



Premier & Cabinet

Reference: A1044927

Revd. the Hon Fred Nile MLC
Chairman
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 1
Legislative Council, Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Chairman

I refer to questions raised in the hearing of the Committee in relation to the portfolios of the Premier and Western Sydney about whether the *NSW Government Lobbyist Code of Conduct* (the "Code") has been breached by First State Advisors and Consultants Pty Ltd (First State) and Mr Joseph Tannous.

From 1 December 2014, amendments to the *Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011* came into operation. These amendments transfer responsibility for the administration of the Lobbyists Code of Conduct and the Register of Lobbyists to the independent Electoral Commission.

My Department has been investigating the allegations. However, I have not considered whether any of the conduct by First State or Mr Tannous which was the subject of those questions constitutes a contravention of the NSW Lobbyists Code of Conduct current at the time of that conduct, and I have not determined whether or not to take action in relation to the registration of First State or Mr Tannous on the Register of Lobbyists administered by this Department until 1 December 2014.

I have referred these matters to the Electoral Commission for its consideration and all necessary attention.

I note that I have written in similar terms to First State and Mr Tannous.

Yours sincerely

Blair Comley
Secretary

1 December 2014