



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES 2022

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into possible contempt of the Assembly:
Imposition of prohibition notice by WorkSafe ACT

Submission Number: 6.1

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Mick Gentleman MLA

Manager of Government Business
Minister for Planning and Land Management
Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety

Member for Brindabella

Jeremy Hanson MLA

Chair
Select Committee on Privileges
ACT Legislative Assembly
CANBERRA ACT 2601
By email: lacommitteeprivileges2022@parliament.act.gov.au

Dear Chair 

Yesterday the Secretary of your Committee drew my attention to a letter sent by Madam Speaker concerning my testimony last Tuesday. This letter arrived before I had completed my review of the draft transcript of the Committee's hearings.

I am writing after reviewing the Speaker's letter and the relevant extracts of the draft transcript. My intent is to clarify my answer regarding my media interview of 17 August 2022.

My reference to the Speaker related to an incorrect recollection of the events of the week of the 15 August 2022. The Speaker had not issued a media release prior to my radio interview on 17 August 2022. The media had quoted statements from the Speaker in the Assembly and her letter to the WorkSafe Commissioner, that she had tabled.

The Speaker's statements, along with media release from the Estimates Committee and comments from the Opposition was canvassed in the media. This is what I should have referenced when advising I was responding to information in the public domain. As I noted during the hearing, the purpose of my media interview on 17 August 2022 was to discuss to my decision as the Minister for Planning and Land Management regarding a development application at McKellar Shops. It was the first time these powers had been used to refuse an application and I felt it was important to be accountable for my decision. The interview took place at the request of ABC Canberra and my office was advised that topic of the interview was my decision regarding the McKellar shops.

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I also note the references to the 'backgrounding'. I wish to make clear that this was not a reference to any individual conduct but rather a reflection of the information being reported in the media. I regret any inference that this was conduct undertaken by the Speaker or her Office, which was unintended.

I trust this if of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely


Mick Gentleman MLA
1/11/2022

Cc: Madam Speaker (burch@parliament.act.gov.au)