

27 November 2013

The Hon Andrew Stoner MP Minister for Regional Infrastructure & Services Level 30 Governor Macquarie Tower 1 Farrer Place SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Paddington Bowling Club

I write to request review and investigation into the operations of the Paddington Bowling Club. which has a long term lease on Crown Land in Quarry Street Woollahra. This lease is now in the name of CSKS Holdings.

Constituents who have contacted me have raised serious concerns about the transfer of control over public land into private hands. They allege that some past members of the Paddington Bowling Club board had improper connections with those who later took over the club operations. They point out that the same individuals who tried to buy the lease in 2007 from the Paddington Bowling Club continue to run the business.

My constituents allege that these individuals have operated the former Paddington Bowling Club as a private business since the club entered administration, with large payments made to them. They report that these individuals are listed as directors for a company that is identified as a property developer with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

Constituents question the significant amount of business carried out at this facility that is likely to produce significant income. I understand that the lease provides for reduced rent of \$26,000 per year. According to those who have contacted me, The Palms Tennis Club pays CSKS Holdings more than this amount to sub-lease two tennis courts alone. Yet neighbours report regular and profitable business at the site that would generate significant profit that is inconsistent with a nonprofit entity and a registered club, and would justify higher rent.

My constituents report that they have provided material to ICAC and raised concerns about management of the Paddington Bowling Club with NSW Trade and Investment. I am aware that the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing carried out an Inquiry in 2007, and am concerned that allegations of corruption or mismanagement of Crown Land be investigated.

Could you please liaise with the Minister for Tourism, Major Events Hospitality & Racing and the Australian Securities & Investment Commission to review all business operations of the lessee for the Paddington Bowling Club site since 2002 and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

Alex Greenwich **Member for Sydney**

CC: Minister for Tourism, Major Events Hospitality and Racing