

**INQUIRY INTO ACQUISITION OF LAND IN RELATION TO
MAJOR TRANSPORT PROJECTS**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 June 2021

Partially
Confidential

The 10th of September after I received this letter from R Ferrier, was the first time I considered taking my life. I was driving to the GP down a busy street that always has lots of trucks. Very stressful on my whole family this whole process. you are made to feel like a criminal. I feel for those who have lost their homes. I just want to attach my letters and not re-live this horrible ordeal. I still suffer from this experience today. I have had help and feel alot better.

THE Hon. Gladys BEREJKLIAN, BA, DIntS, MCom, MP

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My name is [redacted] I work with my father second generation from parents who immigrated after the war from Europe. Dad who grew up in Parramatta and has a very strong love for his community and I work in beautiful podiatry clinic in Westmead. Dad basically hand made the inside of the clinic he purchased it when I was pregnant with my 1st son. A lot of love passion and time has gone into his practice.

My background: I graduated in 2001 as a 3rd generation registered nurse and worked for more than 9 years in both Westmead and Concord intensive care in public hospital. I am also a 3rd generation podiatrist 2005 as you can imagine working in a mentally exhausting environment, I wanted to pursue a career in helping people with diabetes especially regarding prevention of foot ulcers.

I also admired my father and saw how much he enjoyed his career. Being especially close with my grandmother who was also a registered nurse and trained chiroprapist.

Dad is the most positive person I have known the class is never empty or even half full. It always just about to be topped up. But this life challenge has really turned my family upside down, and it's really sad to see my dad and all his hard work been turned into dust I feel the government is just wiping their hands together to shake of the dust without consulting us to even let us get of our chest how it actually feels and how it affects our day-to-day life. It feels like a long grieving process and I can only now see that I'm coming out of the denial part.

Today I looked you up on facebook to see how in touch you are with the real people. It made my heart feel sick inside to see your background photo. Of you standing there with a heap of men with a hard hats on like you were plotting your next business or home, playground, old historical tree or place to bulldoze down. It made me feel you are not one of us. The power and ego have got you. And I feel that perhaps you are filling you own party addenda. Perhaps you want to leave a visual legacy of what you built. Could you imagine if another government came along in 3 year and demolished one of your most thought out and loved developments.

The feeling that you would have would not be anything to compare with what we are going through. I have since suffered for the 1st time in my life with 3 horrible anxiety attacks one which I took myself to hospital and just sat in the waiting room after having an ECG and reviewing it myself and waiting for over 4 hours for a doctor to see me, only that it was so busy that by 4.30am at a public hospital I didn't feel safe in the waiting room at Nepean hospital which was has 2 men in hand cuffs with 2 police that night I took myself home, For some sleep before heading to work that day to meet for the first time the solicitor.

I feel like it would just feel less Injust if you came and meet us, see the relationship we have with the GPS who refer to us and our patients as well as our neighbors; the dentist and his lovely wife Ila who have 2 beautiful young children like me.

Most days I would see dr forez come and checking up on his clinic with a smile on his face he was so proud of his incredible clinic and very excited to open it this year. No when I see him I see a man who completely empty and beyond sad.

Could you not make time and look at what an amazing group of people who work extremely hard who are

facing losing their livelihood possibly and listen just listen to the hard work and effort which you will quickly demolish.

No one deserves to go through what we have gone through, I invite you to do the decent thing and come and meet us shake our hands appreciate what these hard business people have developed for their community and say thank you for letting us Acquire your property and business.

It makes me feel sick that we have done this to our indigenous people years ago. I have a huge appreciation now for thanking and Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners showing **awareness** of, and respect for, the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the land on which a meeting or event is being held. And in no way am I comparing what I have gone through to what Australian Indigenous community has gone through. I can just appreciate what small acknowledgments can do to a wound.

Kind Regards

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

Dr (Geoff) Geoffrey LEE, BAppSc (Hort), MBA, DBA MP
Member for Parramatta
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Re: Business Acquisitions due to Westmead light rail infrastructure

Dear Dr Lee,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to dad and myself regarding the acquisition. I could not write to you without outlining just some of the stressful events, this acquisition has placed on me and my family.

On August 2017, I was formally notified that our family podiatry clinic will be acquired by the NSW government for light rail. I was notified by our solicitor that compensation would likely be finalised by November, latest early December 2017.

Once this time passed with no compensation paid or formal eviction letter received, my solicitor informed my father and I that by March 2018, we must vacate Westmead Arcade.

A huge amount of pressure was placed on myself, husband and new small family. At this point I was unsure of when compensation was likely to occur, and I was not financially prepared to start up a new business.

With having my 1year old daughter at home I reluctantly increased my work hours. I also did not want to rely on following my father or burden him with my situation whenever he re-located.

I knew there was nothing affordable for sale in Westmead, but I wanted to stay in the area where I had already invested 8 years establishing my clientele and have built a strong repour with many local GPs.

I eventually found an affordable office suite with no client parking to rent in Westmead. This I had to do on my own time (I was not able to afford a buyer's agent, to do the research for me).

I commenced my lease on the 26th of April 2018 at \$500.00 per week and have already fully paid my solicitor and lessors solicitor's fees and a \$4000 bond

deposit.

I have also paid over \$14,000 for new medical grade flooring, painting and carpentry work on this suite. There are other expenses associated with this clinic eg, moving furniture, phone and internet connection etc. and further costs I cannot afford at present, such as window signage and electrician fees, which I hope to recover from Transport NSW. Preferably before being evicted from our current location.

I have emailed my solicitor asking when will this money be paid back to me by transport NSW, her reply is that she does not have a crystal ball.

The word "compensation" by transport NSW is falsely used, in my opinion. It's 'unlikely' my solicitor reports, that your time is compensated.

For example, the time I've spent looking for new premises, long hours involved setting up a new clinic, dealing with trades people obtaining quotes as well as time invested in the move will not be compensated.

Fortunately, I've had 3 months of delay from Optus, which halted moving into my clinic. Having now extinguished our family savings I cannot afford to move into my clinic without the help of compensation.

The last date to 'be out' was the 7th of September 2018, which just passed and now it's turned into sometime late November early December 2018.

I still have no definitive answer from transport NSW on when this will all be settled.
NO IDEA OF HOW MUCH AND WHEN TRANSPORT NSW WILL BE
COMPENSATING ME AND MY FAMILY.

It's a ridiculous waste of time and tax payer's money. It should not take well over one year for Transport NSW to settle these matters with business owners.

The NSW government solicitors need to stop playing games and realise that this is not how one would commence a new business, or at least not me.

I have invested all my savings and more in to my new clinic over \$28,000. In doing so forfeiting holidays with my family and much needed home renovations, to make it safe for our children to play outside.

The NSW Government have placed my small family under financial stress and mental hardship.

I am not in a financial position to take out a personal loan to complete my new clinic electrical work, purchase of a reception desk, window signage and business stationary.

I would like to give my patients answers on where I will be in the coming months.

I believe the legal process the NSW government is a detriment not only to my business reputation but importantly my health. Since the initial compulsory acquisition letter, I've lived with enormous anxiety and stress levels.

In February this year, I suffered three horrible anxiety attacks. I believe both dad and I have been bullied by NSW Government representatives, with pressure to rush and move out. When there appears to be no need to rush, as you said no contract has yet been signed for the Light Rail construction by Transport NSW.

I would like to get the Commonwealth Ombudsman's opinion on this whole process. The lack of communication and transparency between government and business owners is seriously lacking.

Last points I'd like to convey:

I have spent a huge amount of my own valuable time to relocate my business and start again which I have been told will not be recognised or compensated for.

I have depleted all my savings to salvage the business I have worked hard to build since 2010.

I pride myself on being a perfectionist, starting a business requires a lot more planning and plenty of savings. This situation is not my way of commencing a business.

This process ages you inside and out. I'm sure it is causing health problems, arguments within families and possibly divorces for those going through this forced acquisition / eviction by the NSW government.

Kind regards

Podiatrist/ Registered Nurse