ICAC INQUIRY FINDINGS

Friday 5 February, 2010

The NSW Government today welcomed findings from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) regarding corrupt conduct allegations involving Michael McGurk.

Premier Keneally welcomed today’s findings, which clearly exonerated the State Government, the NSW Planning Department, and its Director-General.

Ms Keneally identified the following findings by ICAC Commissioner, David Ipp, as of major importance:

- None of the 13 allegations of corruption were substantiated;
- There were four specific allegations made against Department of Planning Director-General, Sam Haddad. The Commissioner found that “there was not a scrap of evidence” to support these allegations;
- Assertions that the recording made by Mr McGurk could bring down the Government were “nonsense”; and
- That Mr Haddad is “clearly a man who prides himself on his integrity”.

“I am pleased to see that ICAC has set the record straight,” Ms Keneally said.

“The NSW Government has cooperated fully and openly with all investigations from the start, including the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry and the ICAC.

“ICAC examined 25 witnesses, 450 pages of transcript in private hearings and the examination of hundreds of boxes of documents.

“Today’s outcome ensures the public can continue to have confidence in our hard-working Planning Department.

“Mr Haddad is an esteemed public servant who has worked in the Department from 1978, including the last four and a half years as Director-General.

“He has guided major public policy in NSW, including delivery of long-term strategic planning for the sustainable growth of metropolitan Sydney and regional NSW.

“Last year, Mr Haddad’s Department performed a crucial role assessing 441 projects worth $19 billion, supporting nearly 70,000 jobs.

“I am looking forward to seeing Mr Haddad return to what he does best – creating public policy outcomes for NSW.

“He will be playing a leading role implementing a review of the Metropolitan Strategy and better linking infrastructure and land use.”