

INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT (2018)

Organisation: Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Premier & Cabinet

Ref: A2559602

The Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC
Chair, Legislative Council Privileges Committee
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Chairperson

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 June 2018 inviting submissions to the inquiry into the Code of Conduct and pecuniary interests disclosure regime for Members of Parliament being conducted by the Legislative Council Privileges Committee (the **Committee**).

The Discussion Paper issued in connection with the Committee's review adverts to the prospect of using the current review as an opportunity to try to progress issues concerning the Code on which the Committee, and the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics, have adopted broadly similar approaches in the past.

It is noted that prioritising work in areas where there is high potential for the development of recommendations agreed by both Houses would be consistent with the request made by the then Premier in June 2016 that the Houses of Parliament work together to provide the Government with a single set of recommendations covering matters relating to past inquiries concerning the Code of Conduct and the disclosure of Members' interests.

It is clearly desirable that the same Code of Conduct applies to both Houses. Section 14A(4) of the *Constitution Act 1902* also requires any regulation for the disclosure of Members' interests to apply equally to both Houses. It is against this backdrop that the Government previously requested that the new arrangements canvassed in the previous inquiries should apply consistently to Members of both Houses of Parliament, and that the Committee may wish to prioritise areas for reform that are likely to be supported by both Houses.

A copy of this submission will be provided to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Chair of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics.

Thank you again for your invitation to make a submission to the Committee's inquiry. Please contact me if the Department can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

Tim Reardon
Secretary

3 August 2018