

Minutes no. 98

Monday 20 February 2023
Portfolio Committee No. 7 – Planning and Environment
Via Webex at 9.31 am

1. **Members present**

Ms Higginson, *Chair*
Mr Barrett
Mr Graham (substituting for Ms Jackson)
Mrs MacDonald
Mr Rath
Ms Sharpe

2. **Apologies**

Ms Jackson
Mr Pearson

3. **Draft minutes**

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That draft minutes no. 97 be confirmed.

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of minutes no. 97.

4. **Correspondence**

The committee noted the following items of correspondence:

Received:

- 20 February 2023 – Email from Mr Charles Perrottet to Chair, declining invitation to appear at public hearing

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise the publication of correspondence from Mr Charles Perrottet, declining invitation to appear at public hearing, dated 20 February 2023.

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

5.1 Answers to questions on notice

Resolved, on the motion of Mrs MacDonald: That the following answers to questions on notice be published, subject to redaction of personal contact details:

- answers to questions on notice from Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, The Hills Shire Council, received 17 February 2023.

5.2 Reports from private process servers

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

- Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving reports 1 to 3 to secretariat, received 20 February 2023, providing updates on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis and Jean-Claude Perrottet, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential
- Report from Tim Tierney & Associates Pty Ltd to secretariat, received 20 February 202, providing an update on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis and Councillor Virginia Ellis, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the committee authorise the publication of report 4 from Sharmans Investigations and Process Serving on the attempts to serve summonses on Christian Ellis, Councillor Virginia Ellis, Jean-Claude Perrottet and Jeremy Greenwood when it is received by the secretariat, subject to the redaction of identifying/sensitive information as proposed by the secretariat, which is to remain confidential.

5.3 Update on attempts to serve summons on witnesses for hearing on 23 February

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

Resolved, on the motion of Ms Sharpe: That the committee authorise publication of written reports of the activities of committee staff in attempting to serve summons on Mr Jeremy Greenwood on 17 and 20 February, subject to redactions of the names and contact details of committee staff and the contact details of witnesses.

5.4 Update on other potential witnesses for hearing on 23 February

The committee noted ongoing efforts that have been made to contact Mr Jeff Egan.

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That:

- the Chair re-issue an invitation to Mr Egan to attend the public hearing on 23 February 2023, noting that the committee has the power to issue him with a summons if he declines, and
- that if Mr Egan does not respond to or declines this invitation, under the authority of s 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Evidence Act 1901*, the committee issue him a summons to attend and give evidence before the committee, at a time determined by the Chair.

5.5 Other witnesses for hearing on 23 February

Resolved, on the motion of Mr Graham: That the following individuals be invited to appear as witnesses at the public hearing on 23 February:

- Mr Alan Haselden
- Ms Emma Hogan and Ms Natasha Mann, Department of Fair Trading
- Mr David Chandler, NSW Building Commissioner
- Mr Michael Edgar, General Manager, Hills Shire Council
- Mr Robert Assaf
- Mr Dylan Whitelaw.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10.04 am until Thursday 23 February 2023 (public hearing).

Arizona Hart
Committee Clerk