



Public Inquiry Information for journalists

Media representatives will receive a media package when signing in at the first day of each hearing. The media package will contain a copy of the PIC media policy for public inquiries and a media release in relation to the hearing.

Notification

The PIC announces forthcoming public inquiries by publishing notices in Sydney's major metropolitan newspapers, which include the scope and purpose of the inquiry. This notice is also posted on the Commission's website. Media representatives will also receive a further notification of the hearing via a media release. The media release will also be posted on the PIC website.

Location

All public inquiries are held at the Commission's Hearing Room at its offices in Sydney, unless otherwise notified. The PIC is located at Level 3, 111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Non-publication Orders (Suppression orders)

A non publication order can be applied, lifted and then reapplied throughout an inquiry. Breaches of suppression orders may constitute a criminal offence. The PIC assists by advising on the currency of suppression orders each day during a public inquiry, however it is responsibility of media outlets to ensure all suppressions are enforced. If unsure, journalists should contact the PIC Media Office to confirm what suppression orders are in effect.

Recording and Filming

Permission is given by the PIC to film, record and photograph the following:

- The Commissioner at the commencement of the hearing while he is reading the scope and purpose of the hearing.
- The Opening Address by Counsel Assisting on the first day of a public inquiry. Television news crews must arrange for a pool camera to film the Opening Address on the condition that the material is made

available to any other crew present. Radio stations can place microphones in front of Counsel Assisting to record the Opening Address. Please note that this Address is a formal presentation by Counsel Assisting the Commission. Media personnel filming, recording and photographing Counsel Assisting must do so with minimal disruption and must not obstruct the view between Counsel Assisting and the Commissioner.

- Exhibits, with the prior permission of the Media Liaison Officer.
- Stand-ups in the Hearing Room, with the prior permission of the Media Liaison Officer and without the public in attendance.

The following filming, recording and photography is not permitted by the PIC:

- Of the public gallery within the PIC Hearing Room
- Counsel within the PIC Hearing Room
- In the PIC reception and lift foyer
- In any of the St James building lifts or the ground floor lobby of St James building

Members of the media waiting for witnesses to leave the building via the ground floor must remain outside the ground floor lobby on Elizabeth Street.

To maintain the integrity of PIC's public inquiries, the Commission will ask media to cease any unauthorised filming, recording or photography. Media who do not comply with this request may be excluded from an inquiry. Any breach will be reported to the offending media outlet and further action may be taken if the Commission deems it necessary.

Transcripts

The PIC may make daily transcript available through its website www.pic.nsw.gov.au. Transcripts of the day's evidence are usually available approximately one hour after the close of the day's hearing. This can take longer if a non-publication order has been issued.

Exhibits

The media is permitted to film, record and photograph public exhibits as directed by the PIC Media Liaison Officer. In some cases exhibits are made available to media at adjournments or at the end of the hearing day. If media representatives require access to written or recorded exhibits after the conclusion of a hearing it will be necessary to complete an exhibit request form.

Interviews

Interviews with witnesses, counsel and the public will not be facilitated by the PIC and are not permitted within PIC premises, including the PIC lift area.

Questions and Clarifications

Questions in relation to the hearing should be directed to the Media Liaison Officer.