

## Draft minutes no. 97

Monday 20 February 2023  
Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment  
Via Webex at 4.03 pm

### 1. Members present

Ms Higginson, *Chair*  
Mr Barrett  
Mr Graham (participating)  
Ms Jackson (from 4.20 pm)  
Mrs MacDonald  
Mr Rath  
Ms Sharpe

### 2. Apologies

Mr Pearson

### 3. Draft minutes

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 95 and 96 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 95 and 96.

### 4. Correspondence

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

#### ***Received:***

- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 1 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 2 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 3 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to the Chair, declining the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, providing report on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, received 20 February 2023

#### ***Sent:***

- Letter from the Chair to Mr Jean Nassif responding to issues raised and inviting him to appear via videoconference on 23 February, sent 15 February 2023

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- Letter from the Chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP requesting her assistance to locate Cr Virginia Ellis, who works in her electorate office, sent 17 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, subject to proposed redactions of sensitive information and personal contact details being circulated and agreed to by the committee:

- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 1 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 2 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 17 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing progress report no. 3 on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving to secretariat, providing report on current contact details for Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, received 20 February 2023
- Letter from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, providing report on attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, received 20 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Chair to Mr Jean Nassif inviting him to appear via videoconference, sent 15 February 2023
- Letter from the Chair to Ms Robyn Preston MP requesting her assistance to locate Cr Virginia Ellis, sent 17 February 2023

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of the following correspondence, subject to redaction of sensitive information:

- Letter from Mr Jeremy Greenwood to the Chair, declining the committee's invitation to appear at a public hearing on 23 February, received 20 February 2023

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

### **5.1 Update on attempts to serve summons on witnesses for hearing on 23 February**

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made by private process servers to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet.

The committee noted that members are able to still provide contact details of the above witnesses to assist the secretariat in effecting service of the summons.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in continuing to make reasonable efforts to serve summonses on Mr Christian Ellis, Cr Virginia Ellis and Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet, including through the use of private process servers.

### **5.2 Update on other potential witnesses for hearing on 23 February**

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to serve summons on Mr Jeremy Greenwood and to contact Mr Jeff Egan.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- the committee authorise the secretariat to retain a private process server to effect service of summons documents on Mr Greenwood, and
- Mr Greenwood be advised that he can give evidence before the committee via videoconference if he wishes.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That:

- the committee authorise the Chair to work with the secretariat in continuing to make reasonable efforts to contact Mr Egan and invite him to appear and give evidence at the hearing on Thursday 23 February as a matter of priority, and
- Mr Egan be advised that, if he declines the invitation, the committee has the power to summon witnesses under the *Parliamentary Evidence 1901*.

## 6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 4.34 pm until Thursday 23 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart  
**Committee Clerk**