

**Public Accountability and Works Committee
Inquiry into the integrity, efficacy, and value for money of the Local Small
Commitments Allocations process.**

Questions on Notice

The Hon. CHRIS RATH: Was the Audit Office ever involved, or was your advice sought, on the design of the scheme?

CLAUDIA MIGOTTO: I can't say emphatically whether or not our advice was ever sought. I would have to take that on notice and check, just for completeness. I'm not aware that it was. Were it, I think that we would have given the advice that the *Grants Administration Guide* provides a robust framework to administer grants against. We are inherently conflicted if we give advice about government administration where we might be then auditing our own advice.

Response: The Audit Office confirms that our advice was not sought on the design of the scheme.

Supplementary Questions

Question: In your 2025 audit of the Local Small Commitments Allocation program will you examine a very important Code of Conduct matter: that this grants scheme is so inherently political, having been conceived by the ALP in an election campaign and only available to Labor candidates solely for the purpose of winning votes, that it should not be administered by the NSW public service, as it breaks their ethical code of being non-partisanly apolitical?

Response: Our LSCA program audit will assess whether the NSW Premier's Department implemented the program in line with principles and mandatory requirements of the Grant Administration Guide, the program's own guidelines and other relevant public sector ethical codes. We will also refer to guidance from other integrity agencies (including ICAC) on election commitments. We note that the Grants Administration Guide refers to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for NSW Public Sector Employees and the Ministerial Code of Conduct, and advises that procedures used in grants administration should reflect these.