NRC) has been convened and has found the Member to be a fit and proper person for presentation to State Executive for endorsement;*

with the endorsement of State Executive taking effect upon the resolution by the relevant NRC that the Member is a fit and proper person."

Motion 3: *That, subject to the carriage of motion 2, and conditional on the resignation of the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC from her current seat in the Legislative Council prior to the day for lodgement of nominations as a candidate for election under the Electoral Act 2017, the State Executive RESOLVE by ordinary motion and subject to the procedures regarding nomination and endorsement in motion 2 being met:*

- *the following Members of the Division be endorsed as the Division's candidates for the Legislative Council at the 2023 State election, in the positions and ticket order listed below:*
 - *Position 1: Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC as the candidate At Large No 1;*
 - *Position 3: Hon Peter Poulos MLC as the candidate for the St George/Illawarra province;*
 - *Position 4: Ms Susan Carter as the candidate for the Country South West province;*
 - *Position 6: Hon Chris Rath MLC as the candidate for the Central Metropolitan province;*
 - *Position 7: Ms Rachel Merton as the candidate for the South West Metropolitan Province; and*
- *the Hon Scott Farlow MLC be endorsed as the Division's nominee under s 22D of the Constitution Act 1902 to fill the casual vacancy created by the said resignation of the Hon*

Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC, with such endorsements to take effect immediately on the creation of that casual vacancy.

Motion 4: *That State Executive RESOLVE, by ordinary motion pursuant to clause 21.1.3(4)(i) of the Constitution, that for the 2023 State election, only the first Legislative Council 'At Large' position on the joint Coalition ticket is a Winnable Position, and all other 'At Large' positions are Unwinnable Positions.*

State Executive is asked to indicate a position in relation to the proposed motions by email to be received by **by 7:00pm on Tuesday, 27 December 2022.** Time to be according to the Secretariat mail server.



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

8 February 2022

The Premier, Hon. Dominic Perrottet
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(Via email)

Dear Premier,

RE: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PC7 – INQUIRY INTO THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

I write to you regarding the Legislative Council PC7 – Inquiry into the Hills Shire Council (Hills Inquiry). At the direction of the Leader of the Government, the Hon Damien Tudehope, I was replaced on the Hills Inquiry by the Hon. Chris Rath, without any consultation whatsoever. To date, I have received no formal notification from the Leader of the Government or yourself concerning this action, which is unprecedented and very disrespectful to me both as a member of the Legislative Council and as a member of the New South Wales Parliamentary Liberal Party.

As you are aware, both the Hon. Chris Rath and the Hon. Aileen MacDonald were members of the New South Wales Liberal Party State Executive at the time the subject matter of the Hills Inquiry was considered by that body. As a result each of these members recused themselves from any participation in the Hills Inquiry due to this obvious conflict of interest, particularly as they could be called as witnesses to the inquiry.

The actions of Mr. Tudehope to appoint Mr. Rath in my stead without any consultation and being fully aware of the conflict of interest, is an appalling abuse of power that reflects poorly upon your government. It was brought to my attention that Mr. Rath reminded the leader of the government, Mr. Tudehope of this conflict of interest but was nonetheless installed against his wishes, as a member of the Hills Inquiry. This action threatens to compromise the Hills Inquiry and undermines the role of the Legislative Council as a house of review.

I call upon you to instruct Mr Tudehope to immediately rectify this clear conflict of interest by removing Mr. Rath from the Hills Inquiry and reinstating me as a member of this Committee forthwith.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lou Amato'.

The Hon. Lou Amato MLC

cc: The Hon Damien Tudehope
Members, PC7 Hills Inquiry

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Three: The Lobbyists



The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Three: The Lobbyists

Our Stars



Name: Christian Ellis

Current Positions:

Member of Constitution Standing Committee (Liberal Party)

Former Positions:

Member of State Executive (Liberal Party)

Member of Party Affairs Committee (Liberal Party)



Name: Jeremy Greenwood

Current Positions:

Former Positions:

Employee of Philip Ruddock MP



Name: Charles Perrottet

Current Positions:

Missing In Action

Former Positions:

Deputy Chair of the Local Government Oversight Committee (Liberal Party)

Member of the State Redistribution Advisory Committee (Liberal Party)



Name: Dylan Whitelaw

Current Positions:

Member of Local Government Oversight Committee (Liberal Party)

Former Positions:

Employee of Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells

Employee of Christian Ellis

Employee of the President, Hon. Matthew Mason-Cox

Employee of Minister for Planning, Anthony Roberts



Name: Robert Assaf

Current Positions:

Head of Public Policy at JOLT

Former Positions:

Regional Engagement Manager at Greyhound Racing NSW

Communications Officer at Catholic Schools NSW

The men who stole the Hills
Chapter Three: The Lobbyists

Our Story

BECKINGTON



Macquarie Consulting



MACQUARIE
RESOURCES GROUP

A number of key leaders and operators of the NSW Reformers (as discussed in Chapter One) created different companies and businesses to provide lobbyist or “advisory” services. Amongst these were **Christian Ellis** and **Jeremy Greenwood** with **Beckington**, **Charles Perrottet** with **Macquarie Consulting** and **Dylan Whitelaw** with **Macquarie Advisory**.

The use of ‘non-beneficially’ held shares, holding companies and registering shareholdings and directorships in the name of wives was used to try to obfuscate the real ownership structure and hide details on the lobbyist register.

Numerous clients of these lobbyists were property developers or in property development adjacent industries.

Suggestion: Changes should be made to the lobbyist register, and if needed the relevant legislation, to make public the name of all natural persons that derive a benefit from any part of the ownership chain of any entity engaged in lobbying.

Background concepts

Beneficial Owner vs Non-beneficial Owner

If someone has beneficial ownership of a share it means that you can benefit directly from the shares. If they own shares in your company but aren’t entitled to receive the benefits from them, then they have non-beneficial ownership.

A non-beneficial owner often holds a share for someone else.

Some common examples of non-beneficial owners include parents who hold shares for their children, the executor of a will who owns shares on behalf of an estate, or a trustee who holds shares for the beneficiaries of a trust.

‘Beneficially held’ means that the owner of the shares gets the direct benefit from the shares. Direct benefits include dividend payments.

If the shareholder is not holding the shares on behalf of another person, organisation or trust, the shares are beneficially held. It will show ‘Y’ in the company extract if the shares are beneficially held.

If the shareholder is holding the shares on behalf of another person, organisation or trust, they are not beneficially held. It will show ‘N’ in the company extract if the shares are not beneficially held.

The men who stole the Hills

Chapter Three: The Lobbyists

Whois Record

Whois is a widely used Internet record listing that publicly identifies who owns a domain and how to get in contact with them.

A Whois record contains all of the contact information associated with the person, group, or company that registers a particular domain name. Typically, each Whois record will contain information such as the name and contact information of the Registrant (who owns the domain), the name and contact information of the Registrar (the organization or commercial entity that registered the domain name), the registration dates, the name servers, the most recent update, and the expiration date.

Whois records may also provide the administrative and technical contact information (which is often, but not always, the registrant).

The men who stole the Hills
Chapter Three: The Lobbyists

Beckington (as at the time of the Hills Shire candidate installation)

Beckington was a lobbyist company that was owned by **Jeremy Greenwood** and **Belloc Associates Pty Ltd**.

Christian Ellis was formerly the owner of 50% of the shares of **Beckington**, but these were transferred to the company **Belloc Associates** on 20 December 2019. Belloc Associates is not the beneficial owner.

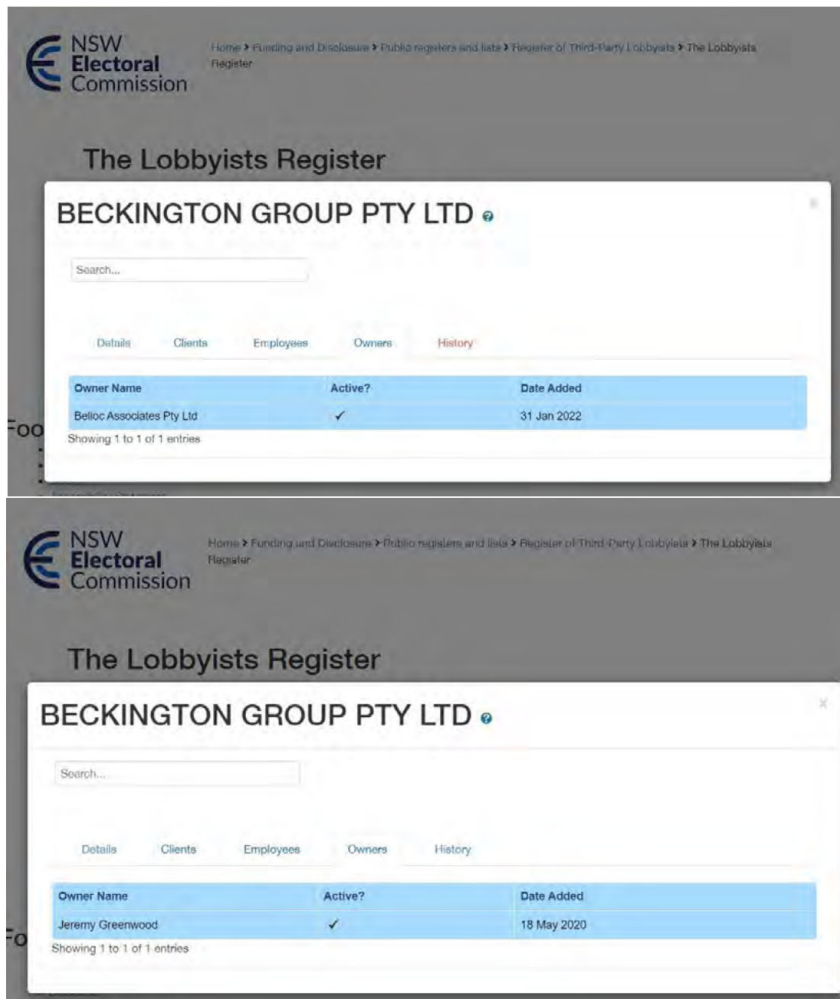
Belloc Associates is owned and operated by the wife of Christian Ellis,



Name:	Beckington Group Pty Ltd	ABN:	93 634 947 050
Registered:	18/07/2019	ACN:	634 947 050
Logo:	BECKINGTON		
Website:	beckington.com.au (Inactive)	Lobbyist Status:	Deregistered
Former Owners:	Christian Ellis (50%)		
Ownership: (As at 2020)	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> The wife of Christian Ellis (100%) </div>		
	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 100px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Jeremy Greenwood (50%) </div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">↓</div> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> Belloc Associates Pty Ltd (50%) </div> <div style="font-size: 2em;">↓</div> </div> </div>		
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; background-color: #76923c; color: white; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Beckington Group Pty Ltd </div>		
	<p><i>NOTE: Belloc Associates Pty Ltd is not the beneficial owner of the shares.</i></p>		

The men who stole the Hills
Chapter Three: The Lobbyists

NOTE: Despite Beckington being marked as no longer active in lobbying, it appears that information has been removed or hidden from the lobbyist register, possibly in an attempt to hide or obfuscate ownership structure of Beckington. Two screenshots of the current ownership data show different records.



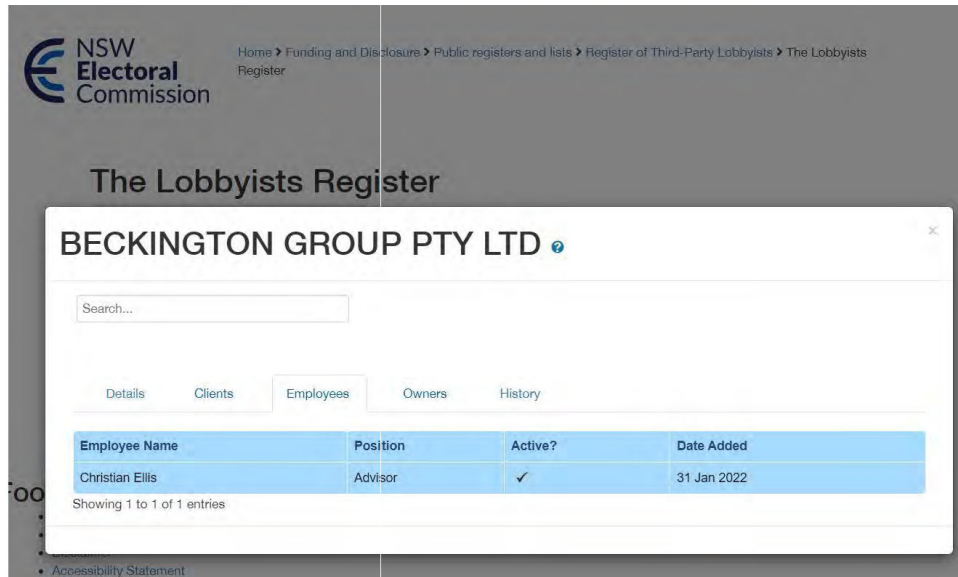
Belloc Associates was only added as an owner as of **31 January 2022**, over 3 years after it became a shareholder.

Questions must be raised if the omission of Belloc Associates from the ownership data was a breach. Further questions must also be asked if it is lawful to list an entity that does not beneficially hold the shares and if a natural person should be listed instead.

It was understood in Liberal Party circles that Beckington was a **co-venture between Christian Ellis and Jeremy Greenwood**, despite the official paperwork suggestion otherwise and listing Christian Ellis as an employee.

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Later **Dylan Whitelaw**, a core member of the **NSW Reformers**, would also work for Beckington in a non-lobbying capacity until financial issues would force them to terminate his employment with outstanding benefits that were not paid. This would make 3 NSW Reformers working at Beckington.



One possible reason for the obfuscation of true ownership is that the constitution of the NSW Liberal Party prevents a registered lobbyists from serving on the powerful State Executive, to which **Christian Ellis** was elected to.

Concerns were raised by senior members of the State Executive about the eligibility of Christian Ellis to serve as a member of the State Executive while being a known lobbyist, but Ellis was ultimately never removed from State Executive for that reason.

Information removed from the Lobbyist Register

It appears that information has been removed or deleted from the lobbyist register to hide or obfuscate the clients and staff of **Beckington**.

Information such as past clients have been removed and are not accessible from the history tab.

One such example is the fact that **Toplace** has been removed as a client, despite it being widely reported on in the media that it was a client of **Beckington**.

There is no mention of **Toplace** as current client or a historical client of **Beckington** on the Lobbyist Register.



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NSW Electoral Commission

Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients Employees Owners **History**

2022

Lobbyist Status

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
2022.01.31	Application Submitted	Active	Internal Process

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Lobbyist Responsible Officer

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
No data available in table			

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Clients

Client Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
RESPONSIBLE WAGERING AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS LIMITED	31/01/2022 5:41 PM		Christian Ellis
SPIRECORP PTY. LTD.	16/03/2022 4:31 PM		Christian Ellis
TCG DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD	22/03/2022 3:04 PM		Christian Ellis

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Employees

Employee Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Christian Ellis	31/01/2022 5:40 PM		Christian Ellis
Christian Ellis	9/06/2022 2:20 PM		Henry Donkin

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Owners

Owner Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Belloc Associates Pty Ltd	31/01/2022 5:40 PM		Christian Ellis

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

As seen in the 'Changed By' column, **Christian Ellis** has administrator access to amend the data on Beckington's records. Data should be extracted from the NSW Electoral Commissions servers to see what data was removed and deleted, and by who it was deleted.

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Screenshot: Current clients list of Beckington that was saved as at 10 February 2023

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
ASSOCIATED KILN DRIERS PTY. LIMITED	34004341048	✓	No		06 Jul 2020
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA LTD	44638153689		No		23 Mar 2021
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA LTD	44638153689	✓	No		23 Mar 2021
Greyhound Racing New South Wales	61018166136	✓	No		21 May 2020
INQ INNOVATION GLOBAL PTY LTD	47622183662	✓	No		30 Mar 2020
LIVIUS PTY LTD	75632913421		No		30 Mar 2020
PA PACKAGING SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	49615911852	✓	No		30 Mar 2020
Toplace Pty Ltd	63135918491		No		13 Jul 2020
Ultra Business Solutions Pty Ltd	92137736693		No		01 Apr 2020
VAPOUREYES TRADING PTY LTD	17610585521		No		13 Jul 2020

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

Screenshot: Current clients list of Beckington that was saved as at 15 February 2023

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
RESPONSIBLE WAGERING AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS LIMITED	89616573418	✓	No		31 Jan 2022
SPIRECORP PTY. LTD.	32167471918	✓	No		16 Mar 2022
TCG DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD	20603486764	✓	No		22 Mar 2022

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

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Greyhounds Racing NSW as client

A client of Beckington that has since been removed off the register was **Greyhounds Racing NSW**. This was where key NSW Reformer **Robert Assaf** worked for many years in numerous roles. It was known in Liberal Party circles that it was **Jeremy Greenwood** and **Christian Ellis** that got **Robert Assaf** the job at Greyhounds.

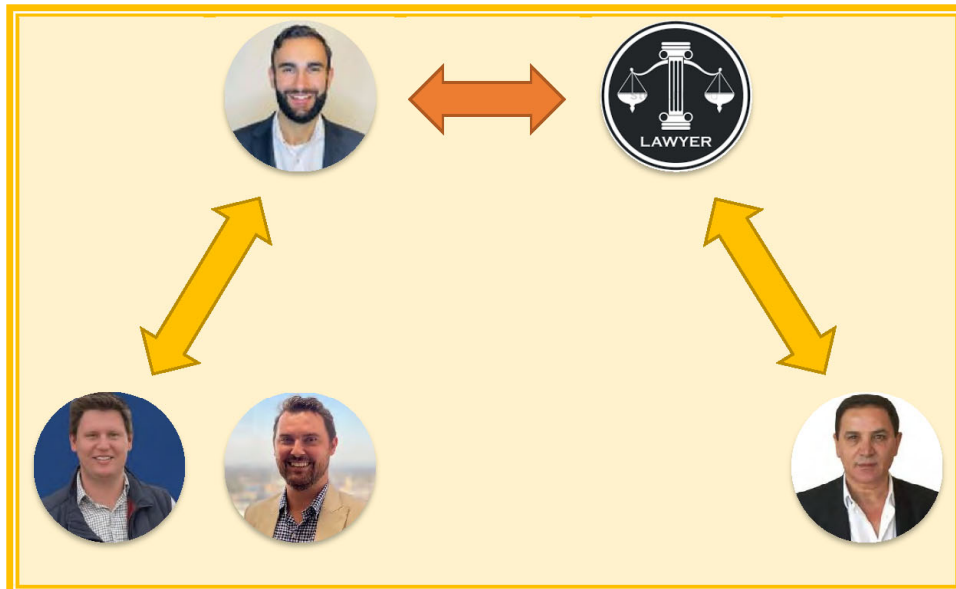


The relationship between Beckington and Greyhounds would grow over the years as the lines between professional and political continued to become blurred.

Introduction to Toplace

The official introduction of **Christian Ellis**, **Jeremy Greenwood** and **Jean Nassif** was done around early 2020 through **Robert Assaf** and the legal counsel of Toplace who was personally known to **Robert Assaf**.

Diagram: How Beckington and Toplace were introduced



Robert Assaf being an NSW Reformer was aware of the plan to install friends and family of **Christian Ellis**, **Jeremy Greenwood** and others to councillor positions, such as **Virginia Ellis** (the mother of Christian Ellis) in Hills Shire Council and **Verity Greenwood** (the mother of

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Jeremy Greenwood) in Hornsby Shire Council. He would also have known that Toplace was a major property developer in those LGA's and surrounding region.

Questions should be asked as to why Robert Assaf introduced Beckington to Toplace when he knew of the intention to install the family and friends of the owners of Beckington as Councillors in areas that Toplace developed.

TCG Developments and Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club

Another of Beckington's clients is TCG Developments Pty Ltd, a development company that has significant acres of land in the private luxury Twin Creeks estate located in the state seat of Mulgoa (now Badgerys Creek) held by **Tanya Davies MP**, a supporter of the NSW Reformers.

Land owned by TCG Developments is involved in the proposed development of an 11-storey 5-star resort hotel which is estimated to cost \$99 million.

See here for more details: <https://pp.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/planning-panel/twin-creeks-resort>

Twin Creeks Golf Club is where the Mulgoa Branch, the branch of local state MP **Tanya Davies**, has their regular meetings and their AGM.

It is important to note that **Tanya Davies** has been a supporter of the NSW Reformers and is currently the **Parliamentary Secretary for Planning**.


Notice of General Meeting for the Mulgoa Branch

DATE: 17 June 2021

LOCATION: Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club
 2/8 Twin Creeks Drive
 Luddenham NSW 2745

TIME: 7:30pm

VENUE CAPACITY: The COVID safe capacity of the meeting venue is 150 persons.
Please note that if the number of members who actually turn up to the



Questions should be asked about the booking cost at the Twin Creeks Golf Club for branches associated with or aligned with Tanya Davies.

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Macquarie Consulting

Macquarie Consulting is a business owned by **Anita Perrottet**, who is the wife of **Charles Perrottet** which advertises its specialties as Town Planning, Energy, Commercial, Infrastructure and Analytics according to its website.

The website of Macquarie Consulting was active since 2022 and has since been taken down but can still be accessed using the Internet Archives Wayback Machine.



Name:	Macquarie Consulting Pty Ltd	ABN:	33 643 931 748
Registered:	31/08/2020	ACN:	643 931 748
Logo:			
Website:	macquarieconsulting.com.au (Inactive)	Lobbyist Status:	Never Registered
Former Owners:	N/A		
Ownership:	<div style="text-align: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Anita Perrottet The wife of Charles Perrottet (100%) </div> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin: 10px 0;">↓</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #70ad47; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Macquarie Consulting Pty Ltd </div> </div>		

Website

The website of Macquarie Consulting has been taken down but can still be accessed using the Internet Archives Wayback Machine.

Please visit here:

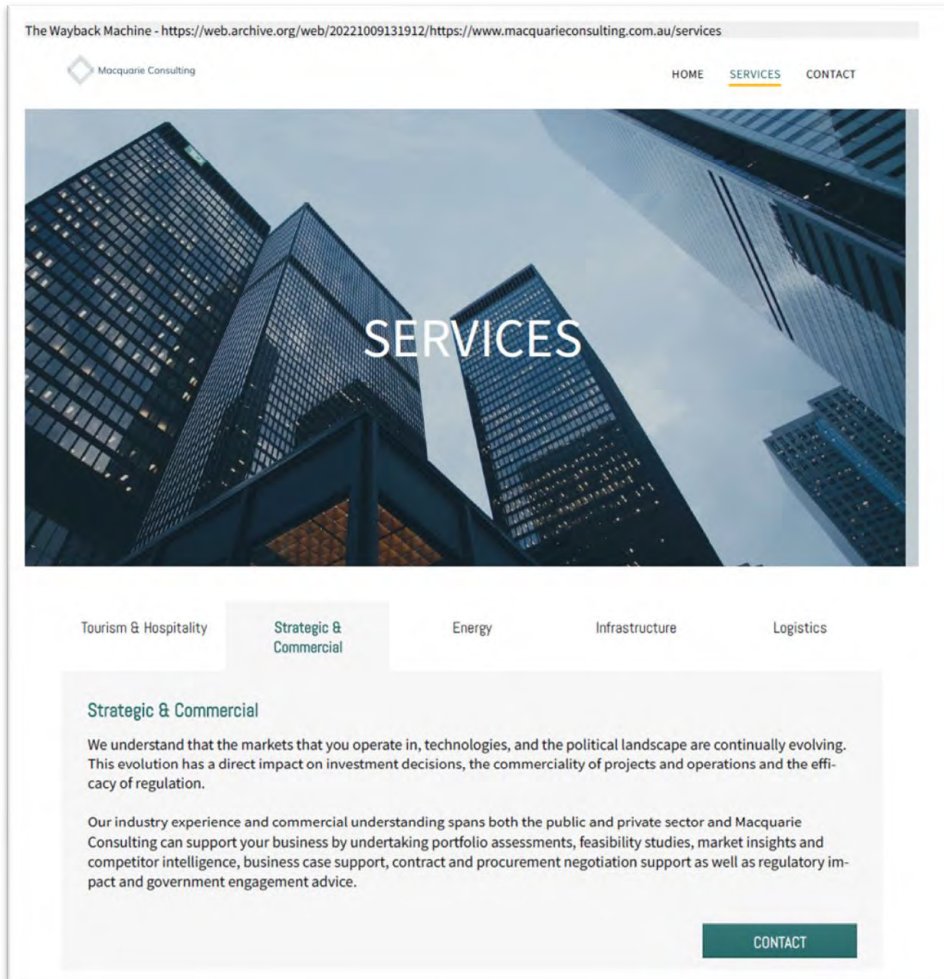
<https://web.archive.org/web/20221009131912/https://www.macquarieconsulting.com.au/services>

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The website shows a number of industries serviced (or intend to be serviced) by the business:

- Tourism & Hospitality
- Strategic & Commercial
- Energy
- Infrastructure
- Logistics

It is interesting to note that the ‘Town Planning’ industry which was in the title of the website was not on the content of the website.



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Claims made by the website include:

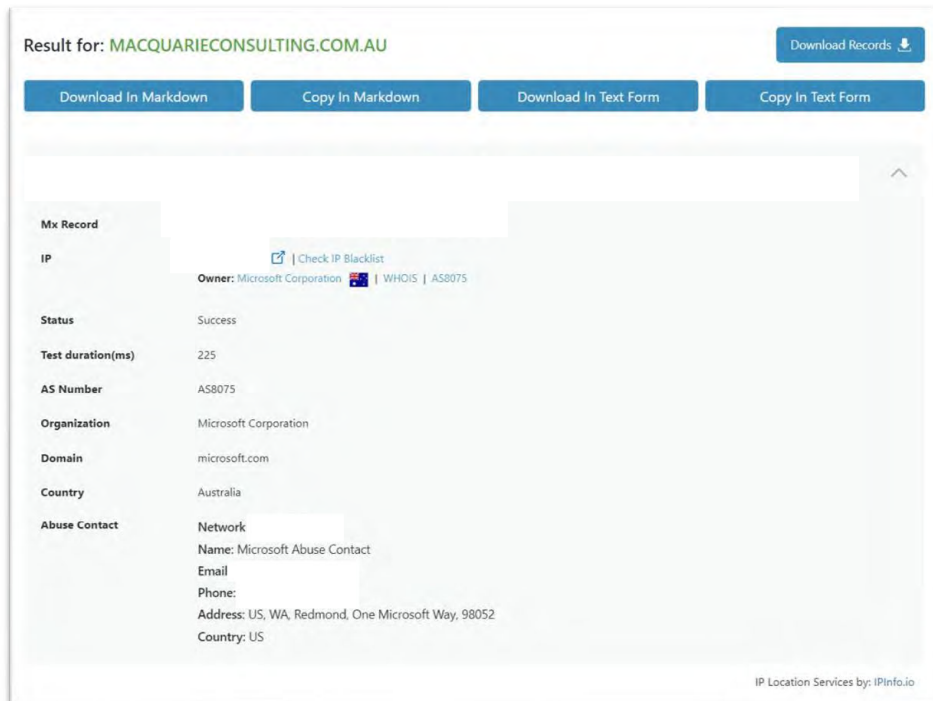
“Our expertise lies in facilitating enduring partnerships between stakeholders and governments...” on the **Tourism & Hospitality** tab

“Our industry experience and commercial understanding spans both the public and private sector...” on the **Strategic & Commercial** tab

“Our aviation expertise includes working with government-owned and privately-owned airlines...” on the **Infrastructure** tab

The contact button on each tab of the website opens a new email addressed to:

The email service lookup results show that the domain is set up to use the subscription-based Microsoft 365 (Outlook) for its email service. This indicates that this service is able to send and receive emails, and has been paying to do so and remains paying to do so.



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Whois information changing

The Whois information for the site has also recently been updated.

A Whois record lookup performed on the .au Domain Administration Whois lookup service on 9 October 2022 shows the Registrant as **Macquarie Consulting Pty Ltd** and the registrant and technical contact person as **Charles Perrottet** with his personal email address listed.

Whois lookup

Lookup address:

Control text:

sunburning

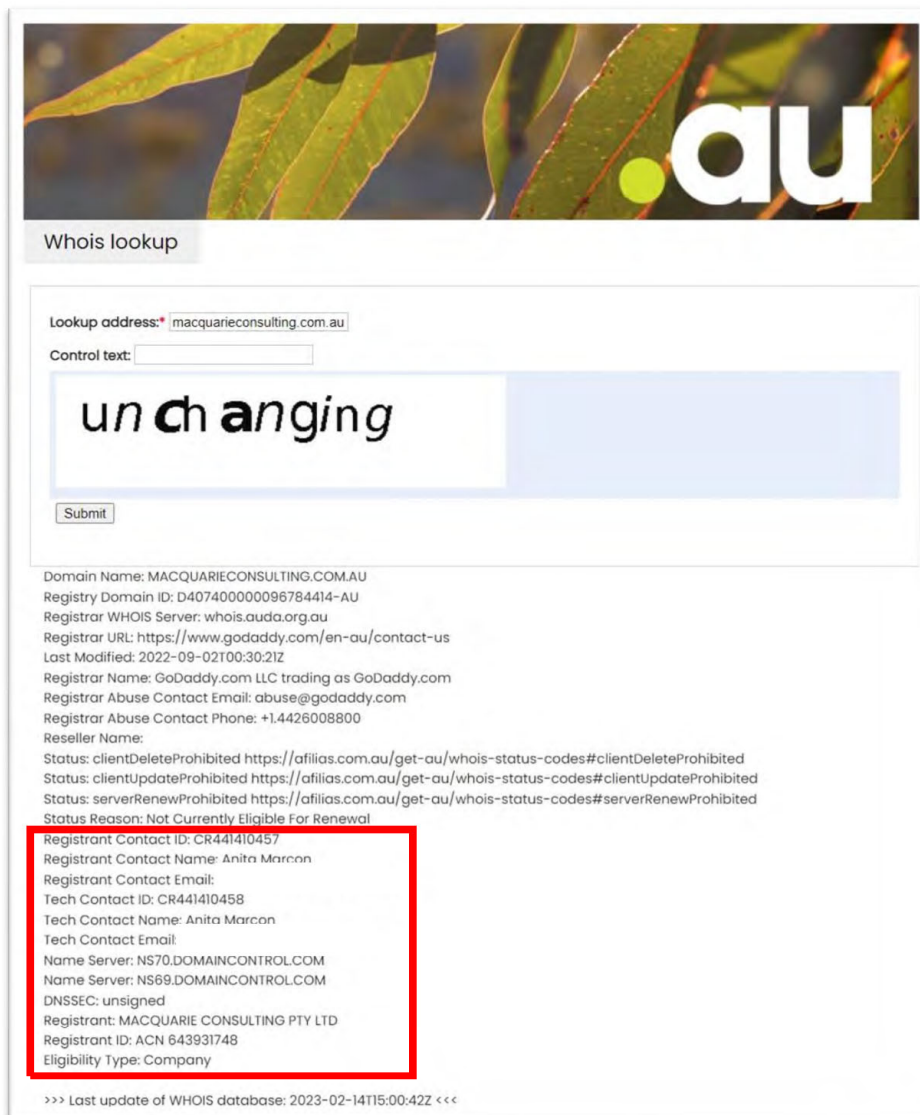
Domain Name: MACQUARIECONSULTING.COM.AU
 Registry Domain ID: D40740000096784414-AU
 Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.auda.org.au
 Registrar URL: https://www.godaddy.com/en-au/contact-us
 Last Modified: 2022-09-02T00:30:21Z
 Registrar Name: GoDaddy.com LLC trading as GoDaddy.com
 Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
 Registrar Abuse Contact Phone:
 Reseller Name:
 Status: clientDeleteProhibited https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientDeleteProhibited
 Status: clientUpdateProhibited https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientUpdateProhibited
 Status: serverRenewProhibited https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#serverRenewProhibited
 Status Reason: Not Currently Eligible For Renewal

Registrant Contact ID: CR441410457
Registrant Contact Name: Charles Perrottet
Registrant Contact Email:
Tech Contact ID: CR441410458
Tech Contact Name: Charles Perrottet
Tech Contact Email
 Name Server: NS70.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
 Name Server: NS69.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
 DNSSEC: unsigned
 Registrant: MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD
 Registrant ID: ACN 643931748
 Eligibility Type: Company

>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2022-10-09T13:05:30Z <<<

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However, a Whois record lookup performed on the same service on 14 February 2023 now shows that the registrant and technical contact information has changed from **Charles Perrottet** to **Anita Marcon** (the maiden name of **Anita Perrottet**).



The original Whois data demonstrates quite clearly that an individual authorised by the registrant, company **Macquarie Consulting Pty Ltd** of which **Anita Perrottet** is sole director and shareholder, put **Charles Perrottet** as the person responsible for the domain and website.

Questions should be asked why this data has since been changed? Is it an attempt to conceal the real operator of the website/business?





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Experience of Anita Perrottet

Given that Anita Perrottet is listed as the contact person on the website which claims experience in government relations and the capability to understand numerous industries, it becomes necessary to see Anita's experience and history.

The LinkedIn profile of **Anita Perrottet** shows that her work experience is mostly limited to marketing. Her profile can be viewed here:

Experience

-  **Marketing & Communications Specialist**
Australian Unity
Jul 2014 - Jul 2015 · 1 yr 1 mo
-  **Marketing & Events Manager**
Magellan Financial Group
Apr 2010 - Mar 2014 · 4 yrs
Sydney, Australia
-  **Marketing Specialist**
Macquarie Group
Dec 2009 - Apr 2010 · 5 mos
Sydney, Australia
-  **Marketing & Events Coordinator**
Fidelity International
Jan 2007 - Jul 2009 · 2 yrs 7 mos
Sydney, Australia

In 2016, the SMH published an article about a business started by Charles & Anita Perrottet called 'Deliver Me Drinks' which was an alcohol delivery service.

This shows past history of Charles working in a business with Anita's being a or the public face of the business.

This raises questions as to the claims made on the website. Is Anita the one performing these duties or is Charles assisting her with the business as he has done in the past?



Read the story here: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/small-business/move-over-the-big-bottles-are-coming-to-town-20161208-gt6kif.html>

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Macquarie Advisory

Macquarie Advisory is a lobbying business which has all shares non-beneficially held by **Dylan Whitelaw**, who is core member of the NSW Reformers and a former staffer to Minister for Planning **Anthony Roberts**.

Macquarie Advisory has a short but successful history having 9 clients, most of which are developers or development adjacent industries.



Name:	Macquarie Advisory Group Pty Ltd	ABN:	67 663 289 281
Registered:	21/10/2022	ACN:	663 289 281
Logo:			
Website:	macquarieadvisory.com.au linkedin.com/company/macquarie-advisory	Lobbyist Status:	Active
Former Owners:	N/A		
Ownership:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; border-radius: 10px;">Dylan Whitelaw (100%)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #27ae60; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; border-radius: 10px;">Macquarie Consulting Pty Ltd</div>		
NOTE: Dylan Whitelaw is not the beneficial owner of the shares.			

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Dylan Whitelaw’s Experience

Dylan Whitelaw has a diverse and sporadic employment history, having worked for a number of elected officials and a lobbyist.

Dylan has worked for the following:

- Employed by former Senator **Concetta Fierravanti-Wells**, a known then supporter of the NSW Reformers
- Employed by the lobbyist company **Beckington** and worked under **Christian Ellis** and **Jeremy Greenwood**
- Employed by President of the Legislative Council **Matthew Mason-Cox**
- Employed in the Ministerial Office of Minister for Planning **Anthony Roberts**

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
Arada LLC		✓	Yes	United Arab Emirates	07 Jan 2023
DARTANYON PTY LIMITED	79078565714	✓	No		02 Nov 2022
J GROUP PM PTY LTD	91608559799	✓	No		17 Dec 2022
KLF HOLDINGS PTY LTD	25119648234	✓	No		22 Dec 2022
Menangle Park East Village Land Holders			No		16 Nov 2022
MICHAEL BROWN PLANNING STRATEGIES PTY LTD	52162313895		No		16 Nov 2022
Mr George Scarlis		✓	No		29 Jan 2023
PACIFIC COMMUNITY HOUSING PTY LIMITED	33830907747	✓	No		22 Dec 2022
PACIFIC PLANNING PTY LIMITED	88610562760	✓	No		22 Dec 2022

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

Whitelaw left **Anthony Roberts** office and a few weeks later started his own lobbyist company where he took on a number of clients that are involved with the property development industry.

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MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD. ✕

Details
Clients
Employees
Owners
History

2022

Lobbyist Status

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
2022.11.02	Application Submitted	Active	Internal Process

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Lobbyist Responsible Officer

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
No data available in table			

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Clients

Client Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
DARTANYON PTY LIMITED	2/11/2022 5:22 PM		dylan whitelaw
J GROUP PM PTY LTD	18/12/2022 10:17 AM		dylan whitelaw
KLF HOLDINGS PTY LTD	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw
Menangle Park East Village Land Holders	17/11/2022 10:40 AM		dylan whitelaw
MICHAEL BROWN PLANNING STRATEGIES PTY LTD	17/11/2022 10:40 AM		dylan whitelaw
PACIFIC COMMUNITY HOUSING PTY LIMITED	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw
PACIFIC PLANNING PTY LIMITED	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

Employees

Employee Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Dylan Whitelaw	2/11/2022 5:21 PM		dylan whitelaw
Dylan Whitelaw	9/11/2022 11:09 AM		Henry Donkin

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Owners

Owner Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Dylan Whitelaw	2/11/2022 5:21 PM	2/11/2022 5:21 PM	dylan whitelaw
Dylan Whitelaw	9/11/2022 11:08 AM		Henry Donkin

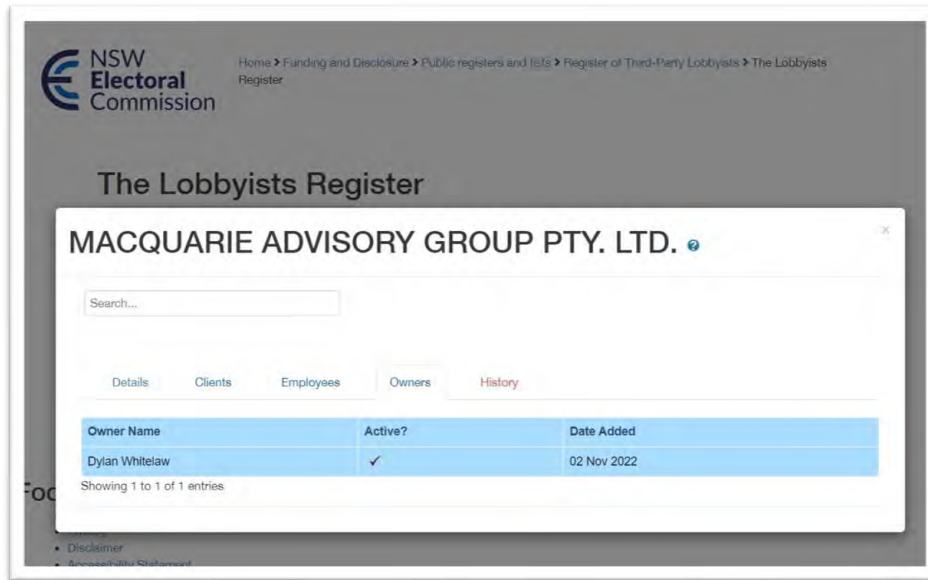
Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

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The beneficial owner of Macquarie Advisory

The owner of Macquarie Advisory as listed on the lobbyist register is **Dylan Whitelaw**, however, a company lookup reveals that the shares owned by Dylan Whitelaw (100% of the company) are not beneficially held by him.

This means that though he has control of the shares for the time being, they are beneficially owned by someone else. The beneficial owner derives the dividends and is able to replace the current holder of the shares as they want, thereby changing the listed ownership on the lobbyist register while never revealing the true owner.



Questions must be asked about who the beneficial owner of this very young but very successful lobbying company is. Further questions must be asked about the disclosure of beneficial owners on the lobbyist register.

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Questions that should be looked in

Question 1

Why did Christian Ellis sell his shares in Beckington?

Was it to enable him to sit on the NSW Liberal Party State Executive?

Was it done to obfuscate the real ownership structure?

Question 2

Who was the beneficial owner of the Beckington shares owned by Belloc Associates?

Was it Christian Ellis? Was it someone else?

Why is the owner of Belloc Associates the wife of Christian Ellis?

Is Belloc Associations just a mechanism to shift legal liability of ownership while actually maintain control?

Was it a breach to not list Belloc Associates and/or the beneficial owner as the owner of Beckington on the lobbyist register?

Question 3

Why did Beckington secure the job for Robert Assaf at Greyhounds Racing NSW?

Was it to enable him to do NSW Reformer political sign ups while on work trips?

Was it a sort of quid-pro-quo with Robert Assaf in exchange for something else?

Question 4

Why did Robert Assaf introduce Beckington to Toplace when he knew about the plans to install Councillors in the Hills Shire council?

Was it for the purposes of facilitating positive relationships with the families of people soon to be on Council?

Was this a quid-pro-quo for getting Robert Assaf the job at Greyhounds?

What were the terms of the engagement of Beckington by Toplace?

The men who stole the Hills*Chapter Three: The Lobbyists*Question 5**What is the relationship between TCG Developments & Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club and Tanya Davies MP & branches associated with her?**

Is Tanya Davies, who is a supporter of the NSW Reformers, know that TCG Developments was a client of Beckington?

What was the process and cost to hire a room for use for branch meetings at Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club?

Is it the same cost as a usual booking? Can invoices and payment receipts be provided?

Was there any donation-in-kind? Have these been disclosed?

Question 6**Why is historical data no longer available for Beckington on the lobbyist register despite it no longer being active?**

Is data being deleted? Is it to avoid investigation or question by the inquiry?

Who is deleting the data and why? Is this unlawful?

Why has the website for Beckington been taken down?

Question 7**Why did Anita Perrottet register the Macquarie Consulting business?**

Has it been trading? How does she explain the claims on the website?

How involved is Charles Perrottet in the business? In what capacity is he involved?

Question 8**In what capacity was Charles Perrottet the registrant and technical contact on the Whois record of the website and why was this information changed?**

Who originally set this information? Who changed this information?

Was it changed to hide ownership or involvement in the business?

Why was it done after the commencement of the inquiry?

Why has the website been taken down?

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Question 9

Dylan Whitelaw has had tremendous success in finding clients for Macquarie Advisory since leaving the Planning Ministers office. What does he attribute this success to?

How much does his experience help in the role?

Where did he find these clients?

How is he attracting clients when he doesn't have a website or almost any online presence?

Question 10

Who is the beneficial owner of Macquarie Advisory?

Is it someone other than Dylan Whitelaw? Is it an NSW Reformer?

Is it lawful that the beneficial owner is not listed as an owner on the lobbyist register?

Question 11

Is Dylan Whitelaw the beneficial owner of Macquarie Advisory but he filled out the company forms wrong?

How does such an experienced lobbyist (based on clients attracted in such short time) make such a mistake?

How qualified is Dylan to assist clients navigate the complex regulatory and legislative frameworks of planning and approvals when he made such a simple yet critical mistake on a form?

Are there other reasons apart from his capabilities that Dylan is attracting clients?

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EVIDENCE & APPENDICES

Note: Sensitive information that could be used to identify sources, such as names and email addresses, have been redacted to protect the identities of unrelated third-parties.

Relevant sections of content have been highlighted for convenience. Where more than one colour has been used, the colour code would be in the relevant part of this document.



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Current & Historical Company Extract

Name: BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

ACN: 634 947 050

Date/Time: 25 August 2020 AEST 12:52:22 AM

This extract contains information derived from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) database under section 1274A of the Corporations Act 2001.

Please advise ASIC of any error or omission which you may identify.

EXTRACT

Current & Historical Company Extract

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD
ACN 634 947 050

Organisation Details	Document Number
Current Organisation Details	
Name: BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD	0EQM35691
ACN: 634 947 050	
ABN: 93634947050	
Registered in: New South Wales	
Registration date: 18/07/2019	
Next review date: 18/07/2021	
Name start date: 18/07/2019	
Status: Registered	
Company type: Australian Proprietary Company	
Class: Limited By Shares	
Subclass: Proprietary Company	

Address Details	Document Number
Current	
Registered address:	0EQM35691
Start date: 18/07/2019	
Principal Place Of Business address:	0EQM35691
Start date: 18/07/2019	

Contact Address
Section 146A of the Corporations Act 2001 states 'A contact address is the address to which communications and notices are sent from ASIC to the company'.
Current
Address:
Start date: 30/07/2019

Officeholders and Other Roles	Document Number
Director	
Name: CECILE PIAT	0EZT65632
Address:	
Born: , MAURITIUS, MAURITIUS	
Appointment date: 20/12/2019	
Secretary	
Name: CECILE PIAT	1EIE43183
Address:	
Born: MAURITIUS, MAURITIUS	
Appointment date: 23/04/2020	
Previous Director	
Name: JEREMY PATRICK GREENWOOD	0EQM35691
Address:	
Born: SYDNEY, NSW	
Appointment date: 18/07/2019	

Current & Historical Company Extract

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD
ACN 634 947 050

Cease date:	23/04/2020	
Name:	CHRISTIAN MARC FERGUS ELLIS	0ERM68374
Address:		
Born:	BAULKHAM HILLS, NSW	
Appointment date:	26/07/2019	
Cease date:	20/12/2019	
Previous Secretary		
Name:	JEREMY PATRICK GREENWOOD	0EQM35691
Address:		
Born:	SYDNEY, NSW	
Appointment date:	18/07/2019	
Cease date:	23/04/2020	

Share Information

Share Structure

Class	Description	Number issued	Total amount paid	Total amount unpaid	Document number
ORD	ORDINARY	2	2.00	0.00	0EQM35691

Members

Note: For each class of shares issued by a proprietary company, ASIC records the details of the top twenty members of the class (based on shareholdings). The details of any other members holding the same number of shares as the twentieth ranked member will also be recorded by ASIC on the database. Where available, historical records show that a member has ceased to be ranked amongst the top twenty members. This may, but does not necessarily mean, that they have ceased to be a member of the company.

Name: JEREMY PATRICK GREENWOOD
Address:

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
ORD	1	yes	FULLY	0ERM68374

Name: BELLOC ASSOCIATES PTY LTD
ACN: 638 172 577
Address:

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
ORD	1	no	FULLY	0EZT65632

Previous Members

Name: CHRISTIAN MARC FERGUS ELLIS
Address:

Current & Historical Company Extract

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD
ACN 634 947 050

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
ORD	1	yes	FULLY	0ERM68374

Documents

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Date received	Form type	Date processed	Number of pages	Effective date	Document number
18/07/2019	201C Application For Registration As A Proprietary Company	18/07/2019	3	18/07/2019	0EQM35691
06/08/2019	484 Change To Company Details 484E Appointment Or Cessation Of A Company Officeholder 484N Changes To (Members) Share Holdings	06/08/2019	3	30/07/2019	0ERM68374
20/12/2019	484 Change To Company Details 484E Appointment Or Cessation Of A Company Officeholder 484N Changes To (Members) Share Holdings	20/12/2019	3	20/12/2019	0EZT65632
30/04/2020	484E Change To Company Details Appointment Or Cessation Of A Company Officeholder	30/04/2020	2	28/04/2020	1EIE43183

End of Extract of 3 Pages



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Current Company Extract

Name: BELLOC ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

ACN: 638 172 577

Date/Time: 16 September 2021 AEST 03:03:00 AM

This extract contains information derived from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) database under section 1274A of the Corporations Act 2001.

Please advise ASIC of any error or omission which you may identify.

EXTRACT

Current Company Extract

BELLOC ASSOCIATES PTY LTD
ACN 638 172 577

Organisation Details	Document Number
Current Organisation Details	
Name: BELLOC ASSOCIATES PTY LTD	0EZT58871
ACN: 638 172 577	
Registered in: New South Wales	
Registration date: 20/12/2019	
Next review date: 20/12/2021	
Name start date: 20/12/2019	
Status: Registered	
Company type: Australian Proprietary Company	
Class: Limited By Shares	
Subclass: Proprietary Company	

Address Details	Document Number
Current	
Registered address:	0EZT58871
Start date: 20/12/2019	
Principal Place Of Business address:	0EZT58871
Start date: 20/12/2019	

Contact Address
Section 146A of the Corporations Act 2001 states 'A contact address is the address to which communications and notices are sent from ASIC to the company'.
Current
Address:
Start date: 20/12/2019

Officeholders and Other Roles	Document Number
Director	
Name: CECILE PIAT	0EZT58871
Address:	
Born: MAURITIUS, MAURITIUS	
Appointment date: 20/12/2019	
Secretary	
Name: CECILE PIAT	0EZT58871
Address:	
Born: MAURITIUS, MAURITIUS	
Appointment date: 20/12/2019	

Share Information
Share Structure

Current Company Extract**BELLOC ASSOCIATES PTY LTD****ACN 638 172 577**

Class	Description	Number issued	Total amount paid	Total amount unpaid	Document number
ORD	ORDINARY	1	1.00	0.00	0EZT58871

Members

Note: For each class of shares issued by a proprietary company, ASIC records the details of the top twenty members of the class (based on shareholdings). The details of any other members holding the same number of shares as the twentieth ranked member will also be recorded by ASIC on the database. Where available, historical records show that a member has ceased to be ranked amongst the top twenty members. This may, but does not necessarily mean, that they have ceased to be a member of the company.

Name: CECILE PIAT
Address: 30 Duranta Street, BELLBOWRIE QLD 4070

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
ORD	1	yes	FULLY	0EZT58871

Documents

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Date received	Form type	Date processed	Number of pages	Effective date	Document number
20/12/2019	201C Application For Registration As A Proprietary Company	20/12/2019	3	20/12/2019	0EZT58871

End of Extract of 2 Pages



The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD ?

Search...

Details Clients Employees Owners History

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
RESPONSIBLE WAGERING AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS LIMITED	89616573418	✓	No		31 Jan 2022
SPIRECORP PTY. LTD.	32167471918	✓	No		16 Mar 2022
TCG DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD	20603486764	✓	No		22 Mar 2022

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries



Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD ✕

Details
Clients
Employees
Owners
History

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
ASSOCIATED KILN DRIERS PTY. LIMITED	34004341048	✓	No		06 Jul 2020
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA LTD	44638153689		No		23 Mar 2021
CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & CREMATORIA LTD	44638153689	✓	No		23 Mar 2021
Greyhound Racing New South Wales	61018166136	✓	No		21 May 2020
INQ INNOVATION GLOBAL PTY LTD	47622183662	✓	No		30 Mar 2020
LIVIOUS PTY LTD	75632913421		No		30 Mar 2020
PA PACKAGING SOLUTIONS PTY LTD	49615911852	✓	No		30 Mar 2020
Toplace Pty Ltd	63135918491		No		13 Jul 2020
Ultra Business Solutions Pty Ltd	92137736693		No		01 Apr 2020
VAPOUREYES TRADING PTY LTD	17610585521		No		13 Jul 2020

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 entries

Page 35

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients **Employees** Owners History

Employee Name	Position	Active?	Date Added
Christian Ellis	Advisor	✓	31 Jan 2022

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

NSW Electoral Commission Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients **Employees** Owners History

Employee Name	Position	Active?	Date Added
Jeremy Greenwood	Director	✓	30 Mar 2020

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Page 37



The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients Employees Owners History

2022

Lobbyist Status

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
2022.01.31	Application Submitted	Active	Internal Process

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Lobbyist Responsible Officer

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
No data available in table			

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Clients

Client Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
RESPONSIBLE WAGERING AUSTRALIA HOLDINGS LIMITED	31/01/2022 5:41 PM		Christian Ellis
SPIRECORP PTY. LTD.	16/03/2022 4:31 PM		Christian Ellis
TCG DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD	22/03/2022 3:04 PM		Christian Ellis

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

Employees

Employee Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Christian Ellis	31/01/2022 5:40 PM		Christian Ellis
Christian Ellis	9/06/2022 2:20 PM		Henry Donkin

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Owners

Owner Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Belloc Associates Pty Ltd	31/01/2022 5:40 PM		Christian Ellis

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

NSW Electoral Commission

Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients Employees **Owners** History

Owner Name	Active?	Date Added
Belloc Associates Pty Ltd	✓	31 Jan 2022

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Page 39

NSW Electoral Commission

Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

BECKINGTON GROUP PTY LTD

Search...

Details Clients Employees **Owners** History

Owner Name	Active?	Date Added
Jeremy Greenwood	✓	18 May 2020

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Page 40

NSW Division

Constitution
As amended – 9 November 2019

2	The President of Women's Council, who shall also be the Female Vice-President of the Division	2 Urban Vice-Presidents of the Division
3	The President of Young Liberal Council	2 Country and Regional Vice-President of the Division
4	Any member of the Federal Executive who is a Member of the Division (subject to clause 13.1.4 below)	10 Urban Representatives (four of whom must be women)
5	The Leader of the State Parliamentary Party or that Leader's alternate appointed from time to time by that Leader	6 Country and Regional Representatives (of which 2 must be women) (of which 3 must be Local Branch Members in Local Branches assigned to SECs, FECs and FEBs that are deemed to be Country or Regional SECs, FECs and FEBs).
6	The Leader of the Federal Parliamentary Party or Leader's alternate appointed from time to time by that Leader	The Chair of Convention Committee and Director of Policy Engagement
7	The President of the Liberal Local Government Assembly (who shall not be a member of any state or federal Selection Committee by virtue of this office)	

13.1.2 Eligibility to nominate and be elected to State Executive and other conditions

- (1) **Registered lobbyists and employees of, or otherwise engaged by, Ministers of the Crown or Members of Parliament are ineligible to be Elected Members of State Executive.**
- (2) Elected Members of State Executive are not eligible to nominate for preselection for State or Federal Parliament during their term of office.
- (3) Nothing in this clause 13.1.2 restricts the eligibility of members to nominate and be elected to Ex-Officio positions on State Executive or places any conditions or restrictions on Ex-Officio Members of State Executive during their term of office.

13.1.3 The Treasurer

- (1) At the first meeting of State Executive after each AGM of State Council or as soon as possible after that, the



Notice of General Meeting for the **Mulgoa Branch**

DATE: 17 June 2021

LOCATION: **Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club**

2/8 Twin Creeks Drive
Luddenham NSW 2745

TIME: 7:30pm

VENUE CAPACITY: The COVID safe capacity of the meeting venue is 150 persons.

Please note that if the number of members who actually turn up to the meeting exceeds the COVID safe capacity of the venue room, then the meeting will automatically be cancelled.

BUSINESS:

1. Meeting open
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of minutes of previous general meeting
4. Business arising from minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Business arising from correspondence
7. President's Report
8. Reports by other Branch Committee Members
9. Consideration of new and/or transferring members
10. Motions on Notice (*Please turn over page for Motions on Notice*)
11. General Business
12. Meeting close

Apologies and reservations can be made to Ray King, President, Mulgoa Branch at

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2:45am Thursday, February 16th, 2023

[Sydney](#) Today  18 ° / 29 ° >

The Daily Telegraph

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5-star resort hotel with Wet'n'Wild-style beach proposed for Sydney's west

AN 11-storey resort hotel with a Wet'n'Wild-style beach, floating bar and three private karaoke rooms has been flagged for a sleepy suburb in Sydney's west.

Isabell Petrinic

 2 min read February 9, 2017 - 12:00AM [Penrith Press](#)

 8 comments



The jewel of the resort design is this lagoon pool. Picture courtesy of Twin Creeks Golf & Country Club

Penrith

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innovation corridor, and down the road from Celestino's new \$5 billion science city Sydney Science Park.

“The lagoon pool will be the centrepiece — it will have a beach like at Wet'n'Wild,” Twin Creeks chief executive Grant Martin said. He said visitors will be able to swim under a floating bar and eat in an outdoor dining area “which straddles the pool”.



A master plan documents says the design team has “taken inspiration from some of the most successful resort developments from around the globe”.

“The longer term vision is to be Western Sydney’s No. 1 hotel ... No. 1 in terms of 5-star, top end of the market,” Mr Martin said.

“We already identified, even without the science park and the (Western Sydney) Airport, that there was a market for us to introduce further accommodation but not just for golf.

“There’s an obvious market for golf play-and-stay.

“We’re looking at the broader market, for functions and events.”

The \$99 million staged Twin Creeks development proposal will go before Penrith Council for consideration before proceeding to the Joint Regional Planning Panel, which decides on developments over \$10 million.

“We’re ideally hoping to be under construction at the end of 2017,” Mr Martin said.



Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club chief executive Grant Martin pictured near where a hotel is planned for the Luddenham site. Picture: Justin Sanson

Other features will include a day spa with outdoor plunge pools, three private karaoke rooms, an 100.8sqm convenience store, a resort boutique, a gymnasium, two lounge areas, and multiple function spaces.

The existing carpark will be replaced with two levels of underground parking for 500 vehicles, and the clubhouse will have a level added.





“The overall master plan is three projects; project one being the hotel, the second project being a winery/villa complex,” Mr Martin said.

“The third project is an elite sports and golf academy.”



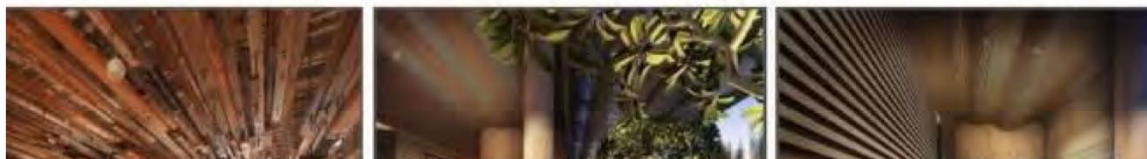
Pictured is the Twin Creeks Golf and Country Club in 2009. The golf course is set over 330 acres.

Confirmed tenants of the science park include Birling National Avian Laboratories Centre, the CSIRO, and the Catholic Education Office.

The education office is establishing its first kindergarten to year 12 STEM School on the Luddenham Rd site.



Exterior Treatmen





“(Ours) is a very top end concept,” Mr Martin said.

“What Celestino is doing is 5 star. You would hope that influences what goes in around us.”

Existing businesses in Luddenham include Luddenham Raceway, Model Park and Workers Hubertus Country Club. Dogs NSW’s head office is also in Luddenham.



Artist's impression of the future Sydney Science Park in Luddenham. Picture courtesy of Celestino.

Join the conversation (8 comments)

Promoted Content



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Current & Historical Company Extract

Name: MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD

ACN: 643 931 748

Date/Time: 15 February 2023 AEST 02:32:23 AM

This extract contains information derived from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) database under section 1274A of the Corporations Act 2001.

Please advise ASIC of any error or omission which you may identify.

EXTRACT

Current & Historical Company Extract

MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD
ACN 643 931 748

Organisation Details	Document Number
Current Organisation Details	
Name: MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD	1EQK90439
ACN: 643 931 748	
ABN: 33643931748	
Registered in: New South Wales	
Registration date: 31/08/2020	
Next review date: 31/08/2023	
Name start date: 31/08/2020	
Status: Registered	
Company type: Australian Proprietary Company	
Class: Limited By Shares	
Subclass: Proprietary Company	

Address Details	Document Number
Current	
Registered address: 'Roy Spagnolo & Associates',	3ERS40096
Start date: 16/01/2023	
Principal Place Of Business address:	5EGV56065
Start date: 16/09/2022	
Historical	
Registered address: KHOURY BROS & CO,	5EGV56065
Start date: 06/10/2022	
Cease date: 15/01/2023	
Registered address: PINNACLEHPC PTY LTD,	1EQK90439
Start date: 31/08/2020	
Cease date: 05/10/2022	
Principal Place Of Business address:	1EQK90439
Start date: 31/08/2020	
Cease date: 15/09/2022	

Contact Address
Section 146A of the Corporations Act 2001 states 'A contact address is the address to which communications and notices are sent from ASIC to the company'.
Current
Address:
Start date: 23/12/2022
Historical
Address:
Start date: 14/09/2022

Current & Historical Company Extract**MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD****ACN 643 931 748**

Cease date:	23/12/2022
Address:	PO BOX 1467, GRIFFITH NSW 2680
Start date:	31/08/2020
Cease date:	07/06/2022

Officeholders and Other Roles	Document Number
Director	
Name: ANITA ANGELA PERROTTET	5EGV56065
Address:	
Born: WAGGA WAGGA, NSW	
Appointment date: 31/08/2020	
Secretary	
Name: ANITA ANGELA PERROTTET	5EGV56065
Address:	
Born: WAGGA WAGGA, NSW	
Appointment date: 31/08/2020	

Share Information**Share Structure**

Class	Description	Number issued	Total amount paid	Total amount unpaid	Document number
ORD	ORD SHARES	750	750.00	0.00	1EQK90439

Members

Note: For each class of shares issued by a proprietary company, ASIC records the details of the top twenty members of the class (based on shareholdings). The details of any other members holding the same number of shares as the twentieth ranked member will also be recorded by ASIC on the database. Where available, historical records show that a member has ceased to be ranked amongst the top twenty members. This may, but does not necessarily mean, that they have ceased to be a member of the company.

Name: ANITA ANGELA PERROTTET
Address:

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
ORD	750	yes	FULLY	5EGV56065

Documents

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Current & Historical Company Extract

**MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD
ACN 643 931 748**

Date received	Form type	Date processed	Number of pages	Effective date	Document number
31/08/2020	201C Application For Registration As A Proprietary Company	31/08/2020	3	31/08/2020	1EQK90439
29/09/2022	484 Change To Company Details 484B Change Of Registered Address 484C Change Of Principal Place Of Business (Address) 484A1 Change Officeholder Name Or Address 484A2 Change Member Name Or Address	29/09/2022	3	16/09/2022	5EGV56065
09/01/2023	484B Change To Company Details Change Of Registered Address	09/01/2023	2	23/12/2022	3ERS40096

End of Extract of 3 Pages

Macquarie Consulting

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HOME SERVICES CONTACT



Tourism & Hospitality

Strategic & Commercial

Energy

Infrastructure

Logistics

Tourism & Hospitality

The hospitality and tourism sectors contribute over \$90 billion to the Australian economy, employ over 1.5 million people and are two of the fastest growing sectors in the country. Covid-19 has had a material impact on this growth however, with government restrictions impacting these sectors the hardest. At Macquarie Consulting we understand the full impact these decisions have on business and the flow-on effects for employment and families. Ensuring decision-makers are fully informed of the potential unintended consequences of the policy options available to them is key to ensuring continued growth in these sectors.

Macquarie Consulting brings together tourism experts to enhance the value, quality, and sustainable growth of travel and tourism organisations, with a focus on the Asia Pacific region.

We engage businesses, governments and communities to enhance people's lives and the places they live through sustainable tourism, recreation and conservation development.

Our expertise lies in facilitating enduring partnerships between stakeholders and governments and we have particular experience building local capacity for sustainable development through tourism. Our key strengths lie in attracting investment by developing and promoting sustainability in both travel and tourism.

CONTACT

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Strategic & Commercial

Energy

Infrastructure

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Strategic & Commercial

We understand that the markets that you operate in, technologies, and the political landscape are continually evolving. This evolution has a direct impact on investment decisions, the commerciality of projects and operations and the efficacy of regulation.

Our industry experience and commercial understanding spans both the public and private sector and Macquarie Consulting can support your business by undertaking portfolio assessments, feasibility studies, market insights and competitor intelligence, business case support, contract and procurement negotiation support as well as regulatory impact and government engagement advice.

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HOME SERVICES CONTACT



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Strategic &
Commercial

Energy

Infrastructure

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The energy industry is undergoing fundamental change and Macquarie Consulting offers advice to our clients to help reshape their business for the future. Our advice is focused on protecting the underlying value whilst reshaping the business for the future.

Our expertise spans across mining and metals, oil and gas, power and utilities and incorporates experience in low-carbon and future fuel technology - a sector with growing public and private investment.

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Infrastructure

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Macquarie Consulting provides key industry insights to help you invest in infrastructure projects and create a strategy for your future development. Our aviation expertise includes working with government-owned and privately-owned airlines creating new business models to improve aviation and boost tourism. We have experience in fleet selection as well as optimising network patterns through modelling and design to maximise returns.

Roads

Macquarie Consulting provides technical, commercial, and environmental support through the entire lifecycle of investment in roads, from bid preparation and due diligence to divestment. We can assist in preparing strategies or development and growth, fulfilling the potential of your investment.

Rail

From commuter networks to coal trains, Macquarie Consulting can liaise with sponsors, equity investors and lenders to advise on rail infrastructure investments to maximise returns. We have significant experience in advising clients with existing rail infrastructure on lowering risk, reducing total cost of ownership and improving efficiencies.

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Macquarie Consulting

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HOME SERVICES CONTACT



Tourism & Hospitality

Strategic &
Commercial

Energy

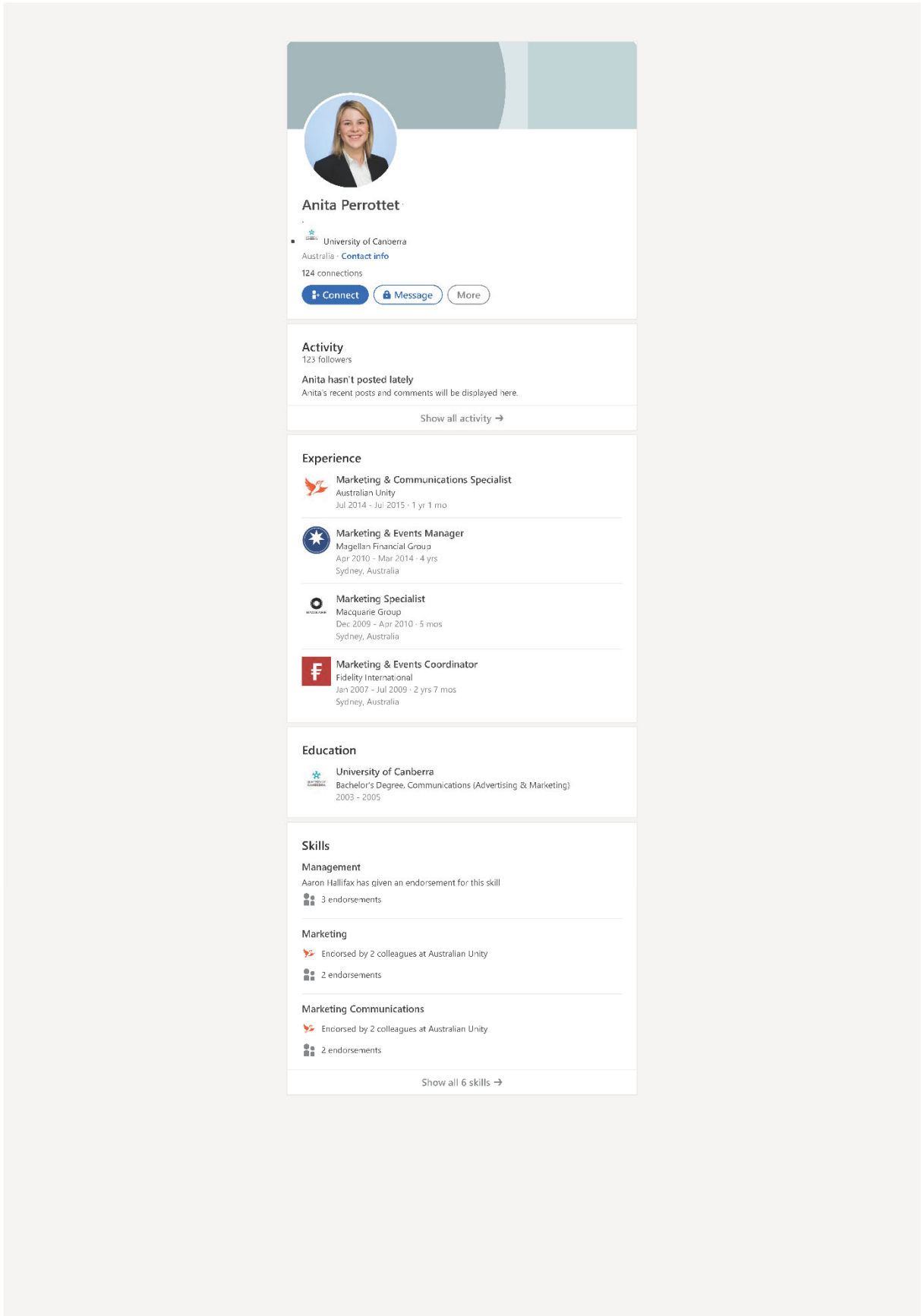
Infrastructure

Logistics

Logistics

Macquarie Consulting understands the importance of effective network design to be able to respond to changing market conditions quickly and effectively. Our team is able to advise on both the strategic and operational decisions throughout the supply chain in full awareness of the true cost implications, including undertaking procurement negotiations with fleet and fuel providers.

CONTACT



The Sydney Morning Herald

Business Small business [Managing](#)

This was published 6 years ago

Move over, the big bottles are coming to town

Home delivered booze is a service the big players haven't quite yet caught up with.

Kate Jones

December 8, 2016 – 12.43pm

A fleet of alcohol delivery start-ups is putting grog on the go and disrupting the bottleshop industry along the way. But these newcomers face a major speed bump as bigger names prepare to enter the market.

Such is the threat, Charles Perrottet and wife Anita of Melbourne's Deliver Me Drinks are on the verge of expanding their operations and cutting delivery times from 45 minutes to 30.



Charles and Anita Perrottet from Melbourne aim to cut delivery times from 45 to 30 minutes.

"We want to keep putting on that additional pressure in the market for speed because we know the bigger players can't compete on that front," Charles says.

The Melbourne start-up, which launched in 2015, will soon put an extra two refrigerated vans on the roads to broaden their metro delivery catchment. Next year they will tackle Sydney and Brisbane.



Nathan Besser and David Berger are co-owners of alcohol delivery service Jimmy Brings.

SASHA@SASHAWOOLLEY.COM

Start-ups like Deliver Me Drinks are tapping into a thirsty market of consumers who want the convenience of home delivery or those who have drunk too much to drive to the local bottle-o.

It's a niche relatively untouched by market leader Dan Murphy's and Coles-owned First Choice. Although both offer online orders, their delivery times are slower so they largely cater to corporates.

That could all change with global retailer [Amazon expected to enter the Australian supermarket fray within two years](#). The e-commerce giant is planning to launch bricks and mortar stores as well as an online supermarket that delivers alcohol.

Looming behind this threat are food delivery services such as foodora and Deliveroo, which under state laws, are permitted to deliver limited amounts of alcohol with food. In Britain, Deliveroo has joined forces with Heineken to create a brand called Brew House to sell Heineken products on Deliveroo's website.

But the owners of one of Australia's earliest online alcohol delivery services are unfazed.

Nathan Besser and David Berger, co-founder of Sydney's Jimmy Brings, say Amazon will lack the agility of their small business.

"Despite Amazon's might, I question whether they will be able to deliver in under 30 minutes," Berger says.

"If a customer is wanting to consume alcohol and it's a spontaneous decision, they want it as quickly as possible, so we don't necessarily believe these big players will be able to organise themselves in such a way to deliver it with such lightning speed."

Besser and Berger are currently applying for liquor licences in Melbourne and Brisbane, where they hope to set up Jimmy Brings next year. They say the company has experienced 10 per cent

month-on-month growth and has a turnover of more than \$3 million.

Besser and Berger have form in this space. They were behind Suppertime, the food delivery service acquired by foodora last year.

"Ultimately we're a logistics, technology business that sells alcohol," Berger says.

"That has to be the focus and that reflects our experience in the home delivery business over the last eight years."

The [technology required to power online deliveries proved challenging for Liquorun](#). The start-up was one of Melbourne's first alcohol delivery services when it launched in 2013, but closed in 2015 when its owners decided to focus on logistics over alcohol.

Others have been quick to take its place. Melbourne's Ryan Barrington and his team invested \$2 million into Tipple, which launched a year ago.

Barrington has been in the liquor industry for 15 years with his family owning eight independent bottleshops under the Cellarbrations banner. He is so confident about his online business, he hopes to bring it to Sydney and Brisbane next year.

"We're doing close to about 5000 deliveries per month, so it's just about keeping on with demand now," he says.

Barrington says he has faced down increased competition before and can do it again.

"When I started in liquor 15 years ago there wasn't as many Dan Murphy's' and we had them pop up within a stone's throw of our businesses, so I've taken on those challenges before," he says.

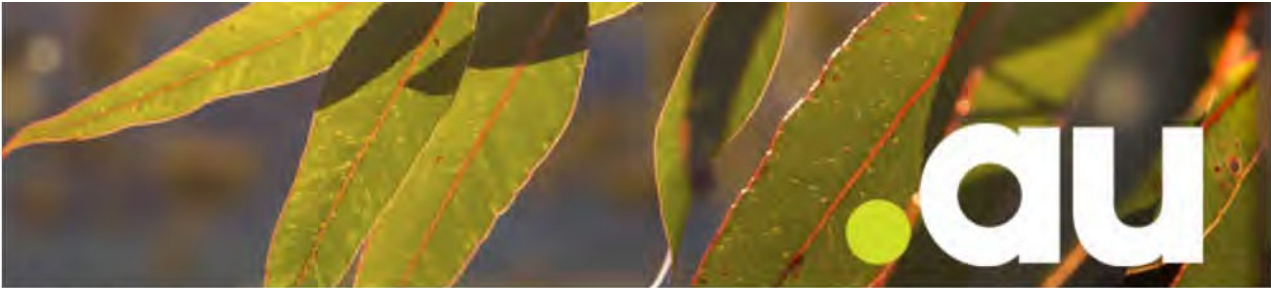
"I see the competition just opening up the marketplace. Our biggest challenge is getting customers to change their habits to know there is another alternative rather than walking down to the bottleshop .

"In terms of the online market, it's a brand new marketplace."

The online alcohol market is worth \$344 million and is predicted to grow by 7.8 per cent each year for the next five years, according to research firm IBISWorld.

Traditional liquor stores are embracing the new trend to stay competitive, says Michael Waters Executive Director NSW and ACT.

"Savvy and innovative liquor retailers believe that success lies in knowing their customer intimately – they are adapting digitally as well as physically, turning this e-commerce threat to their advantage by giving customers a new channel for purchasing, which complements their physical presence," he says.



Whois lookup

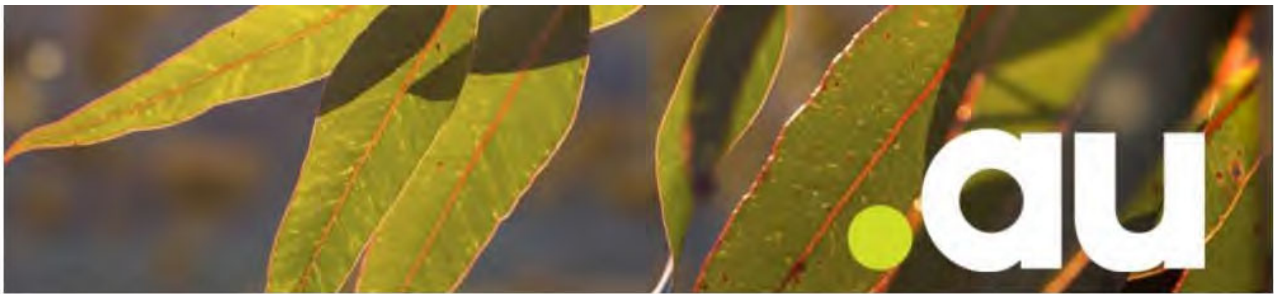
Lookup address:

Control text:

canvases

Domain Name: MACQUARIECONSULTING.COM.AU
 Registry Domain ID: D40740000096784414-AU
 Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.auda.org.au
 Registrar URL: <https://www.godaddy.com/en-au/contact-us>
 Last Modified: 2022-09-02T00:30:21Z
 Registrar Name: GoDaddy.com LLC trading as GoDaddy.com
 Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
 Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.4426008800
 Reseller Name:
 Status: clientDeleteProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientDeleteProhibited>
 Status: clientUpdateProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientUpdateProhibited>
 Status: serverRenewProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#serverRenewProhibited>
 Status Reason: Not Currently Eligible For Renewal
 Registrant Contact ID: CR441410457
 Registrant Contact Name: Charles Perrottet
 Registrant Contact Email:
 Tech Contact ID: CR441410458
 Tech Contact Name: Charles Perrottet
 Tech Contact Email:
 Name Server: NS70.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
 Name Server: NS69.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
 DNSSEC: unsigned
 Registrant: MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD
 Registrant ID: ACN 643931748
 Eligibility Type: Company

>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2022-10-09T13:05:30Z <<<



Whois lookup

Lookup address:

Control text:

un changing

Domain Name: MACQUARIECONSULTING.COM.AU
Registry Domain ID: D40740000096784414-AU
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.ada.org.au
Registrar URL: <https://www.godaddy.com/en-au/contact-us>
Last Modified: 2022-09-02T00:30:21Z
Registrar Name: GoDaddy.com LLC trading as GoDaddy.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.4426008800
Reseller Name:
Status: clientDeleteProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientDeleteProhibited>
Status: clientUpdateProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#clientUpdateProhibited>
Status: serverRenewProhibited <https://afilias.com.au/get-au/whois-status-codes#serverRenewProhibited>
Status Reason: Not Currently Eligible For Renewal
Registrant Contact ID: CR441410457
Registrant Contact Name: Anita Marcon
Registrant Contact Email:
Tech Contact ID: CR441410458
Tech Contact Name: Anita Marcon
Tech Contact Email:
Name Server: NS70.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
Name Server: NS69.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
DNSSEC: unsigned
Registrant: MACQUARIE CONSULTING PTY LTD
Registrant ID: ACN 643931748
Eligibility Type: Company

>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2023-02-14T15:00:42Z <<<

Result for: **MACQUARIECONSULTING.COM.AU**

Download Records 




Download In Markdown

Copy In Markdown

Download In Text Form

Copy In Text Form

macquarieconsulting-com-au.mail.protection.outlook.com.

Mx Record	macquarieconsulting-com-au.mail.protection.outlook.com.
IP	104.47.71.202  Check IP Blacklist Owner: Microsoft Corporation  WHOIS AS8075
Status	Success
Test duration(ms)	225
AS Number	AS8075
Organization	Microsoft Corporation
Domain	microsoft.com
Country	Australia
Abuse Contact	Network: 104.40.0.0/13 Name: Microsoft Abuse Contact Email:  Phone: +1-425-882-8080 Address: US, WA, Redmond, One Microsoft Way, 98052 Country: US

IP Location Services by:  ipinfo.io



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

Current Company Extract

Name: MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD.

ACN: 663 289 281

Date/Time: 18 December 2022 AEST 06:04:59 PM

This extract contains information derived from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's (ASIC) database under section 1274A of the Corporations Act 2001.

Please advise ASIC of any error or omission which you may identify.

EXTRACT

Current Company Extract

MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD.

ACN 663 289 281

Organisation Details	Document Number
Current Organisation Details	
Name: MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD.	4EAB85016
ACN: 663 289 281	
ABN: 67663289281	
Registered in: New South Wales	
Registration date: 21/10/2022	
Next review date: 21/10/2023	
Name start date: 21/10/2022	
Status: Registered	
Company type: Australian Proprietary Company	
Class: Limited By Shares	
Subclass: Proprietary Company	

Address Details	Document Number
Current	
Registered address:	4EAB85016
Start date: 21/10/2022	
Principal Place Of Business address:	4EAB85016
Start date: 21/10/2022	

Officeholders and Other Roles	Document Number
Director	
Name: DYLAN JAMES WHITELAW	4EAB85016
Address:	
Born: RANDWICK, NSW	
Appointment date: 21/10/2022	
Secretary	
Name: DYLAN JAMES WHITELAW	4EAB85016
Address:	
Born: RANDWICK, NSW	
Appointment date: 21/10/2022	

Share Information					
Share Structure					
Class	Description	Number issued	Total amount paid	Total amount unpaid	Document number
A	A	1	1.00	0.00	4EAB85016
Members					
Note: For each class of shares issued by a proprietary company, ASIC records the details of the top twenty members of the class (based on shareholdings). The details of any other members holding the same number of					

Current Company Extract**MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD.****ACN 663 289 281**

shares as the twentieth ranked member will also be recorded by ASIC on the database. Where available, historical records show that a member has ceased to be ranked amongst the top twenty members. This may, but does not necessarily mean, that they have ceased to be a member of the company.

Name: **DYLAN JAMES WHITELAW**
Address:

Class	Number held	Beneficially held	Paid	Document number
A	1	no	FULLY	4EAB85016

Documents

Note: Where no Date Processed is shown, the document in question has not been processed. In these instances care should be taken in using information that may be updated by the document when it is processed. Where the Date Processed is shown but there is a zero under No Pages, the document has been processed but a copy is not yet available.

Date received	Form type	Date processed	Number of pages	Effective date	Document number
21/10/2022	201C Application For Registration As A Proprietary Company	21/10/2022	3	21/10/2022	4EAB85016

End of Extract of 2 Pages



The Lobbyists Register

MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD. ?

Search...

[Details](#)
[Clients](#)
[Employees](#)
[Owners](#)
[History](#)

Client Name	Client ABN	Active?	Foreign Principal	Country(ies)	Date Added
Arada LLC		✓	Yes	United Arab Emirates	07 Jan 2023
DARTANYON PTY LIMITED	79078565714	✓	No		02 Nov 2022
J GROUP PM PTY LTD	91608559799	✓	No		17 Dec 2022
KLF HOLDINGS PTY LTD	25119648234	✓	No		22 Dec 2022
Menangle Park East Village Land Holders			No		16 Nov 2022
MICHAEL BROWN PLANNING STRATEGIES PTY LTD	52162313895		No		16 Nov 2022
Mr George Scarlis		✓	No		29 Jan 2023
PACIFIC COMMUNITY HOUSING PTY LIMITED	33630907747	✓	No		22 Dec 2022
PACIFIC PLANNING PTY LIMITED	88610562760	✓	No		22 Dec 2022

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

NSW Electoral Commission

Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD. ⓘ

Search...

Details Clients **Employees** Owners History

Employee Name	Position	Active?	Date Added
Dylan Whitelaw	Managing Director	✓	02 Nov 2022
Ronan Greene	Adviser - Government Relations	✓	08 Jan 2023

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

• Accessibility Statement
• Site map

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NSW Electoral Commission

Home > Funding and Disclosure > Public registers and lists > Register of Third-Party Lobbyists > The Lobbyists Register

The Lobbyists Register

MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD. ⓘ

Search...

Details Clients Employees **Owners** History

Owner Name	Active?	Date Added
Dylan Whitelaw	✓	02 Nov 2022

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

• Disclaimer
• Accessibility Statement

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MACQUARIE ADVISORY GROUP PTY. LTD. ✕

Search...

Details Clients Employees Owners **History**

2022 ▾

Lobbyist Status

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
2022.11.02	Application Submitted	Active	Internal Process

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Lobbyist Responsible Officer

Change Date	Old Value	New Value	Changed By
No data available in table			

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries

Clients

Client Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
DARTANYON PTY LIMITED	2/11/2022 5:22 PM		dylan whitelaw
J GROUP PM PTY LTD	18/12/2022 10:17 AM		dylan whitelaw
KLF HOLDINGS PTY LTD	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw
Menangle Park East Village Land Holders	17/11/2022 10:40 AM		dylan whitelaw
MICHAEL BROWN PLANNING STRATEGIES PTY LTD	17/11/2022 10:40 AM		dylan whitelaw
PACIFIC COMMUNITY HOUSING PTY LIMITED	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw
PACIFIC PLANNING PTY LIMITED	23/12/2022 8:58 AM		dylan whitelaw

Showing 1 to 7 of 7 entries

Employees

Employee Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Dylan Whitelaw	2/11/2022 5:21 PM		dylan whitelaw
Dylan Whitelaw	9/11/2022 11:09 AM		Henry Donkin

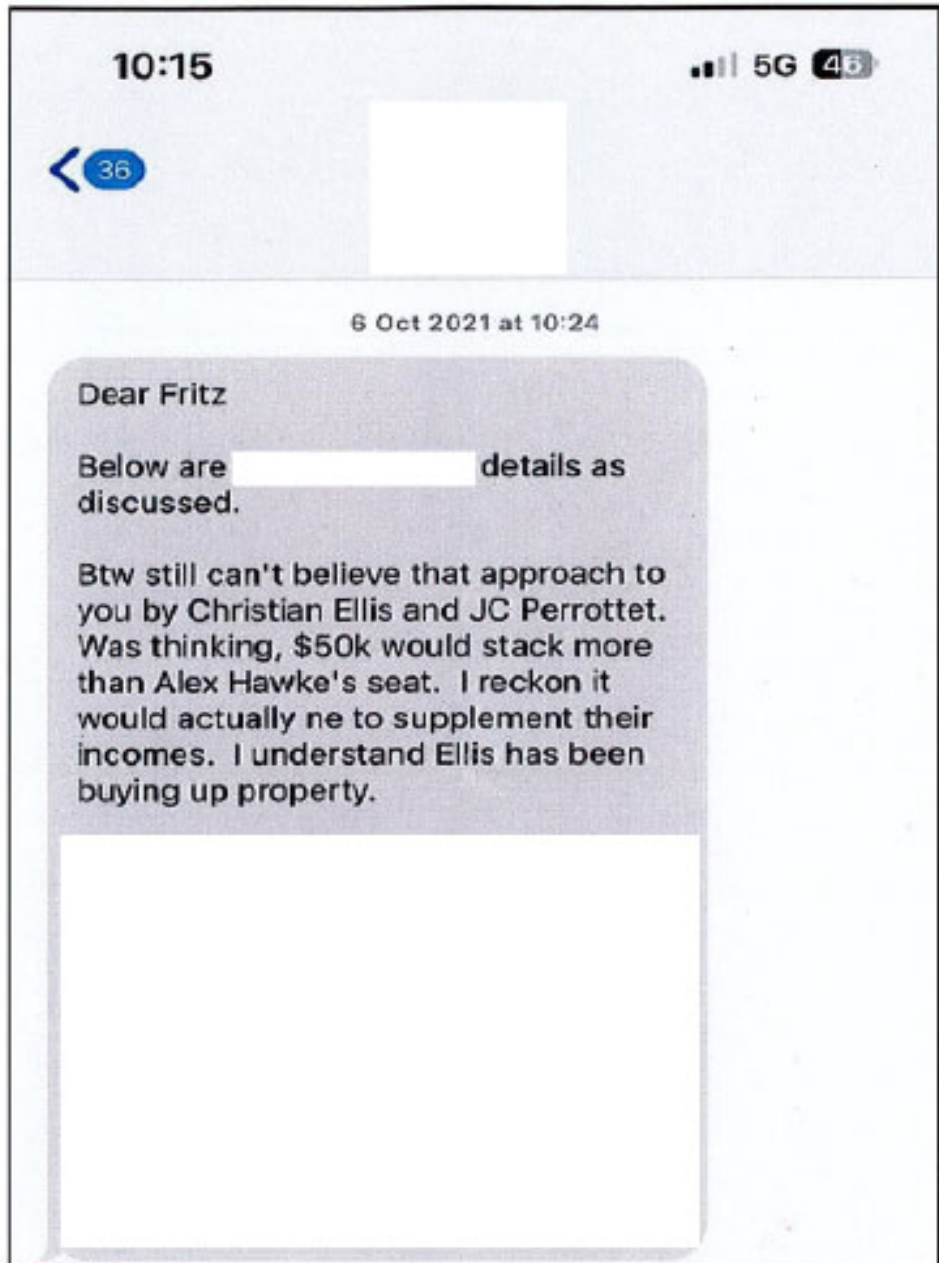
Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

Owners

Owner Name	Made Active	Made Inactive	Changed By
Dylan Whitelaw	2/11/2022 5:21 PM	2/11/2022 5:21 PM	dylan whitelaw
Dylan Whitelaw	9/11/2022 11:08 AM		Henry Donkin

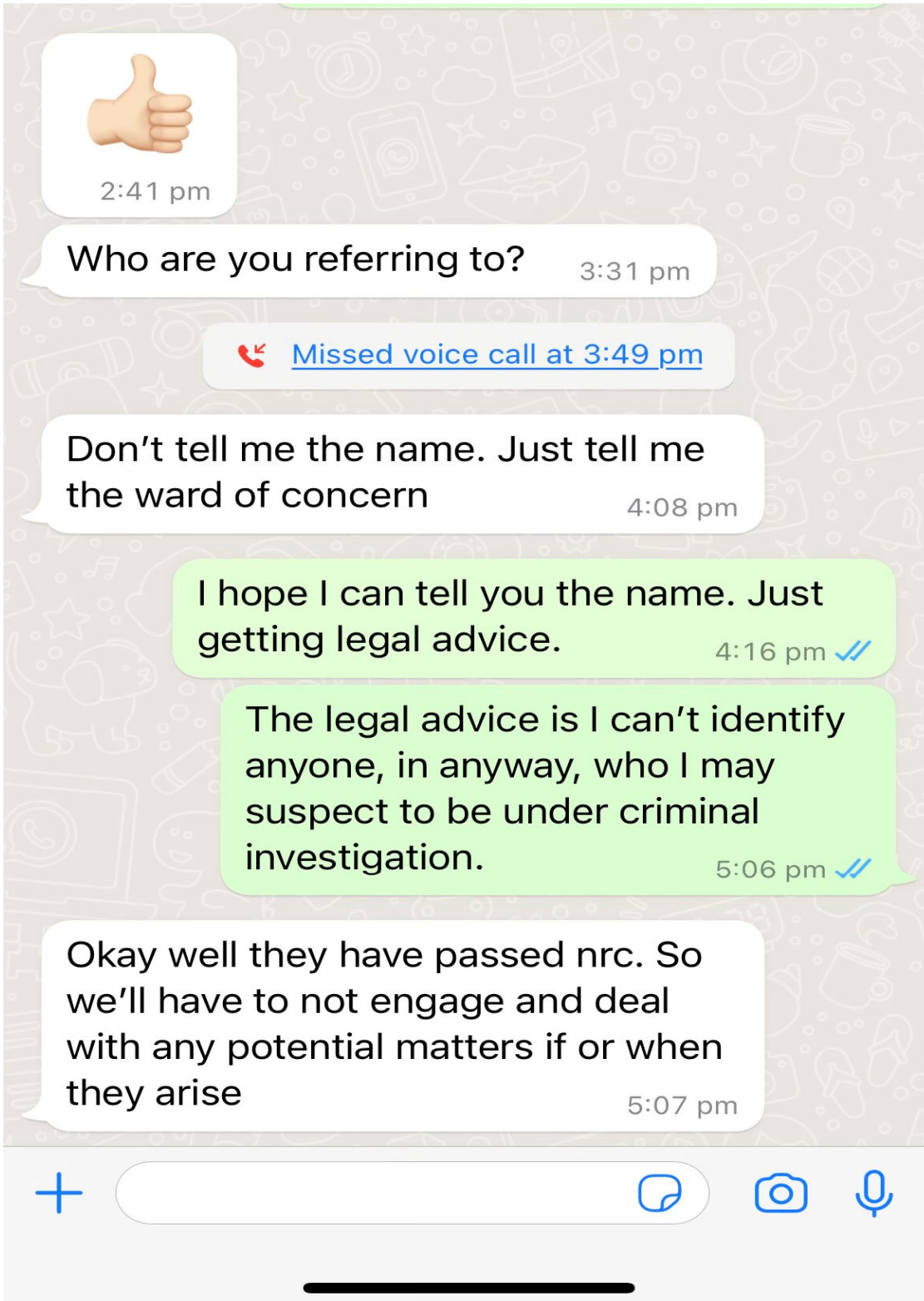
Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

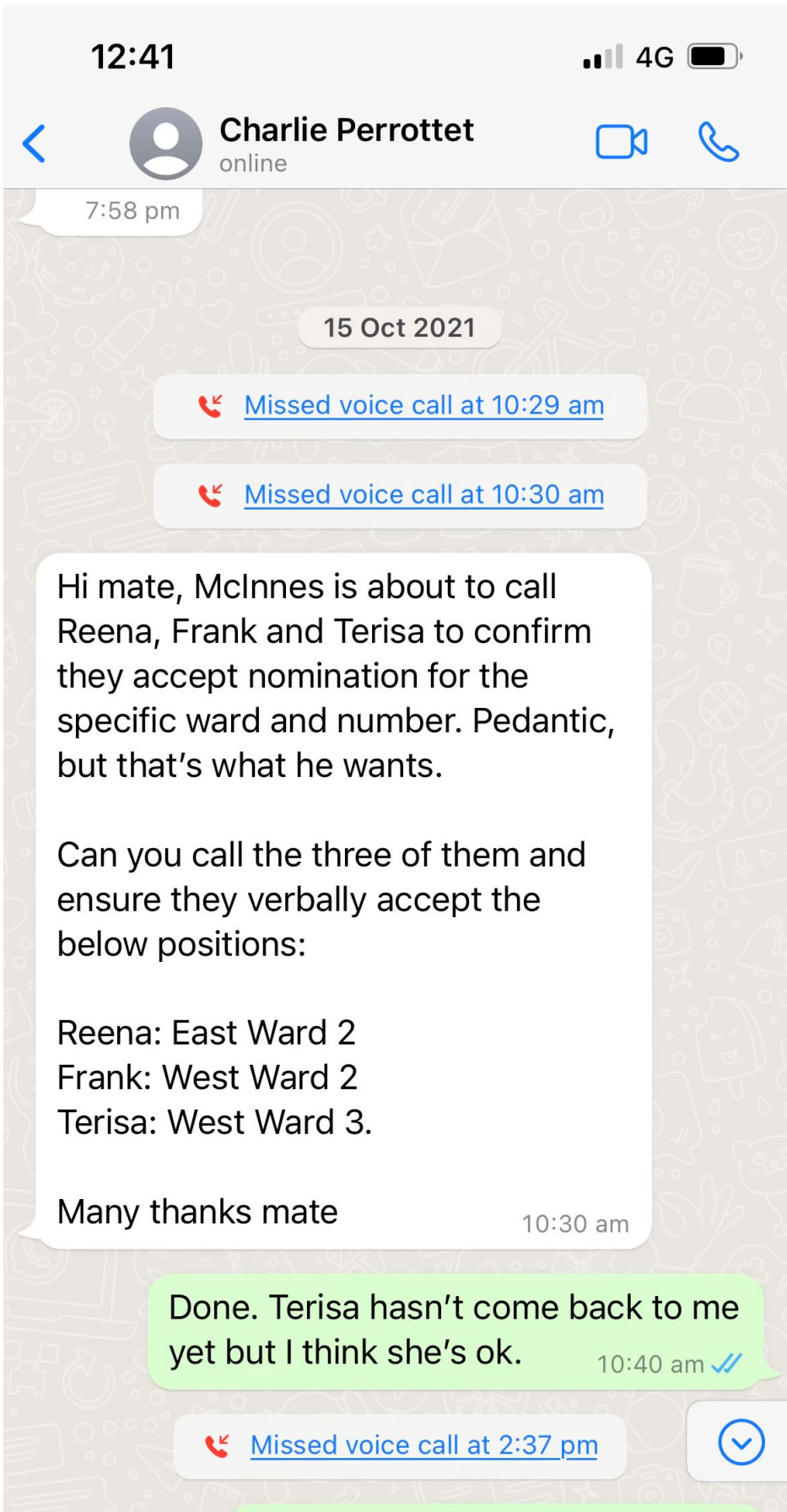
Appendix 10 Image of text message to Mr Frits Maré, 6 October 2021



Document tendered by	Mr Frits Maré
Received by	Gareth Jenkins
Date:	15 / 02 / 23
Resolved to publish	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Appendix 11 Image of text messages from Mr Charles Perrottet, October 2021





Appendix 12 Dissenting statement

The Hon Scott Barrett MLC, The Nationals

This report is a politically-motivated hit job from a Labor-Greens coalition, rushed to coincide with the upcoming election. Everything contained in this report should be viewed through that lens.

None of the allegations made appeared to have any evidence to substantiate them and timelines were set based around obtaining headlines during an election period.

Some of the conduct surrounding this committee has been concerning, particularly surrounding that apparent harassment of potential witnesses. While it is important the Parliamentary Inquiry process is respected and steps need to be taken to ensure this is upheld, some of the unnecessary intimidation that occurred during this process was troubling.

Another point of particular concern was the reliance on anonymously-authored, unsubstantiated and defamatory documents. While efforts have been made to justify the use of these documents, the publishing of and dependance on these untested documents seems against the spirit of the process.

In the ABC Four Corners episode in 2022, it was reported that ICAC had indicated it would not be further investigating the allegations relating to the Hills Shire Council.

A Parliamentary Inquiry should not have been the forum for this investigation and the resources that were expended on this ‘circus’ as it was referred to by one witness, should not have been devoted to political point scoring

