



11 October 2024

BY EMAIL

The Hon. Scott Farlow MLC
Committee Chair
Select Committee of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Farlow MLC

**Select Committee into the Proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse –
Corrections to transcript dated 12 September 2024**

I refer to my attendance on Thursday 12 September 2024, before the Select Committee into the Proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse.

I have now had the opportunity to review the uncorrected transcript of my appearance. I wish to correct the below extract on page 65 of the uncorrected transcript. During the inquiry, there appears to have been an effort by the Committee Chair, The Hon. Scott Farlow MLC, to clarify my initial evidence as to the involvement of the Government. Without correcting this evidence, it may be misconstrued by the Committee.

SARANNE COOKE: On 20 November last year—it was a Monday; the day before our board meeting—I had a phone call from the then chair, Russell Balding. Russell said to me that we would be made privy to some very highly confidential information at the board meeting the next day and would have to sign a non-disclosure agreement before we were made aware of that information. He said, "I can't go into any details because you haven't signed an NDA." That is the day that I became aware that we were about to sign an NDA. All he said was, "I can't give you the detail, but I'll let you know it's in relation to Rosehill." And then, of course, the next day was the board meeting.

The CHAIR: With respect to that and signing the NDA, what information was then provided to the board at that stage?

SARANNE COOKE: The next day? At the board meeting?

The CHAIR: Yes.

SARANNE COOKE: We signed the NDAs first thing and then we were basically made aware that the ATC were looking to put in an unsolicited proposal on the full sale of Rosehill to the Government and that there had been a briefing that occurred on the 17th—that, obviously, I wasn't at—and then we discussed the merits. We were also briefed that it was just a discussion on the 17th as well.

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The CHAIR: You said the "full sale of Rosehill to the Government". Was it characterised to you at that stage that it would be a transaction where the Government would be purchasing Rosehill, or do you mean the full sale of Rosehill for housing to be developed on that site?

SARANNE COOKE: I think it was pitched as an unsolicited proposal to look at the sale of Rosehill.

The CHAIR: An unsolicited proposal to look at the sale of Rosehill to the Government?

SARANNE COOKE: Yes, that's right.

The CHAIR: That's how it was pitched at that stage?

SARANNE COOKE: Yes.

With respect to the above extract, as can be seen from my initial evidence, the Board of Racing NSW were made aware that the ATC were looking to submit an unsolicited proposal to the Government on the sale of Rosehill. My reference to Government is only in respect to submitting the unsolicited proposal to Government, nothing more.

Racing NSW had not formed a view on the sale until the due diligence process was undertaken, including the submission of an unsolicited proposal to the Government. There was certainly no "pitch" that Rosehill would be sold to the Government. I respectfully request that the Committee carefully consider and accept my initial evidence and acknowledge the subtle, but very crucial difference.

Yours Sincerely,
RACING NSW

DR SARANNE COOKE
CHAIRMAN