



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

UPCOMING HEARINGS IN INQUIRY INTO THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11 FEBRUARY 2023

The Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment will hold two hearings next week in its inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region.

Chair of the committee, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, said: "The committee thanks witnesses who have already agreed to give evidence. However, we are concerned that some individuals appear to be deliberately avoiding this important inquiry. The committee invited the following witnesses to give evidence at the hearings next week, all of whom are key individuals who could assist the committee with its questions in relation to Hills Shire Council:

- Mr Christian Ellis
- Councillor Virginia Ellis
- Mr Charles Perrottet
- Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet

As none of these individuals responded to our invitations, the committee took the serious step of resolving to summon them under the *Parliamentary Evidence Act*. Despite this, all individuals continue to ignore the committee's correspondence and appear to be deliberately avoiding accepting service of the summons."

Ms Higginson continued: "This appears to be a calculated and coordinated attempt to avoid scrutiny by the NSW Parliament. The committee is extremely concerned by this behaviour and calls on these individuals to cooperate with the inquiry."

The public hearings will be held on Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 February 2023 in the Dixon Room, State Library of New South Wales and will be livestreamed on the Parliament's [website](#).

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference can be found on the committee's [webpage](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Sue Higginson MLC, on 9230 2273