



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CROSS CITY TUNNEL

21 December 2005

Hon Morris Iemma  
Premier and Treasurer  
NSW Government  
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

**Inquiry into the Cross City Tunnel**

As you may be aware, the Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel was established by resolution of the Legislative Council on 15 November 2005 (Minutes 128, Item 14, page 1720) and by the Legislative Assembly on 16 November 2005 (Votes and Proceedings No 158, Item 28, page 1765).

The terms of reference for the Inquiry include:

- 1(e) the communication and accountability mechanisms between the RTA and Government, including the Premier, other Ministers or their staff and the former Premier or former Ministers or their staff,

The Committee has resolved to hold hearings on 1,2 and 3 February 2006, and is able to hear evidence from you at a time of your convenience on the morning of either Thursday 2 February 2006 or Friday 3 February 2006.

The location of the hearing is the Jubilee Room at Parliament House, and the proposed duration of your appearance is one hour.

At the beginning of your evidence you will be given the option of making an opening statement, which should be succinct and relevant to the Inquiry. The Chair and members of the Committee will then ask you questions. To assist your preparation for your appearance, indicative questions will be sent to you before the hearing.

Please telephone the Secretariat on (02) 9230 3554 if you have any queries about this invitation, and to confirm your availability for either Thursday 2 February 2006 or Friday 3 February 2006.

Further information about the Inquiry can be found on the Committee's website at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/crosscitytunnel](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/crosscitytunnel).

Yours sincerely

**Revd Fred Nile MLC**  
Chairman



18 JAN 2006 Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales  
Australia

The Rev. The Hon Fred Nile MLC  
Chairman  
Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Nile

Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2005 inviting me to give evidence at the Cross City Tunnel Committee Inquiry next month. I appreciate the spirit in which this invitation has been issued.

It is appropriate that the Government's thinking on this matter – as on all matters – is publicly aired and questioned. As Premier, there have been numerous opportunities for this to occur, both in the media and Parliament. In fact, I would say the issues in this case have been extensively and effectively addressed.

In addition, documents requested by the s.52 Legislative Council Call for Papers have been provided to the Parliament. I would encourage the Committee Members to avail themselves of Hansard's record of questions and answers given on this topic as well as those documents made available in the s.52 Legislative Council Call for Papers.

In view of the substantial amount of information which has already been placed on the public record, I respectfully decline your request to attend and give evidence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morris Iemma', written over a large, faint, stylized watermark or background graphic.

**Morris Iemma MP**  
Premier and Treasurer



24 January 2006

The Hon Morris Iemma MP  
Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Citizenship  
Level 40, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Mr Iemma

### **Inquiry into the Cross City Tunnel**

As you are aware, the Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel is undertaking an inquiry into the Cross City Tunnel. On 21 December 2005 the Committee invited you to provide evidence to the inquiry. I note your response to the Committee secretariat dated 18 January in which you indicated that you are unavailable to attend the Committee's public hearings.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are attached and include:

- 1(e) the communication and accountability mechanisms between the RTA and Government, including the Premier, other Ministers or their staff and the former Premier or former Ministers or their staff,

You will note that the terms of reference specifically mention yourself and other Ministers or your staff as well as the former Premier and other former Ministers or their staff. The former Premier and Treasurer have accepted the Committee's invitation to provide evidence to the inquiry and appeared at a public hearing on 6 December 2005.

At a deliberative meeting today, the Committee resolved to reissue its invitation to you to appear before the inquiry, in order to fully examine the terms of reference for the inquiry.

As the Committee is due to report on terms of reference 1(a) to 1(e) by Tuesday 28 February 2006, could your office please contact the secretariat regarding your availability as soon as possible. The Committee Director, Ms Rachel Simpson, can be contacted on 9230 3554 if you have any further questions. Thank you for considering my invitation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Fred Nile'.

Revd the Hon Fred Nile MLC  
**Committee Chairman**



Premier and Treasurer of New South Wales  
Australia

31 JAN 2006

The Rev. The Hon Fred Nile MLC  
Chairman  
Joint Select Committee on the Cross City Tunnel  
Parliament of New South Wales  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

JSC CROSS CITY TUNNEL

31 JAN 2006

RECEIVED

Dear Mr Nile

Thank you for your letter of January 24, 2005 inviting me to give evidence at the Cross City Tunnel Committee Inquiry.

As previously indicated, there have been numerous opportunities to question me, both in the media and Parliament, about this matter. In addition, information has already been tabled in the Parliament in response to the s.52 Legislative Council Call for Papers.

In view of the substantial amount of information which has already been placed on the public record, and given that senior government officials will be attending to give evidence before the Committee, I respectfully decline your request to attend and give evidence.

Yours sincerely

Morris Iemma MP  
Premier and Treasurer



2 February 2006

Hon Morris Iemma  
Premier and Treasurer  
NSW Government  
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

### Inquiry into the Cross City Tunnel

I refer to your letter in response to the Committee's re-issued invitation to give evidence to the Committee at their hearings on 1,2 and 3 February 2006, in which you again declined to attend.

For the inquiry to continue towards a satisfactory outcome, the committee believes that the participation of yourself and other Ministers is essential. As you may be aware, the non-appearance of the Premier and Ministers before the Committee has led to suggestions that other members of the Committee may seek my replacement as Chair. Were this to happen, the matter could only be resolved by resolution of the Houses. This could lead a Legislative Council General Purpose Standing Committee to commence its own inquiry into aspects of the Cross City Tunnel.

To enable the Joint Committee to properly address its terms of reference, at a deliberative meeting held on the 1 February 2006, the Committee resolved to seek answers to a number of questions that relate to the inquiry. Given the tight reporting timeframes for the inquiry, it would be appreciated if the answers to the questions could be provided to the Committee by **Friday, 10 February 2006**.

These questions should not be seen as in any way diminishing the desire of members of the Committee to have you give evidence in person at a Committee hearing to answer these and other matters. Should you and/or other Ministers be willing to appear, these questions will be put at the hearing. Witnesses appearing before the Committee to date have generally appeared for up to one hour, with an opportunity to make a brief opening statement prior to the commencement of questions from Committee members.

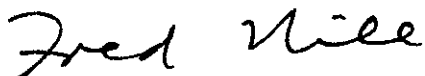
The questions are:

- 1) Will the NSW Government reverse any of the road changes that have been implemented as part of the Cross City Tunnel project?
- 2) What plans are there to strengthen the capacity for strategic planning in the NSW Government?
- 3) How will you be implementing the recommendations of the Infrastructure Implementation Group's *Review of Future Provision of Motorways in NSW*?

- 4) What will be the future role of the Infrastructure Implementation Group and how will it interact with the Department of Planning?
- 5) Which Cabinet Committees make decisions about strategic planning for transport needs?
- 6) Who has the responsibility for announcing changes to major infrastructure projects, including changes to toll levels where the project is a toll motorway?
- 7) Will the NSW Government consider other funding alternatives for future road projects?
- 8) Do you back the recommendations of David Richmond and his review into motorways?
- 9) What lessons have been learned as a result of the Cross City Tunnel project?
- 10) Do you believe the Cross City Tunnel will bring long term benefits to Sydney?

Further information about the Inquiry can be found on the Committee's website at [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/crosscitytunnel](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/crosscitytunnel). If you or your staff have any queries about issues raised in this letter, please telephone the Committee Director, Ms Rachel Simpson on (02) 9230 3554.

Yours sincerely



**Revd Fred Nile MLC**  
Chairman