

**INQUIRY INTO THE INTEGRITY, EFFICACY, AND VALUE FOR
MONEY OF THE LOCAL SMALL COMMITMENTS ALLOCATION
PROCESS**

Hearing: 27 June 2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr Paul Mills, Senior Caucus Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon Chris Minns MP

(1) Prior to the Sydney LSCA grants being finalised, what contact had you had with Will2Live or its former director and the owner of its Botany Road Alexandria premises, Brent Maksimovich, or his renovation company Maksim Potential? What are the details?

To the best of my recollection, none.

(2) During the many iterations of the Sydney LSCA grants outside the program guidelines with which the Premier's office was involved, did you ever say to Chris Minns, Cherie Burton, James Cullen, Matthew Iemma or George Psihoyios, words to the effect of "What we are doing here is outside the guidelines and I'm worried if we get caught we could be in big trouble"? Was corrupt conduct under the ICAC Act, that is, a breach of public trust, mentioned?

I reject the premise of the question as it contains false imputations.

(3) With regard to (2), did anyone else in the office say this in your presence? How did you respond?

I reject the premise of the question as it contains false imputations.

(4) During your long dinner meeting with Cherie Burton in the Stanger's Restaurant of Parliament House the night before the 27 June hearing, which different ways did Ms Burton tell you you could avoid answering questions and providing the Committee with straightforward information?

I reject the premise of the question as it contains false imputations.

(5) Given this was how you testified, how useful was her advice?

I reject the premise of the question as it contains false imputations.

(6) Were you involved in discussions regarding the possibility that the Premier's staffers like yourself would not have to appear at the PAWC to give evidence about the LSCA given the claim of the Premier, the Speaker Mr Piper and the Leader of the House Mr Hoenig that the privileges and immunities of the Legislative Assembly extended to Ministerial staff? What are the details?

I appeared at the LSCA hearing on 27 June 2025.

(7) Regarding (5) above, why was the Premier and his senior staff so worried about you giving full and honest answers under oath at the Committee?

I reject the premise of the question as it contains false imputations.

(8) Noting that your name appears as the "Organiser/person notified of approval" next to 62 projects in 13 electorates with the "Date notified" given as various dates between 10 July 2023 and 28 July 2023, on what date were you first given a copy of or access to the master list or pages of the master list of Local Small Commitments Allocations for these electorates?

I do not recall. This question relates to events that occurred two years ago.

(9) In addition to verifying or obtaining contact details for nominations was it also part of your assigned tasks to add projects for some electorates where no nominated projects were listed?

I refer to my opening statement at page 47 of the uncorrected transcript of the 27 June 2025 hearing.

(10) The table published by the Cabinet office at:

[https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/TCO_A5794143%20-](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/TCO_A5794143%20-%20Disclosure%20log.pdf)

[%20Disclosure%20log.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/TCO_A5794143%20-%20Disclosure%20log.pdf) lists the following electorates as having no allocated projects and, consequently, \$400,000 of unallocated funds under the Local Small Commitments

Allocation program:

- Castle Hill
- Epping
- Kellyville
- Murray
- Orange
- Wollondilly.

However, projects and funding allocations for these electorates are listed on the *230728 \$400K local commitments master list.xlsx* with your name printed in the column headed “Organiser/person notified of approval” and “Date notified” given as between 14 July 2023 and 24 July 2023”.

(a) Who notified you that these projects and funding allocations had been approved?

(b) Did you enter the projects and/or the funding allocations on to the spreadsheet?

(c) Where did you get the details of the projects and the funding allocation?

(d) Did you seek or receive any information from any of the three independent MPs – the Member for Murray, the Member for Orange or the Member for Wollondilly – about which projects to add to the master list or the funding amount for these projects?

(e) Did you seek or receive any information from any councillor on the Hills Shire Council in relation to the projects and funding amounts nominated for Castle Hill and Kellyville?

I refer to my opening statement at page 47 of the uncorrected transcript of the 27 June 2025 hearing.

(11) In relation to the electorate of Sydney, did you have any communication with the Member for Sydney or his office about the nine projects with your name listed against them in the *230728 \$400K local commitments master list.xlsx*?

To the best of my recollection, no.

(12) Did Cherie Burton send you any emails relating to the Local Small Commitments Allocation program?

There have been orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 on this matter.

The Government complies with its obligations for orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 and also Government Information Public Access (GIPA) requests.

State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government.

Ministerial staff are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

(13) Did you send emails to Cherie Burton about the Local Small Commitments Allocation program?

There have been orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 on this matter.

The Government complies with its obligations for orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 and also Government Information Public Access (GIPA) requests.

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(14) Did you send or receive emails relating to the Local Small Commitments Allocation to any member of parliament or to any Labor candidate in the 2023 election?

There have been orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 on this matter.

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Ministerial staff are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

(15) Have you provided all documents covered by orders for papers from the Legislative Council for documents relating to the Local Small Commitments Allocation?

The Government complies with its obligations for orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 and also Government Information Public Access (GIPA) requests.

State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government.

Ministerial staff are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

(16) Have you destroyed any documents, physical or electronic, relating to the Local Small Commitments Allocation?

The Government complies with its obligations for orders for the production of documents under Standing Order 52 and also Government Information Public Access (GIPA) requests.

State records are a vital public asset, and access to Government information is essential to maintaining public trust in government.

Ministerial staff are expected to comply with their obligations under the State Records Act 1998.