



01 March 2023
Your Ref: D23/15697

The Hon Sue Higginson MLC
Chair
Portfolio Committee No 7 – Planning and Environment
(Via email: portfoliocommittee7@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Higginson,

RE: PC7 - INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY AGAINST AGENTS OF THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION

I am aware that a Committee Member has provided a witness with the opportunity to address a number of questions to assist the committee. In the interest of procedural fairness, I write to address these same questions and to assist the committee with their deliberations as much as practically possible.

I have broken up my statements under key headings to assist the committee:

Christian Ellis – what is your relationship?

Mr Ellis is a former employer of mine and a Liberal Party Colleague.

Hills – what was your involvement?

As found in Chapter 1, my involvement in the Hills was minimal. During my ongoing membership with the NSW Liberal Party I was never a member of any branch within the Hills area, nor was it an area I was focused on recruiting into.

I would define any involvement within the hills, as minimal as it may be, as low level.

Were you aware of any money sought for branch recruitment operations?

At no point was I aware of any money sought for branch stacking activity within the Liberal Party.

I am also not aware of individuals or groups paying for memberships within the party.

That being said, it was a frequent occurrence for more senior members of the party to donate to young liberal drinks events and engagement events.

Dylan J. Whitelaw



Would you have been aware?

As stated above, I was never aware of any money being sought for branch stacking activities. That being said, I can't deal in speculation.

Have you received any advice about attending or co-operating with the inquiry?

I've received advice from family, friends, legal representatives, and my work circle as to how I approach my dealings with the committee, which has led me to the decision to be as cooperative as possible. I have also sought spiritual advice from my God.

At all stages, I have attempted to assist the committee where practically possible.

I also note and reiterate that I refute any and all allegations of impropriety or inappropriate conduct made against me in the unsourced and unverified documents that have been provided and tabled by the committee.

I ask that the committee consider my above statements in any deliberations relating to their final report that will be tabled to the NSW Parliament.

Yours Faithfully,

Dylan J. Whitelaw

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