

28 February 2023

I refer to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into allegations of impropriety involving the Hills Shire Council.

I am overseas and I have not been served with a summons to appear at the inquiry.

Since seeing the media coverage, it is clear to me that I would never receive procedural fairness at the inquiry. Given its timing on the eve of an election and the nature of the allegations made, it is also clear that the inquiry is being conducted to further political ends.

This has been an extremely distressing time for me. False allegations against me have been politicised and publicised and have taken a serious toll on my mental health.

This stress has been exacerbated by calls to the public to report my whereabouts. These calls have put my fiancée and our families in harm's way.

The harassment of my fiancée and her family members by tax-payer funded investigators, and the distribution of images of them and their homes in the media, is deeply distressing and an issue that will be subject of separate correspondence.

For the reasons set out above, I will not be taking part in the inquiry, other than to confirm to the Committee, by this correspondence, that the allegations made against me are completely false.

I trust this confirmation assists the inquiry in any legitimate ends it might ultimately pursue. For now, I ask the Committee to please refrain from further distressing and potentially unlawful harassment of me, my fiancée and our families.

I reserve my rights regarding the defamatory comments made about me in the media as well as my rights to procedural fairness.

Jean-Claude Perrottet