



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

17 February 2023

Our Ref: D23/13226

Ms Robyn Preston MP  
Member for Hawkesbury

*Via email:*

Dear Ms Preston

**Inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region**

As you are aware, Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment is currently conducting an inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of The Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region. The committee invited Virginia Ellis, a Councillor of Hills Shire Council and employee in your office, to give evidence as we believe she could provide information relevant to the inquiry terms of reference.

Cr Ellis did not respond to the committee's invitation to give evidence at a hearing, nor a follow up letter asking her to respond and extending the invitation again. We therefore resolved to summon her to appear and give evidence before the committee under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*. However, despite multiple attempts to contact Cr Ellis by phone, email and in person, we have not had a response or been able to speak with her directly.

I understand Cr Ellis is an electorate officer in the Hawkesbury Electorate Office. I write to request your assistance in contacting Cr Ellis. If you can provide any information regarding Ms Ellis' whereabouts, or any assistance in securing her cooperation with our inquiry, this would be greatly appreciated by the committee.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Peta Leemen, Principal Council Officer, on or via email at [portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Sue Higginson MLC  
Committee Chair