



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 4

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Inquiry into the progress of the Ombudsman's investigation 'Operation Prospect'**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**3 June 2015**

An Upper House committee will be conducting another inquiry into the Ombudsman's investigation 'Operation Prospect', with the focus being on why the NSW Ombudsman has again delayed the finalisation of his report and how the investigation will be affected by him leaving office on 30 June 2015.

The Ombudsman first commenced his investigation called 'Operation Prospect' in October 2012, an investigation into historical complaints about 'police bugging'. Earlier this year, during a public hearing, the Ombudsman, Mr Bruce Barbour, told the committee that he hoped to report by June 2015. However, the Ombudsman recently announced that he is now unlikely to report by this date.

The Chair of the inquiry, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC stated "It's important that we find out why the Ombudsman has still not finalised his report and what will happen to the investigation when he leaves office on 30 June 2015. His investigation keeps on dragging out and the public deserve an explanation".

The inquiry will also examine the circumstances in which the potential and/or proposed prosecution of a Deputy Police Commissioner was divulged to the media.

A hearing for the inquiry is being planned for Friday 19 June 2015. The committee is due to table its final report by 20 July 2015.

For more information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please contact the committee secretariat on 9230 3081 or visit [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc4](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc4).

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*For further information please contact the Committee Chair Hon. Robert Borsak MLC, on 9230 2573*