

OVERVIEW

Concerning, the reference “(c) *the probity and integrity measures that were undertaken as part of the appointment*” could you please answer the following questions.

Did Investment NSW investigate well known reports that Mr Barilaro was involved in intimate personal relationships with Ministerial staffers from 2017 to 2019 and from 2020 to 2021, in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Did Investment NSW investigate well known reports that Mr Barilaro arranged employment for women, other than his wife, that he was having intimate personal relationships with, in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Did Investment NSW investigate well known reports that Mr Barilaro travelled interstate with women, other than his wife, that he was having intimate personal relationships with, in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Did Investment NSW investigate well known reports that Mr Barilaro “*wined and dined*” using the NSW Government ‘credit card? Ministerial staffers that he was involved in intimate personal relationships with, in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct?

Did Mr Barilaro discuss a potential appointment to NYC before, during or after his Ministerial visit to the USA in 2018 with Investment NSW executives, managers or staff?

Did Investment NSW consider that the ICAC is yet to hand down its report into Operation Keppell where John Barilaro was a witness and believed by many to have purged himself. Shouldn't Investment NSW at a minimum waited until the ICAC handed down its report before considering Mr Barilaro for any appointment?

Did Investment NSW investigate well known reports that the ICAC had opened a file on Mr Barilaro concerning all of the above? (*For the record, the file number is E21/2009*).

Did Investment NSW review speculation about Mr Barilaro's professional conduct against the Ministerial Code of Conduct, in particular, clauses 1.11, 6 and 9. <https://arp.nsw.gov.au/assets/ars/862b3be2e6/2014-5461.pdf>

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JENNIFER LUGSDIN

Concerning, the reference “(c) *the probity and integrity measures that were undertaken as part of the appointment*” could you please answer the following questions concerning the role of Ms Jennifer Lugsdin role in this whole Barilaro scandal.

Ms Lugsdin is John Barilaro’s partner and stood to travel to New York as his spouse. They currently live together at her apartment at Dee Why on Sydney’s northern beaches.

Was she sent by Barilaro into Investment NSW to oversee everything? She had a very vested interest in this.

Questions for Investment NSW:

- Why did Jennifer Lugsden move from Mr Barilaro’s personal staff into the bureaucracy of Investment NSW?
- How did this come about? Were you instructed to take her on by Mr Barilaro’s Office? Was the contract opportunity advertised? Who selected her? Who signed off on her appointment.
- Was the nature of the intimate personal relationship between Mr Barilaro and Ms Lugsden advised to Investment NSW? Did Investment NSW ask?
- If so, when (as in date and stage of the contracting process) did Investment NSW formally or informally become aware of the intimate personal relationship between Mr Barilaro and Ms Lugsdin?
- Was this considered a conflict of interest? (if disclosed). Could it have been considered a conflict of interest? (if not disclosed?)
- What was Ms Lugsdin’s specific brief as Senior Media Adviser? Will you table her contract? Did she have any formal direct contact with Mr Barilaro’s office during her time at Investment NSW?
- Who did Ms Lugsdin report to at Investment NSW?
- Did Ms Lugsdin provide any advice to superiors on the handling of issues associated with the NYC STC posting or any other STC-related matters?
- What role did Ms Lugsdin play in advising the officers in Investment NSW on how to manage public affairs issues concerning STC appointments?
- How much was Mr Barilaro’s partner paid per month by Investment NSW?
- Why did Ms Lugsdin leave in December 2021?
- If the task was completed, what was the task? Will you release her final report as a contractor?
- Was Ms Lugsdin involved in the “*Expanded Google presence secures NSW’s digital future*” project (November 2021) while her intimate partner Mr Barilaro was preparing his court case against Google? (Commenced March 2022) Was this a conflict of interest? Was it disclosed?
- In summary, was Mr Barilaro’s partner placed in Investment NSW to oversee the changes?

TIMELINE

April 2019 - Mr Barilaro split with his previous mistress of two years following the March 2019 NSW State Election, due to his failure to honour a commitment to leave his wife for the person concerned following the 2019 state election. She finished with his office at this time but continues working for her existing MP.

April 2019 to August 2019 - Ms Lugsdin worked in the office of The Hon Bronnie Taylor, a Minister from the NSW Upper House (Source: LinkedIn). Ms Taylor is the sister-in-law of Angus Taylor, the former federal minister in the Morrison Joyce government. In March 2022, “ICAC queries grant made by John Barilaro to company linked to Angus Taylor’s family” (<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/mar/14/icac-queries-grant-made-by-john-barilaro-to-company-linked-to-angus-taylors-family>)

August 2019 - Ms Lugsdin starts in Mr Barilaro’s Ministerial Office as Senior Media Adviser (Source: LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-lugsdin-854555bb>).

2020 - It was been speculated that Mr Barilaro and Ms Lugsdin commenced an intimate personal relationship. Mr Barilaro was still married to his wife at this time and promoted her on his website, social media pages and mainstream media publicity. (Source: SMH 14/9/2020: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/put-up-or-shut-up-barilaro-returns-fire-on-the-liberals-20200913-p55v65.html>)

May 2020 - Barilaro’s bid for the Eden Monaro by-election (federal seat) was scuppered by then federal Nationals Leader Michael McCormack who was going to drop dirt about Barilaro’s philandering. McCormack saw him as a threat. Barilaro was left with nowhere to go after missing out on his ambitions for federal parliament and the Deputy PM role.

November 2020 - Barilaro announces international trade commissioner postings. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-28/the-timeline-of-how-john-barilaro-landed-the-ny-trade-role/13950274>

August 2021 - Jenny West told by Gladys Berejiklian she had the job in NYC. (Sources: Guardian <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/21/john-barilaro-got-trade-job-after-senior-public-servant-had-already-been-offered-it> and ABC <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-28/the-timeline-of-how-john-barilaro-landed-the-ny-trade-role/13950274>)

August 2021 - Ms Lugsdin leaves Mr Barilaro’s office to go to Investment NSW as a senior media adviser. Mr Barilaro is the Minister for Trade and Minister responsible for Investment NSW. As a “Senior Media Adviser” you are responsible for managing issues before and after they hit the public domain. (Date and info source: LinkedIn.) Indeed a role profile for another agency under Barilaro states roles will handle: “sensitive issues or matters that may significantly impact the Regional NSW Group or NSW Government”. (Source: [Role Description Senior Media Advisor - NSW Government](https://files.jobs.nsw.gov.au)<https://files.jobs.nsw.gov.au> > ...)

21 September 2021 - Internal NSW Govt investigation into changing the appointment mechanism for NYC STC (Source ABC <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-28/the-timeline-of-how-john-barilaro-landed-the-ny-trade-role/13950274>)

3 October - Investment NSW advises recruiter they're no longer required (Source: ABC <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-28/the-timeline-of-how-john-barilaro-landed-the-ny-trade-role/13950274>)

4 October 2021 - Mr Barilaro resigns as Deputy Premier (Source Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/oct/04/nsw-deputy-premier-john-barilaro-resigns-from-politics-days-after-berejiklian-quits>)

9 October 2021 - Barilaro reveals by Annette Sharp in Sunday Telegraph that he and his wife had split. "For weeks the MP has been telling friends his marriage is over." (Source: Daily Telegraph <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/annette-sharp-john-barilaro-and-wife-deanna-have-separated/news-story/205af78d88f5395aedea7275053da0>)

25 October 2021 - Barilaro was in the ICAC denying he had had intimate personal relationships (Source: SMH: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/berejiklian-should-have-declared-her-relationship-barilaro-tells-icac-20211025-p592zl.html>)

"Investment NSW has welcomed Google Australia's \$1 billion investment in local infrastructure, research and partnerships, including a new expanded Sydney headquarters, as the state secures its future as the southern hemisphere's premier digital and technology hub". <https://www.investment.nsw.gov.au/resources/news/expanded-google-presence-secures-nsws-digital-future/>

December 2021 - Investment NSW role in NYC readvertised.

11 December 2021 - Media reports Mr Barilaro and Ms Lugsdin are in a relationship. "Like Barilaro, Lugsdin recently separated from her husband David." (Source: Daily Telegraph <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/entertainment/sydney-confidential/holidays-looking-like-a-turkey-for-barnaby-joyce/news-story/ccc70728efb7aa8bc2af60c2c6061fc1>)

31 December 2021 - Mr Barilaro concludes as Member for Eden Monaro and leaves Parliament. (Source: NSW Parliament: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/member-details.aspx>)

December 2021 - Ms Lugsdin leaves Investment NSW. (Source: LinkedIn)

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Jennifer Lugsdin · 2nd

Senior Communications and Media Officer Youth
Justice NSW, contract

NSW Department of Communities and Justice · Caulfield
Grammar School
Greater Sydney Area

418 connections

Experience



Senior Communications and Media Officer

NSW Department of Communities and Justice
· Contract

Jan 2022 - Present · 6 mos
New South Wales, Australia



Senior Media Advisor

Investment NSW · Contract
Aug 2021 - Dec 2021 · 5 mos
New South Wales, Australia

5 month contract



Senior Media Advisor

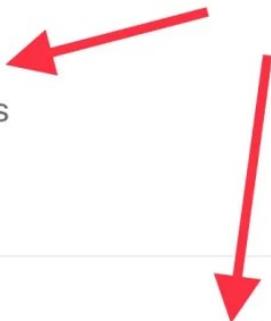
NSW Government - Deputy Premier John Barilaro ·
Full-time

Aug 2019 - Aug 2021 · 2 yrs 1 mo
Sydney, New South Wales, Australia



Senior Media Advisor for Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC
Apr 2019 - Aug 2019 · 5 mos





Inquiry into the appointment of Mr John Barilaro as Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to the Americas

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. That the Public Accountability Committee inquire into and report on the appointment of the former Deputy Premier Mr John Barilaro as the Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner to the Americas, including:
 - (a) the circumstances leading up to the appointment,
 - (b) the process undertaken to make the appointment,
 - (c) the probity and integrity measures that were undertaken as part of the appointment, and
 - (d) any other related matter.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were self-referred by the committee on 23 June 2022.

Committee membership

Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC	The Greens	<i>Chair</i>
Hon Robert Borsak MLC	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
Hon Wes Fang MLC	The Nationals	
Hon Scott Farlow MLC	Liberal Party	
Hon John Graham MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Courtney Houssos MLC	Australian Labor Party	
Hon Peter Poulos MLC	Liberal Party	

* The Hon Wes Fang MLC substituted for the Hon Scott Barrett MLC from 23 June 2022 for the duration of the inquiry.