



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Parliamentary inquiry into the appointment of Mr John Barilaro as Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to the Americas tables its interim report**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**6 February 2023**

The Public Accountability Committee today handed down its interim report into the appointment of Mr John Barilaro as Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to the Americas.

Chair of the committee, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, stated, "This report explores the establishment of the Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner (STIC) roles and the recruitment process that resulted in the appointment of former Deputy Premier Mr John Barilaro to the STIC Americas position."

Ms Faehrmann continued, "Despite assurances from senior public servants and ministers that the appointment process was conducted by the public service under a merit based process, it is clear that the process was flawed and that the Executive was not at arm's length from the process."

"The interference of former Minister for Trade Stuart Ayres, the numerous denials about his involvement and the lack of transparency surrounding the process have all the hallmarks of a 'job for the boys' appointment. This whole sorry saga has shaken the public's confidence in the integrity of Public Service recruitment."

The committee also found that when answering questions on the appointment of Mr John Barilaro to the STIC Americas position, Minister Ayres misled the public. It is a matter for the Legislative Assembly to determine whether former Minister Ayres misled the Parliament.

"Stuart Ayres was quick off the mark in telling the public, via a statement to parliament, that everything was above board regarding the process used to appoint John Barilaro to the New York trade role. This inquiry proved those statements false. The Committee now leaves it to the Legislative Assembly to determine whether Minister Ayres misled the Parliament when he made those statements," Ms Faehrmann said.

The final report which focuses on the key issues related to the Agent General appointment process will be tabled towards the end of February 2023.

The interim report and other inquiry documents can be found on the committee's [webpage](#).

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Cate Faehrmann via  
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