

LEVEL

TWENTY
SEVEN

CHAMBERS



**Commissions of Inquiry:
An In-House Counsel Perspective**

**Denise Obst & Carissa Smith, GHD Group
Nicholas Andreatidis QC & Sophie Gibson, Level Twenty Seven Chambers
13 October 2020**

>> Gearing Up

How much notice was GHD afforded?

Was any indication given about level of involvement/ likely role in Inquiry?

Decisions about resourcing team

- Legal team
- Technical assistance from internal employees

Interplay between in-house team and ultimate client: the Board/ Management Team

>> Business Impact

- > Financial impact/business disruption
- > Reputational risk
 - How to manage
 - Involvement of board
 - Strategic decision making re approach to Commission

>> Procedural fairness

Momentum of hearing



Amount of material to review

Witness conferencing by Commission legal team

Timetabling issues / job disruption

>> Employee witnesses

- > Preparation of witness statements
- > Job disruption
- > Mental health considerations
- > Support provided by GHD



>> **Expert witnesses**

- > Decision to brief external expert
- > Preparation of report
- > Use of concurrent evidence during hearing

>> Use of technology

- > Document management
- > Hearing in remote location
- > Video-hearing for final submissions

>> Working with counsel team

