



Candice Burch MLA

Australian Capital Territory

Member for Kurrajong

Shadow Minister for Transport

Shadow Minister for Public Sector Management

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Chair of Committee
Select Committee on Privileges 2018
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Civic Square, London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Rattenbury,

On 27 April 2018, I received your letter regarding the Select Committee on Privileges 2018's investigation of actions of certain Members in relation to an inquiry of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts relating to the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments.

The change in the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments has been of significant concern to residents in the Kurrajong electorate. After having received a large amount of correspondence to my office about increases in apartment rates, it became apparent that very few residents were aware of the committee inquiry.

After having a conversation with Ms Lee and finding she had also received a large amount of correspondence from residents unaware of the inquiry, we decided to distribute a letter, raising awareness about the inquiry and encouraging owners and tenants of apartments to make submissions.

Together we approached Mr Coe and his office about distributing such a letter, and it was suggested that we include the Have Your Say website link, as a further way to encourage submissions. This was based on the fact that many constituents find the idea of a "submission" to be daunting, and believe a submission would require numerous pages and a lot of work. The Have Your Say website form provided a simple and easier way for residents to make their submission.

Mr Coe's office advised that they would seek advice from the Clerk about using the Have Your Say link in the letter. On 13th March 2018 the Coe office advised that they had received advice from the Clerk approving the use of the Have Your Say website. Subsequently, I drafted the letter in consultation with the Lee office.

On 14th March 2018, the Lee office ordered 6000 copies of the letter, which were printed externally and paid for by Ms Lee. These letters were then distributed on 20th March 2018, by myself, Ms Lee, and volunteers. They were distributed to apartments in Kingston, Barton, Turner, Braddon and the City. No Assembly resources were used in the production or distribution of the letter.

The primary purpose of the letter was to raise public awareness of the existence of the committee inquiry, to encourage members of the public who were concerned by this issue to respond, and to inform constituents that "submissions" did not need to be long and could simply outline how the changes had impacted them.



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It was my intention that all responses lodged via the Have Your Say website would be forwarded to the inquiry in the form of a submission, and that responses would not be altered in any way. I am unable to comment on how responses were to be lodged with the Public Accounts Committee, as the Have Your Say website is not managed by me.

I note the precedent for non-Legislative Assembly websites being used to generate submissions to Assembly committee inquiries. I acknowledge that, due to a misconfigured email filter, there was a delay in submitting some responses to the inquiry.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CBurch'.

Candice Burch MLA
Member for Kurrajong
9 May 2018



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON PRIVILEGES 2018

Miss Candice Burch MLA
Member for Kurrajong
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Civic Square, London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Miss Burch *Candice*

As you are aware, on Thursday, 12 April 2018 the Legislative Assembly established a Select Committee on Privileges 2018 to investigate actions of certain Members in relation to an inquiry of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts relating to the methodology for determining rates and land tax for apartments.

To assist the Committee in conducting its inquiry the Committee requests you lodge a submission addressing the Committee's terms of reference (copy attached). The Committee is particularly interested in how the letter you co-authored came to be written, how many copies were delivered and to whom, how the letter was distributed, what the aims of the letter were and how any submissions that were lodged via the *haveyoursay* website would be lodged with the Public Accounts Committee.

Submissions addressing the Committee's terms of reference and the other questions posed should be lodged with the Secretary of the Committee, Max Kiermaier, details below, by Thursday, 10 May 2018.

Secretary
Select Committee on Privileges 2018
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: max.kiermaier@parliament.act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Shane Rattenbury, MLA
Chair

26 April 2018