

Privileges Committee

# **Citizen's Right of Reply**

(Mrs Dot Holdom)

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## How to contact the committee

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## **Terms of reference**

The inquiry was conducted in accordance with standing orders 202 and 203.

## Committee membership

The Hon Trevor Khan MLC	The Nationals	Chair
The Hon Amanda Fazio MLC	Australian Labor Party	Deputy Chair
The Hon John Ajaka MLC	Liberal Party	
The Hon Jenny Gardiner MLC	The Nationals	
Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC	Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)	
The Hon Peter Primrose MLC	Australian Labor Party	
The Hon Matthew Mason-Cox MLC	Liberal Party	

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## Report

- 1.1 Standing orders 202 and 203 of the Legislative Council provide a mechanism for a person who has been adversely referred to by a member of the Legislative Council in proceedings of the House to seek a right of reply through the incorporation of a response in *Hansard* or in the *Minutes of Proceedings*.
- 1.2 On 27 June 2011, the President of the Legislative Council, the Hon Don Harwin MLC, received a submission from Mrs Dot Holdom, a Councillor with Tweed Shire Council, requesting the incorporation of a response under standing orders 202 and 203.
- 1.3 The submission referred to comments made by the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC concerning Mrs Holdom during debate in the Council on 24 November 2010.<sup>1</sup> The President, having considered the submission under standing order 202(2), referred it to the Privileges Committee on 28 June 2011.
- 1.4 The Committee met in private session on 4 August 2011, and decided, according to standing order 203, to consider the submission. The response, which the Committee now recommends for incorporation in *Hansard*, has been agreed to by Mrs Holdom and the Committee in accordance with standing order 203(4)(b).
- 1.5 The Committee draws attention to standing order 203(3)(b) which requires that, in considering a submission seeking a citizen's right of reply, the Committee must not consider or judge the truth of any statements made in the House or in the submission.
- 1.6 The Committee recommends:

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### Recommendation 1

That a response by Mrs Holdom, in the terms specified at Appendix 1, as agreed to by Mrs Holdom and the Committee, be incorporated in *Hansard*.

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The Hon Trevor Khan MLC  
Chair

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<sup>1</sup> *LC Hansard* (24/11/2010) 28105.



## **Appendix 1 Reply to comments by the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC in the Legislative Council on 24 November 2010**

I would like to reply to comments about me made by the Hon Marie Ficarra MLC on 24th November 2010 in the Legislative Council.

I request that this response be included in Hansard.

Ms Ficarra made statements that have adversely affected my reputation and are highly offensive to me. In my public capacity, I have always presented myself as a 'non party political' person.

I personally find that the accusations have not only affected me but my entire family, in particular my husband.

Ms Ficarra stated in her speech that I had conducted myself improperly by launching 'a campaign of vilification and politically motivated complaints' against Councillor Joan van Lieshout. This is not true. To date, no evidentiary proof to support these claims has ever been presented.

These unfounded accusations, as widely reported in the local print media, and still available by sourcing internet search engines and Hansard itself, have sullied my personal reputation and character and impugned my reputation and standing within the community.

I therefore submit that under the provisions of Standing Order 202 I have been adversely affected by Ms Ficarra's speech.