



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

8 February 2022

The Premier, Hon. Dominic Perrottet
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
(Via email)

Dear Premier,

RE: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PC7 – INQUIRY INTO THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL

I write to you regarding the Legislative Council PC7 – Inquiry into the Hills Shire Council (Hills Inquiry). At the direction of the Leader of the Government, the Hon Damien Tudehope, I was replaced on the Hills Inquiry by the Hon. Chris Rath, without any consultation whatsoever. To date, I have received no formal notification from the Leader of the Government or yourself concerning this action, which is unprecedented and very disrespectful to me both as a member of the Legislative Council and as a member of the New South Wales Parliamentary Liberal Party.

As you are aware, both the Hon. Chris Rath and the Hon. Aileen MacDonald were members of the New South Wales Liberal Party State Executive at the time the subject matter of the Hills Inquiry was considered by that body. As a result each of these members recused themselves from any participation in the Hills Inquiry due to this obvious conflict of interest, particularly as they could be called as witnesses to the inquiry.

The actions of Mr. Tudehope to appoint Mr. Rath in my stead without any consultation and being fully aware of the conflict of interest, is an appalling abuse of power that reflects poorly upon your government. It was brought to my attention that Mr. Rath reminded the leader of the government, Mr. Tudehope of this conflict of interest but was nonetheless installed against his wishes, as a member of the Hills Inquiry. This action threatens to compromise the Hills Inquiry and undermines the role of the Legislative Council as a house of review.

I call upon you to instruct Mr Tudehope to immediately rectify this clear conflict of interest by removing Mr. Rath from the Hills Inquiry and reinstating me as a member of this Committee forthwith.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Lou Amato MLC

cc: The Hon Damien Tudehope
Members, PC7 Hills Inquiry
