

Good morning Ms Simpson,

Since appearing before the Committee yesterday I have had the opportunity to check some of the evidence I gave, and I find that I have erred in my answer to Mr Donnelly regarding requests to meet with the Premier or Mr Woodham. In fact, one of the mayoral minutes on the issue of Cessnock Correctional Centre did contain such a request, and I quote its wording in full:

that Council urgently write to the NSW Premier the Hon. Nathan Rees through the Member for Cessnock the Hon. Kerry Hickey MP on the following:-

1. Council expresses extreme disappointment at the NSW Governments decision to privatise Cessnock Correctional Centre.
2. Council notes that the Member for Cessnock the Hon. Kerry Hickey MP and sections of the NSW State Government were not aware of the privatisation would be announced in the Mini Budget and are opposed to the privatisation and;
3. Council request that the Premier the Hon. Nathan Rees or the Minister for Justice the Hon. John Hatzistergos MP address Council at the earliest possible time and explain how this decision will impact on the Cessnock Community via:-
 - Job losses
 - Changes to local supply contracts
 - Reduction in care levels and possible increase of violence within the Centre

Loss of training opportunities for prisoners and therefore increasing the difficulty for prisoners to re-assimilate into the community on completion of their sentences and the corresponding increased risk of re-offending.

I would appreciate it if you could communicate this correction to the members of the Committee.

Kind regards

Graham Smith

Cr Graham Smith