

**INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPRIETY  
AGAINST AGENTS OF THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL AND  
PROPERTY DEVELOPERS IN THE REGION**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 23 December 2022

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Parliamentary Committee

As a resident of the Hills Shire I have become concerned about particular developments and the manner in which the Hills Shire seems to have its own interests in place rather than the interests of its residents. In particular I draw your attention to the development by Top Place adjacent to the Castle Hill Shopping Centre Towers off Pennant Street and Old Castle Hill Road. This land was part owned by the council and then part acquired by the Council and was prior park or green open space only. The Council then on sold the land after rezoning for some \$140m dollars, making a substantial profit. Then the land was overdeveloped and the development would have otherwise not received approval due to its mass and size and impact upon the surrounding area unless the proponents in Council who had an intrinsic interest promoted the development having on sold the amalgamated block.

There are currently approximately 962 apartments over five towers on that site which is incredibly poor planning. Further the Top Place developer has a history of poor building and shoddy work having been slapped with various infringements by the Building Commissioner of NSW including at this development, its prior sister development at Castle Hill, in Canterbury and other places. While this is but one case example, it goes to the heart of the way in which the Council has lost its direction and seems to be swayed by profit and developers given it is one of the largest and fastest growing development areas within the Sydney region. However, in saying this, it is only those few in the Council who have seemed to be involved in such improprieties and the majority of the normal workforce within the Council should be commended for their efforts to keep the Council area in good shape and order.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. I do hope that the Committee can find the root cause and weed out the impropriety which has occurred in the Council in order to ensure that those people that are genuinely invested for the benefit of residents and manage the Council with integrity can rise to the top and sweep away the others who have not served the residents and community well.