



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 7 – PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

HEARING TOMORROW IN INQUIRY INTO THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
22 FEBRUARY 2023**

The Upper House Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment will hold its third hearing tomorrow in the inquiry into allegations of impropriety against agents of the Hills Shire Council and property developers in the region. The inquiry will hear from Mr Alan Haselden, former Councillor, The Hills Shire Council.

Ms Sue Higginson MLC, Chair of the committee, said: "The committee thanks Ms Haselden for agreeing to give evidence tomorrow and looks forward to any insights he can provide on the issues before us. However, the committee reiterates its previous concerns that many other witnesses to this inquiry have not been so cooperative. We invited Mr Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis, Mr Jean-Claude Perrottet and Mr Jeremy Greenwood to give evidence to the committee. When all either ignored or refused our invitations, we made the serious decision to issue a summons compelling their attendance".

Ms Higginson continued: "Since then, the committee has made numerous attempts to serve these witnesses, including through the use of professional process servers. To date though, we have been unsuccessful in serving the summonses on any of these individuals. These witnesses are impeding the proper processes of Parliament and this committee in exercising its inquiry power. I can't stress how serious that is and the implications of their decisions".

The hearing will be held on Thursday 23 February from 10.00 am to 11.00 am at the UNSW CBD Campus, Level 6, 1 O'Connell St Sydney. It will also 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](#).

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