

**Submission
No 367**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING PROCESS IN NEWCASTLE
AND THE BROADER HUNTER REGION**

Name: Mr Kim Ostinga

Date received: 24/10/2014

Reverend the Hon Fred Nile MLC

Chair

Select Committee on the Planning Process in Newcastle and the Broader Hunter Region, NSW

Legislative Council Via email: newcastleplanning@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

I write to ask that the Upper House enquiry looks very carefully at the arrangement between GPT and Urban Growth in the planning process recently revealed in Newcastle. Leaving aside the crass decision to ruin the ambience of this historic part of Newcastle and carelessly vandalise the skyline, the methodology and the motive that drove the change in the building code needs very close examination.

It is widely stated that GPT sold property in central Newcastle to Urban growth for a hugely discounted value in return for the building code being changed to allow a massive increase in building heights, and the rail corridor to be made available for development. The relationship between the Government and the developer is so suspect, that in the light of the recent ICAC investigation the probity of the governing processes is brought into question and confidence in the very foundations of our democratic government questioned.

I wish you and your committee well in your endeavours, and hope that the stench of corruption and favouritism will be abolished and that confidence can be restored.

Yours sincerely,

Kim Ostinga