

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

Hearing: 27 June 2025

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

Mr James Cullen, Chief of Staff, 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) 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.

(3) Regarding (2) above, why was the Premier 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.

(4) Given what you now know about the administration of LSCA, have you advised the Premier to consider his Section 11 responsibilities under the ICAC Act? What are the details?

I refer to the evidence given by ICAC Chief Commissioner John Hatzistergos at the Budget Estimates hearing on 26 February 2025 and the NSW Auditor-General's performance audit of the Local Small Commitments Allocation Program of 26 June 2025.

(5) How do you explain that the four Premier's grants under the Premier's Discretionary Fund correspond exactly to the organisations and amounts Alex Greenwich missed out on when he and Cherie Burton tried to change the Sydney allocations outside the LSCA guidelines

but were caught by John Graham's office and had to revert to an earlier set of allocations?

I reject the premise of the question.

I refer to the evidence I gave at the hearing on 27 June 2025.

Recipients for the Premier's Discretionary Fund are selected by ministerial discretion to meet the program objectives. This program is administered by Premier's Department.

(6) In (5) above, what conversations did you have with the Premier about this matter and funding requirement?

I cannot recall speaking to the Premier about this matter.

(7) How do you explain that in Matt Cross's GIPA of 21 June 2023, Skye Tito's allocations for Sydney were initially lodged and recorded after the election as a blanket \$400,000 allocation for the needs of vulnerable people in that electorate? That is, under the terms of the program guidelines, with that lack of specificity by the Labor candidate, the \$400,000 should have been transferred to local Councils for park improvements. Why didn't this happen?

This question is best directed to Cherie Burton.

(8) Did you or do you know of anyone in your office who spoke to Skye Tito as to the actual nature of her pre-election LSCA commitments in the seat of Sydney? What are the details?

To the best of my recollection, I did not. I refer to Cherie Burton's evidence at the 27 June 2025 hearing.

(9) How do you explain, under the requirements of the State Records Act, that the master list of ALP pre-election LSCA allocations has disappeared? Was it ever shredded?

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.

(10) Who, to the best of your recollection, was the Secretariat of the Shadow ERC?

I cannot recall.