

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

Name: Ms Judith Fasher
Date Received: 1 September 2021

Ms Judith Fasher

3 September 2021

The Hon. Daniel Mookhey
Chair of the Inquiry into OoS17/18-021
c/ Public Works Committee
Parliament of NSW

By Email: Public.Works@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Inquiry into granting of contract number OoS17/18-021 by the Office of Sport

Dear Mr Mookhey

Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC) at Horsley Park, which was built for the Sydney 2000 Olympics, is unique in the world. Throughout Olympic history, all other equestrian facilities built for the games have been either abandoned or re-developed. It has been a matter of considerable pride for successive NSW Governments and the Equestrian community that SIEC has been preserved for equestrian competitions.

A significant problem has been the quality of the arena surfaces. At the Sydney 2000 Olympics, there were complaints from many teams regarding this matter. Several attempts have been made over the following years to remedy the problem. None were successful before the substantial investment made by the NSW Government, the subject of this inquiry.

As Chair, Equestrian Australia, I wrote to The Hon Stuart Ayres on 10 February 2017 in support of the upgrading of the indoor and warm-up arenas. I subsequently met with the Minister, together with Equestrian NSW CEO Bruce Farrar. All negotiations were then handled by Equestrian NSW.

Since this work has been completed, I have heard only positive endorsement by riders in the seven Equestrian disciplines using the venue. These riders represent a very wide range of competitors and involve sports that are not directly involved in Olympic Sports. Consequently, the financial viability of the venue is assured for the future.

I wish to endorse the outstanding contribution that Equestrian NSW CEO, Bruce Farrar has made to the sport in NSW. I have served the sport as a volunteer administrator since 1985. I have worked with both State and National CEOs since. Bruce Farrar has provided wise and creative leadership since his appointment in 2013. His energy and enthusiasm for the wellbeing of members together with the harnessing of resources for the sport is unsurpassed. His integrity is beyond reproach.

My best wishes for your deliberations.

Yours sincerely

JUDITH FASHER