



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL PROPRIETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **INQUIRY INTO MINISTERIAL PROPRIETY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 February 2015**

The Select Committee on Ministerial Propriety in New South Wales released its report today, examining the existing measures which regulate the conduct of ministers and recommending a number of improvements to these measures.

The chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC said: 'Revelations arising out of various investigations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption both before and since this inquiry was established serve only to demonstrate the continuing importance of having robust integrity measures in place'.

The committee acknowledged that some of the measures regulating ministerial conduct and addressing potential conflicts of interest have seen significant reform since the inquiry was established. For example, a substantial breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct can now constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption. The scheme regulating lobbying in New South Wales has also changed significantly in the intervening period.

Mr Borsak said: 'These changes are a welcome step forward, but there is always more that can be done to ensure that the measures in place are as robust as possible'.

To this end, the committee recommended that the NSW Electoral Commission monitor the implementation of the recent amendments to the lobbying scheme and undertake a review in 2016 to consider ways of further strengthening it. The committee also recommended that ministers be required to publish extracts from their diaries detailing meetings with lobbyists on a monthly basis, instead of quarterly.

Finally, in terms of strengthening the measures that apply to all members of Parliament, the committee recommended that the NSW Government bring forward legislation to implement a Commissioner for Standards model, as proposed by the Legislative Council Privileges Committee in June 2014.

A copy of the committee's recommendations is attached to this release. A full copy of the final report is available from the New South Wales Parliament website at: [http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/018A71917085296FCA257DF500818734?open&refnavid=CO4\\_1](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parlment/committee.nsf/0/018A71917085296FCA257DF500818734?open&refnavid=CO4_1).

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