



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE DEVELOPMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

# INQUIRY INTO CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN COUNCIL TO HOLD FOURTH PUBLIC HEARING

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 February 2023

On **Friday 17 February 2023**, the Standing Committee on State Development will hold a fourth public hearing for the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council.

Appearing at the hearing will be Councillor Bilal El-Hayek from the City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council. Also appearing before the committee will be Mr Simon Manoski, former Director of Planning at Canterbury Bankstown Council.

The Chair of the Committee, the Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC, commented: "I am disappointed that much of the inquiry has been played out in the media instead of allowing the committee to hold hearings and conduct the inquiry in a fair and transparent way. We are all losers when this happens. It erodes trust and causes unwarranted speculation about outcomes."

Mrs MacDonald continued: "It is my expectation with this final hearing that the committee will then be able to deliberate and make findings and recommendations based on the evidence gathered, including the information provided at hearings, the documents provided by the City of Canterbury Bankstown Council in response to requests for documents, together with submissions and answers to questions on notice. I thank all witnesses who have participated in the inquiry process so far – appearing as a witness is not always easy and comes with great responsibility."

The hearing schedule, along with the names of all witnesses, is available on the inquiry [webpage](#).

The hearing will be held on **Friday 17 February 2023 from 9.30 am in the Dixson Room at the State Library of New South Wales**. The hearing room is open to the public.

The hearing will be streamed live via the Parliament's [website](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Aileen MacDonald MLC, on (02) 9230 2404*