

Partner Chris Nielsen
Direct line
Email
Our reference CSN:161080-00043
Your reference D20/58820

4 December 2020

Sen. Justin Field MLC
Committee Chair
Select Committee on the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall

By email warragamba.dam@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Senator

Inquiry into the Proposal to Raise the Warragamba Dam Wall (Inquiry) Regarding Ms Renée Regal

We refer to your letter dated 20 November 2020. We act for Ms Renée Regal in relation to the matters the subject of your letter.

We are instructed to respond on behalf of Ms Regal as follows:

1. The transcript of the hearing of the Inquiry on 6 November 2020, provided under cover of your letter, records allegations by Ms Kazan Brown as follows:
 - (a) At a meeting, Niche and WaterNSW told Ms Brown that "*if the project went ahead then they would give us more access to land that Aboriginal people are locked out of.*" These statements were attributed specifically to Ms Regal and Ms Kernaghan from WaterNSW.
 - (b) That it was 'strongly implied' that if the registered Aboriginal parties (or RAPs) supported the project then they would get access to that land; and
 - (c) Ms Brown felt she was being bribed.
2. Ms Regal denies those allegations.
3. Ms Regal has never made a statement or representation to Ms Brown, or any of the RAPs involved in the project, that access to land would be provided conditional upon, or in any way linked to, the position taken by the RAPs in relation to the project. Statements or representations to that effect have never been made by anyone else in Ms Regal's presence.
4. Ms Brown has not expressed any concerns to Ms Regal regarding her being bribed, induced, pressured, or anything to that effect with respect to the project.
5. Ms Regal has requested that this correspondence be published by the Committee. Ms Regal's position is that this correspondence should be published in light of the fact that statements that are adverse to Ms

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Regal and her employer, and that are denied by Ms Regal, have already been published by way of the transcript referred to above.

6. Ms Regal is committed to assisting the Inquiry if requested to do so.

Yours sincerely

Chris Nielsen
Partner