



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

MEDIA RELEASE

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP ROSEHILL RACECOURSE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

6 December 2024

Today, the Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse has tabled its report for its inquiry into the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse. It makes a number of findings and recommendations to the NSW Government.

The report outlines concerns that the proper process was not followed by the Government in the early stages of its dealings with the Australian Turf Club about the proposal. The committee found that the Premier's diary disclosure of the 30 October 2023 meeting between Mr Steve McMahon, Head of Membership and Corporate Affairs, Australian Turf Club and the Premier Hon Chris Minns MP as a 'meet and greet' was inaccurate, misleading and did not adequately describe the purpose of this meeting. It was inappropriate given the long-standing friendship of Mr McMahon and the Premier and the nature of the matter discussed at the meeting.

The committee also found that the manner in which the Premier and Government announced the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse for housing was in breach of governmental guidelines on unsolicited proposals by failing to maintain impartiality when it championed the proposal.

The Chair of the committee, Hon Scott Farlow MLC, said: "Throughout the inquiry there was significant conflicting information that was presented to the committee, which asked more questions than it answered. Given the nature of the conflicting evidence that the committee received and unanswered questions before the committee with respect to concerns regarding direct dealings and conflicts of interest, the committee has taken the step of referring this report to the ICAC."

"It is disappointing that this legitimate step of the committee was disclosed to the media prior to the tabling of this report and the committee has resolved to request the President refer this matter to the Privileges Committee."

The report also explores the evidence received about the plans for development of Rosehill Racecourse, including conflicting evidence about the expected revenue from a sale, and plans for alternative sites for replacement facilities.

Mr Farlow continued: "Ultimately the proposal to develop Rosehill Racecourse will be one that will need the support of the members of the Australian Turf Club if it is ever to get out of the starting gate".

Members of the Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse will hold a press conference in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House at 12.45 pm today, 6 December 2024.

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Hon Scott Farlow MLC, on 9230 3778.