

Select Committee into Barangaroo Sight Lines – 11 November 2022

QoN 1:

Chairman (Mark Latham) to the Chief Executive of Infrastructure NSW (Simon Draper)

The CHAIR: At each of these steps that you've described, did you brief the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, on what you were doing?

SIMON DRAPER: Yes, we briefed the Premier. We briefed the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Treasury. We had a steering committee that oversaw the whole process, which involved both the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Treasury as well as ourselves.

The CHAIR: At any stage did the Premier raise concerns about what you were doing?

SIMON DRAPER: The Premier didn't raise concerns. We hadn't reached the final decision on whether to grant the confirmation that they sought. As I say, they could've proceeded with the transaction without us in any case. The Premier delegated the decision on whether to grant that confirmation to myself and the secretary of DPC, Tim Reardon.

The CHAIR: When did she do that?

SIMON DRAPER: I believe there was a memo that went to her in early August. I can check my records in a moment. I believe it was in early August. Following that briefing, the delegation was provided to us.

The CHAIR: If you can take that on notice and provide a copy of the note that went to the Premier seeking the delegation, that would be very helpful to the Committee.

ANSWER

A copy of a Briefing Note dated 1 August 2019, along with the covering email from Infrastructure NSW to Department of Premier & Cabinet and the Premier's Office, is attached.

The Recommendation section includes the following paragraph:

"Note that prior to INSW agreeing to the request for waiver, INSW proposes to ask for the provision of a release from all current or future claims from Grocon. INSW will act in consultation with the DPC Secretary to resolve the matter if the parties refuse INSW's request."

QoN 2:

The Hon. Adam Searle to the Chief Executive of Infrastructure NSW (Simon Draper)

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: You mentioned accounting advice. Can you tell us where that advice came from in terms of supporting the submission? Was it from one of the big four?

SIMON DRAPER: Yes, it was one of the big four.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Which one?

SIMON DRAPER: I might take it on notice, Mr Searle.

The Hon. ADAM SEARLE: Take it on notice and come back to us.

ANSWER

External advice was provided by Ernst & Young, along with internal advice from NSW Treasury.