



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE SALE OF THE CURRAWONG PROPERTY AT PITTWATER

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 June 2014

The Select Committee on the Sale of the Currawong Property at Pittwater tabled its report today.

The inquiry was prompted by a newspaper report regarding an inappropriate offer made by the now deceased property developer Michael McGurk to John Robertson in relation to the sale of Currawong.

Committee Chair, the Hon Robert Brown MLC, said ‘The committee accepts John Robertson’s evidence that he terminated a meeting with Michael McGurk in response to an inappropriate offer made regarding the sale of Currawong, and informed Mr McGurk that any offer must go through the formal tender process.’

Mr Brown went on to state, ‘The committee has concluded that while Mr Robertson displayed an error of judgement by failing to immediately report the inappropriate offer to Police and to Unions NSW, the committee did not receive any evidence to suggest that Mr Robertson received any financial gain or reward in relation to the offer.’

‘While the committee has not determined that Mr Robertson contravened the Codes of Conduct that apply to Members or Ministers, we do conclude that it would have been prudent for Mr Robertson to have advised then-Premier Nathan Rees MP of the offer, especially at the time when Cabinet would have been considering legislation to allow the Independent Commission Against Corruption to use the ‘McGurk tapes’.’

Mr Brown stated, ‘Both Opposition and Government members have submitted dissenting reports to the committee’s report. To my mind, this indicates that this cross-party committee has conducted a fair but thorough examination of the issues before it and the findings made by the committee majority reflect a judicious analysis of the evidence.’

A copy of the committee’s findings and recommendations are attached. The full report is available on the committee’s website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/currawong.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair Hon. Robert Brown MLC, on 9230 2573