

**Submission
No 7**

**INQUIRY INTO GRANTING OF CONTRACT NUMBER
OoS17/18-021 BY THE OFFICE OF SPORT**

Name: Mr James Mathers

Date Received: 25 August 2021

JAMES MATHERS & CO.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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25 August 2021

Parliament of New South Wales

Re: NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into SIEC Arenas Contract

I refer to the terms of reference and advise that I have no knowledge or comment in respect of paragraphs a), e), f), h) or i)

In respect of paragraph b), I advise that I have little confidence in the integrity or ability of the board, the CEO or members of Equestrian NSW to act in good faith. My concern also and definitely extends to this matter. In making that statement I also have no specific information or knowledge of the board, the CEO or of members of Equestrian NSW not acting in good faith in relation to this matter.

In respect of paragraph c), it is my view that the board and the CEO of Equestrian NSW have little understanding or concern in relation to the meaning of conflict of interest. Self-interest is paramount. In my opinion, the standards of governance adopted by the board of Equestrian NSW are at the lower levels of acceptance. Accordingly, while I have no evidence of the existence of corrupt conduct, given my concerns in relation to standards of governance it would not surprise if there was an element of corruption involved. Self-interest is paramount

In respect of paragraph d), I repeat my comment as outlined above in relation to paragraph c)

In respect of paragraph g), I have no knowledge or background information to the granting of the peppercorn rent by the Office of Sport to Equestrian NSW for access to and the usage of the SIEC site. Notwithstanding, SIEC site is a magnificent asset for equestrian sports. It's only fit and proper that Equestrian NSW occupy this site and accordingly I see no reason why the Office of Sport would not charge a peppercorn rent to Equestrian NSW. Further, I don't understand why this point is subject to enquiry.

Yours sincerely,

J I Mathers

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