



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

INQUIRY INTO THE 2009 MT PENNY RETURN TO ORDER

Witnesses invited to give evidence before the Privileges Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19 June 2013

The Legislative Council Privileges Committee has invited key individuals connected to a 2009 order for papers concerning the Mt Penny mining exploration license and tender process to attend a series of hearings as part of its inquiry into the 2009 Mt Penny return to order.

Following an invitation for submissions, the Committee invited several respondents to appear as witnesses at an in camera hearing held on 11 June 2013, the transcript of which will be published shortly.

Additional witnesses have been invited to appear at a hearing to be held on Monday 24 June 2013, including Mr Ian Macdonald, former Minister for Mineral Resources and Minister for Primary Industries, one of the Ministers named in the Legislative Council's resolution ordering the production of documents. Other witnesses include the former Deputy Chief of Staff to the Minister for Primary Industries and senior officers of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. No inference can be drawn from individuals being invited to appear as witnesses as to any responsibility for any non-compliance with the order of the House.

It is anticipated that further hearings will take place at a future date.

The current inquiry was referred to the Privileges Committee on 7 May 2013 following a previous inquiry in which the Committee found that at least 124 documents received by the ICAC in the course of its recent investigations should, prima facie, have been provided in a return to order tabled in the Legislative Council on 26 November 2009 concerning the Mt Penny mining exploration license and tender process. The full terms of reference can be found on the Committee's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcprivilege.

The Hon Trevor Khan
Chair

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