



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

REPORT ON OFFICE OF SPORT CONTRACT RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 September 2022

An Upper House committee scrutinising public works of the NSW Government has tabled its report for the inquiry into the granting of contract number OoS17/18-021 by the Office of Sport.

The contract, which relates to the resurfacing of an indoor arena at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, has been the subject of allegations regarding probity and integrity issues.

'During this inquiry, it became apparent to the committee that the tender process for the relevant contract was flawed, and ultimately did not meet the probity standards expected of a NSW Government agency spending public money', said the Chair of the committee, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC.

The committee's report sets out the various probity and integrity issues that were identified relating to the granting of the contract. These issues can be broadly grouped into two categories: issues related to the tender process for the contract, and issues related to performance under the contract.

'It was evident during the inquiry that the Office of Sport did not keep Equestrian NSW, the peak body for equestrian sports in NSW, at arms-length during the tender process. The Office of Sport also failed to adequately document its decision-making process in relation to the granting of the contract. This ultimately made it very difficult to justify the tender being awarded to Barrie Smith Motorsport once allegations of impropriety had been made'.

The Chair continued: 'In relation to the issue of performance under the contract, this inquiry looked at the issue of second-hand material being used for the arena upgrade. This material was ultimately found to have been contaminated, which led to ongoing concerns about the safety and the effectiveness of the upgraded arena at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre'.

The committee's report makes a number of findings and recommendations which aim to ensure any probity issues are fully addressed by the Office of Sport, and that any remaining concerns about the conduct of individuals during this process be investigated as necessary by the appropriate authorities.

Information about the inquiry, including the committee's report, is available on the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Daniel Mookhey MLC, on 9230 2736