



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND WORKS COMMITTEE

**INQUIRY INTO THE APPOINTMENTS OF JOSH MURRAY TO THE POSITION  
OF SECRETARY OF TRANSPORT FOR NSW AND EMMA WATTS AS NSW  
CROSS-BORDER ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER**

**HEARING – THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2023**

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

**Answers are to be returned to the Committee secretariat by  
Thursday 28 September 2023**

**Josh Murray, Secretary of Transport for NSW**

1. Of your three referees, how many were either a minister, or worked for a minister, in the NSW Government between 2006 and 2008?
2. In addition to the \$1450 in donations to Labor's 2023 election campaign from you and your spouse, what other donations or payments, including membership fees, did you and your spouse make to the Labor Party between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023?
3. When, and from whom, did you first learn that one of the assessments would be a response to a scenario?
4. In a text you sent to Mr Gartrell at 7.03 pm on Monday 10 July 2023 you said "Apologies just on a call. Can I try you back shortly". Before sending this text, did you know you would be appointed as Secretary, Transport for NSW?
5. Did you call Mr Murray back on the evening of Monday 10 July 2023? If so, what did you discuss in that phone conversation?
6. On what date did you resign from membership of the Labor Party? Please provide a copy of your letter of resignation.
7. What was the nature and date of the contact between Mr Gartrell and yourself which led you to send Mr Gartrell a text beginning "Thanks for checking in"?

8. Having attended the Chris Minns celebration on election night, what contributions did Mr. Murray make to the Minns, Haylen or other Labor campaigns on:
  - (a) Election Day (such as booth staffing) and
  - (b) Other electioneering in 2022 or 2023 (such as handing out leaflets in shopping centres, train stations, etc.)?
9. Did any of Mr. Murray's referees have ALP membership or Labor links, if so, who?
10. As a corporate affairs manager at Laing O'Rourke, what role did Mr. Murray play other than lobbying, media management and communications? What projects was he personally involved in for their:
  - (a) Design,
  - (b) Construction, and
  - (c) Daily operational performance?

Did Mr. Murray have any involvement of this kind ((a) to (c)) in the UK hospital (opened during Covid) he mentioned several times during his evidence?

11. Mr. Murray gave evidence that he first met Jo Haylen at a wedding in 2016 and thereafter his relationship with her was described as "semi-professional" involving "business-related activities".
  - (a) What were these "activities"?
  - (b) What social-type contact did Mr. Murray have with Jo Haylen from 2016 to March 2023?
12. After 2016, what contributions, if any, did Mr. Murray make to assist Jo Haylen's various election campaigns as an ALP volunteer?
13. As a family friend of the Minns family, on which occasions did Mr. Murray and/or Davina Langton visit the Minns home and for what purposes?
14. Is Mr. Murray aware of any of his family members discussing and/or lobbying Minns family members about the Transport Secretary position? What are the details?
15. Has Mr. Murray made any application and/or inquiry about an above band remuneration package as Transport Secretary via SOORT or other means? What are the details?
16. As Transport Secretary has Mr. Murray asked Minister Haylen why, given the controversy and allegations about his appointment, she didn't simply appoint him directly? What did she say?

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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS  
DIRECTED TO JOSH MURRAY**

RESPONSES

1. I am advised that all documents from the appointment process, including relating to the referee reports conducted by the independent recruiter, have already been tabled to the Legislative Council.
2. As stated in my evidence, I have abided by all requirements of the Electoral Act of NSW, which includes the strictest disclosure laws in the country.
3. All instructions relating to the recruitment process were conveyed to me by NGS Global officials either by phone or email.
4. No.
5. *This question appears to be directed to someone else.*
6. I answered this exact question in the hearing. The date was 16 June.
7. I direct you to my response to this same question during the hearing. From Hansard:

*"I don't recall the exact nature of the conversations from that time. As I said – as has been shown – he had sent me the job advertisement. And then at the time when I had sent all of my documents in, I did respond to that text message and say that I had submitted the application. Now, I was concerned about that process at the time. I was starting to feel as though it wasn't being handled professionally by the recruitment company. And I did make the decision to do two things: contact Mr Gartrell and also to contact the chief recruiter and introduce myself."*

8. As the Committee is aware, I have previously been a member of the NSW ALP. While the Code of Conduct and Ethics for NSW public sector employees does allow for reasonable involvement in democratic activities by public servants, I resigned my membership while applying for the Secretary position.
  
9. I do not know the political membership status of past or current employers or colleagues.
  
10. Until July 2023, I was a statutory company director and executive for multiple Laing O'Rourke Group entities registered with both Companies House in London and ASIC in Australia. My responsibilities extended over multiple operational, financial, and functional areas in both the strategic direction-setting and the daily leadership requirements of this complex, global organisation and its c75 major building and infrastructure projects globally. I was a member of the Group, Australian and European Executive Committees concurrently – the key decision-making forums of the firm.
  
11. As stated in my evidence, I had met or seen the Minister on a number of occasions. These included professional events such as industry conferences or 'think tank' appearances, engagement related to my previous employer, or social or community occasions where we may have both attended. As stated in my evidence, I believe I first met the Minister in 2016, I did not live in Australia 2017-2021, and prior to becoming Secretary, I did not know her well.
  
12. Nil.
  
13. I refer you to the answers provided in the hearing, and note the Premier was not involved in the recruitment process.
  
14. No.
  
15. No.
  
16. No.

**Josh Murray**  
**03.10.2023**