

## **Statement from the Holman Barnes Group Board**

The Holman Barnes Group emphatically rejects claims made by the Sydney Morning Herald about its intention to move away from the Wests Tigers. It is untrue.

Holman Barnes Group Chair, Julie Romero, said: "The Holman Barnes Group slogan is 'be true to the review' and we mean it. Our commitment is to the West Tigers and ensuring the Wests Tigers is positioned for success. Seeing reports suggesting anything other than our total commitment to the Club is disappointing."

"We will not be moving away from Wests Tigers and to claim that is fiction. The Group is disappointed to see damaging inaccuracies reported."

The Group also notes it is nearing the completion of a process involving a formal investigation by an external third party and disciplinary hearings regarding alleged misconduct of three individuals who held directorships on the Board (Directors). Under the Constitution, the Directors involved have an opportunity to respond to the allegations against them before any final decision is made.

Due to the confidential nature of the process and with respect to those involved the Group will not comment further until this process is complete and it expects that all parties involved to be equally respectful.

While this process is ongoing, the Directors in question have been suspended from all privileges of membership.

The investigation is a Holman Barnes Group matter and does not impact the football department at Wests Tigers.

Holman Barnes Group CEO, Simon Cook, reaffirmed his commitment to the Wests Tigers and said: "Holman Barnes Group is a very successful organisation that has had continued success over many years. We are currently coming off a record trading year and have also contributed to 80 organisations through our provision of over \$3 million to the community. I am confident the organisation is in a great position to continue to grow and provide the very best facilities for our members and guests while supporting our community."