

INQUIRY INTO BARANGAROO SIGHT LINES

Name: Ms Christina Ritchie

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Dear members of the Committee,

I am pleased that this Committee of Inquiry has been established into the process that has or is being applied to decision-making on development that has impacted upon, or threatens to impact on, iconic sightlines to and from Barangaroo, the Harbour and the adjacent Heritage Precincts of Millers Point and Observatory Hill.

It appears that the process has not been transparent and might not have been equally consultative or fair to all stakeholders.

The decision-making process has relied on a now defunct Part 3A regulation, despite numerous development proposals being a complete departure from the concept plan adopted while Part 3A was applicable. This provides the opportunity for bias due to the limited transparency and accountability. The government strongly rejected Part 3A and campaigned for election on the basis of its immediate removal.

There are valid Heritage regulations that apply to the sight lines affected that appear to have been, or are being, ignored.

It would appear to many that a particular interested party might have had the ear of the decision-maker while many more interested stakeholders have not. Your investigations will hopefully uncover any undue influence that might have occurred.

Central Barangaroo – specified as being the area set aside for public use – is apparently being made available for private commercial and residential development applications.

Iconic public Sight lines in particular are under threat.

The public benefit promised in earlier concept plans to offset maximised development in the form of numerous high towers at Barangaroo South is being ignored. Why?

There is no consistency in concept. Surely proper planning process would not allow this to occur.

I trust this Committee will uncover full details of the planning process for development at Barangaroo and make them publicly available.

Barangaroo is unique, invaluable public harbourfront land, of which the NSW Government is caretaker on behalf of the citizens of NSW. The public deserves a truly transparent, fair process that protects iconic sight lines for all and provides maximum benefit as a public domain for NSW.

I look forward to the Committee's report.

Regards
Christina Ritchie