

	Health	Education	Law & Order	Infrastructure	Economy	Transport	Energy	Environment
COALITION	35	36	39	41	39	37	34	30
LABOR	44	42	33	34	31	36	37	41
UNCOMMITTED	21	22	28	25	30	27	29	29

Question: Do you consider the Liberal and National Coalition or the Labor Party more capable of handling each of these issues?

These surveys were conducted throughout NSW in both city and country areas. The data has been weighted to reflect the population distribution. The latest survey is based on 1003 interviews among voters. The maximum sampling error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Copyright at all times remains with Newspoll.

ALP cries foul in case of hard-to-find museum boss

EXCLUSIVE

ANDREW CLENNELL

Labor's arts spokesman Walt Secord has made a complaint alleging contempt of parliament by the government after a committee examining a proposal to move the Powerhouse Museum was not provided with contact details for the museum's former boss, Dolla Merrillees.

The committee was seeking to question Ms Merrillees over the cash-strapped museum staging a lavish \$388,000 party that made a loss of \$215,210.

Mr Secord has now discovered

that Ms Merrillees, who left the museum mid-last year, was contactable and was working at the Western Sydney University for vice-chancellor Barney Glover, who is chair of the Powerhouse.

The inquiry was set up to investigate the Berejiklian government's proposal to move the museum to Parramatta at a cost of up to \$1 billion.

In a letter to the committee yesterday, Mr Secord said its secretariat had asked Create NSW to find Ms Merrillees, who resigned in July last year from her position after the infamous fashion fund-raising gala ball.

But both Create NSW and MAAS said they did not know her

whereabouts and thus she would not be able to provide evidence to the parliamentary committee.

"However, it has been brought to the opposition's attention by whistleblowers within Western Sydney University that she has been working there for a period," Mr Secord said.

"It is inconceivable that Create NSW nor MAAS would have been unaware of Ms Merrillees's whereabouts as Barney Glover is both president of the board of trustees and vice-chancellor and president of Western Sydney University."

Mr Secord said when parliament resumed there was a clear case for a referral to the privileges committee "as Create NSW and/

... need for a new hospital is not in dispute, but the plans for the hospital, specifically the location and height of the building, are key issues on which the fate of the seat may be sealed.

Nationals MP Geoff Provest says the decision to build the new hospital on 23ha of "state significant" farmland behind the beachside village of Kingscliff was based

or MAAS staff knowingly thwarted and obstructed a formal request" from the inquiry.

A letter from Create NSW's Alex O'Mara to the committee yesterday stated it had consulted the museum and "the department is ... not able to assist with contact details for Ms Merrillees".

Professor Glover said yesterday the issue was "nothing to do with me". "I have never had a request or an inquiry from the museum or Create NSW to provide any details of any person in relation to the parliamentary inquiry."

Create NSW said it had acted with "complete integrity and in accordance with all requests from all parliamentary inquiries".

Daley makes \$7.4bn pledge on education