

**Submission  
No 55**

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

**Name:** Ms Nicole Geoghegan

**Date received:** 14/10/2014

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12 September 2014

Email: [F.Nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:F.Nile@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

The Hon. Fred Nile, MLC  
Leader of Christian Democratic Party (Fred Nile Group)  
NSW Parliament  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**RE: CALL FOR UPPER HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE INTO HUNTER PLANNING**

Dear Mr. Nile,

I am a property owner in inner city Newcastle and I thank you for supporting the motion to hold an inquiry into development in Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

ICAC's revelations and allegations of corruption in Newcastle and the Hunter region have placed our former Lord Mayor and Buildev at the nexus of this corruption. This political scandal has shattered the trust of Hunter people in our state and local governments and discredited major planning and development decisions. The ICAC investigations have revealed just how fragile our democracy is against vested interests.

The people of Newcastle have had to endure the lack of integrity by our former elected local representatives, the absence of planning transparency and grossly inadequate community participation in the consultation process in planning and development.

We have had our trust in government crushed, left with no political representation and a number of major development proposals that are coloured by corruption.

I thank you for your support of the motion for an inquiry into development in the Newcastle and the Hunter, proposed by David Showbridge MLC. Your support will restore the help people's faith in government and send out a clear message that corruption is not tolerated in government and will mark a return to honest and transparent governance.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Geoghegan

c.c. The Hon. Paul Green, MLC  
Milton Caine, Christian Democratic Party candidate for Seat of Newcastle