

OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 226
[Signature] CLERK

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

TAPE NO: 1 (of 1)

DATE: 29 SEPTEMBER 2005

PLACE: COOMERA

TIME COMMENCED: 14:10

TIME CONCLUDED: 14:30

INTERVIEWEE: JOHN GRAHAM LANG

INTERVIEWER/S: INVESTIGATOR CRAIG HAWKINS
KAREL WEIMAR

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

FILE NUMBER: MI-05-2481

Complainant: OPERATION GRAND
Subject(s):
Investigator: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI
Statement Of: JOHN GRAHAM LANG
Legal Officer: THERESA HAMILTON
File Number: MI-05-2481
Directory : J:/Misconduct/Special Projects/Interviews/Lang, John Tp1 of 1 29.09.05

COPY TAPE 1 OF 1 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN JOHN GRAHAM LANG AND INVESTIGATOR CRAIG HAWKINS OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION ALSO PRESENT, KAREL WEIMAR OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

JL = JOHN GRAHAM LANG
CH = INVESTIGATOR CRAIG HAWKINS
KW = KAREL WEIMAR
UI = UNINTELLIGIBLE

- 1 CH Ah the time is approximately – 2:06 pm and today is Thursday the Twenty-Ninth of
2 September 2005 ah my name's Craig HAWKINS ah I'm a, an investigator with the Crime
3 and Misconduct Commission based-based in Brisbane and we're here at ah the, premises
4 of Lang, Real Estate, situated at Dreamworld Way
5
6 JL Dreamworld Park Drive
7
8 CH Dreamworld Park Drive
9
10 JL Coomera
11
12 CH Coomera – ah just for the purpose of, purpose of voice recognition I'll get er everyone
13 present, ah to identifin' identify themselves ah starting with Mr LANG er
14
15 JL I'm John LANG real estate agent
16
17 KW Karel WEIMAR Principal Financial Investigator [clicking sound in background]
18 Misconduct
19
20 CH Okay now ah, prior to starting the tape Mr LANG I'll just confirm that we spoke to you
21 and you're happy for the interview to be undertaken and ah video-taped, ah sorry ah
22 audio-taped
23
24 JL Yes
25
26 CH Okay ah – now as I explained to you we're-we're speaking to you t' day today in relation
27 to your ah, ah knowledge and tie up with the ah, a candidate at the last Gold, ah Coast
28 City Council elections Mr – ah Brian ROWE, ahm and it's in relation to ah, a complaint
29 that has been received by the Crime and Misconduct ah Commission that relates to, ah
30 alleged or suspect, suspected official misconduct by councillors of the Gold Coast City

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31 Council concerning ah falsely receiving statements of (ui) votes for the Gold Coast City
32 Council election in March 2004, with respect to details of any association or public
33 candidates or entities, ah B electoral bribery with respect to the Gold Coast City Council
34 election in March 2004 ah C, returns about election gifts with respect to the Gold Coast
35 City Council election March 2004, ah D declaring and dealing with conflicts of interests
36 or material personal interests since the Gold Coast Council election in March 2004, ah E
37 any criminal offence involving the performance or, of their functions since the Gold
38 Coast Council election in March 2004, and any related cases that are alleged or suspected
39 official misconduct by other persons, so you understand the reasons why we speak to you
40 today (ui)

41
42 JL Yeah, mmm

43
44 CH (Ui) now just er to start off I'll get some ah, personal details off you starting with your
45 full name

46
47 JL Ah John Graham LANG G-R-A-H-A-M

48
49 CH And LANG is L-A-N-G

50
51 JL Correct

52
53 CH Your home address

54
55 JL 54 Brindabella Close, Coomera Waters

56
57 CH Mmm – might have to get you to spell it

58
59 JL B-R-I-N-D-A-B-E double L-A

60
61 CH Close

62
63 JL Coomera Waters

64
65 CH Coomera Waters

66
67 JL 4-2 zero 9

68
69 [Cough]

70
71 CH And, contact phone number

72
73 JL Ah best would be double 5-7-3-2-7 double 5

74

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75 CH That's work here is it
76
77 JL That's correct [sound of hands being placed on table]
78
79 CH And your current ah occupation
80
81 JL Aah real estate agent and ah auctioneer
82
83 [Sound of scribing]
84
85 CH And self employed
86
87 JL Ohh - well, it's companies
88
89 CH Right
90
91 JL So, ah (ui)
92
93 CH [Over talking] So, you're a director of Lang, Real Estate
94
95 JL Correct yeah mmm
96
97 CH Okay
98
99 [Sound of scribing]
100
101 KW What's the company that actually operates the business
102
103 JL [Sighs] We're doin' - ah a bit of split we've got, Lang Realty, and we're just forming
104 another one Lang Realty Commercial, er another one over at Upper Coomera Lang Realty
105 (ui) and another one, down at Oxenford Landing Lang Oxenford
106
107 KW These are all separate companies (ui)
108
109 JL They will be separate companies yeh (ui)
110
111 CH So at the moment what's actually in place is just all Lang Realty the
112
113 JL Oh I hhee' [sighs] - Lang Realty Coomera sorry Lang Realty ah, (ui) Creek is in place -
114 Commercial we're just got the registration through I think yesterday - and Lang Realty -
115 is just out Lang Realty it's been going since, 88 hmm
116
117 CH And who are the other directors of the companies
118

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119 JL Ah at the moment, ah I am the sole director – but ah, I’m putting my son over but that
120 hasn’t gone through officially at this stage – just applying at the moment
121
122 [Sound of scribing]
123
124 CH And you’ve been ah, operating out of here since, nineteen-eighty-ss-seven
125
126 JL 88 hmm
127
128 CH Now ah, in the last elections, you were ah, tied up with ah, a candidate [sound of
129 movement in background]
130
131 JL Ah yes Brian ROWE – he was an ex – principal of St Stephens
132
133 KW So what, what was your involvement in the Rowe campaign
134
135 JL I was referred to as the ah – campaign manager
136
137 KW So, you were the campaign manager or
138
139 JL Yeh hmm hmm
140
141 KW Who, who – [sound of pages being turned in background] constituted the campaign
142 committee then for the ROWE election campaign
143
144 JL Who was in it
145
146 KW Yeah
147
148 JL Ah Katherine BARRY
149
150 KW Who she
151
152 JL Now she used to, ah work, also at the, St Stephens – College
153
154 KW That’s Katherine with a K or a C
155
156 JL Ah I think it’s a K
157
158 KW Katherine BARRY – B-A double R-Y
159
160 JL (Ui) I’d had, I’ll speak with Barb on that
161
162 CH [Laughter]

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163
164 JL Mmm mmm -
165
166 KW Eh who else
167
168 JL And er - Michael YARWOOD - now Michael was a ah - aw he was on the board of St
169 Stephens - so he had ah, past experience with Brian ROWE
170
171 KW Mmm (ui)
172
173 JL And ah - I contacted, er no, Brian ROWE originally when he ss-started here - er at St
174 Stephens, so I've gone back from, when he was first, er appointed as Head Master
175
176 KW So when was that
177
178 JL Oh, whenever they started
179
180 CH Was it about 95
181
182 JL About I wouldn't have a clue
183
184 CH (Ui) okay
185
186 JL About that yes
187
188 KW So he was the foundation head master wasn't he I think
189
190 JL Ahh he was the foundation head master (ui) he came from Somerset - College
191
192 [Sound of scribbling]
193
194 KW Now with - with those members of the campaign committee, did you set up a campaign
195 fund or sorry, a campaign election bank account is probably
196
197 JL [Sighs] Yes er we set it up, we've also run the Heritage Building Society nextdoor and we
198 set up the bank account nextdoor
199
200 KW Hmm hmm
201
202 JL Mmm
203
204 KW And who, who were the signatories to that account
205
206 JL Er, I think it was Brian ROWE - ah Barbara - CHRISTOFFEL - and meself

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207
208 KW Hmm hmm
209
210 [Sound of scribing]
211
212 JL There may have been others but ah, Barb would know
213
214 KW Yeh and what was Barbara CHRISTOFFEL's involvement
215
216 JL She virtually looked after the accounts, any monies that came in, ah she looked after the
217 accounts, did the banking, and paid any of the accounts
218
219 KW Alright and, where are the, the accounts, for the campaign fund now
220
221 JL We, have kept everything – so you're very welcome to have a look at (ui) mmm
222
223 KW Hmm hmm alright we'll talk about that later ah – [sound of pages being turned] – when
224 did Brian row-ra, Brian ROWE decide to run for election
225
226 JL I can't give you the exact date but what actually happened, ah he did not renew his ah,
227 tenure with the school – as a head master – and ah at that stage he was basically a loose,
228 cannon, not having anything to do, er I was also the ah President of the Chamber of
229 Commerce – Brian also was a member, and, knowing about his background I thought he
230 would've made a very very good candidate - and I, I, suggested to him and I believe that
231 others, that were in the council also did the, again that's hearsay as far as I'm concerned
232
233 KW Mmm
234
235 JL But I think he was approached, ah by more than one, ah party
236
237 KW So do you have any knowledge of who those other ar' parties were
238
239 JL [Sighs] I haven't ah – it's only what Brian has told me that ah – he said that he'd been
240 approached – and I have no reason to follow it through
241
242 KW Right, okay
243
244 JL And he also became, when I stepped down from the Chamber of Commerce, as President
245 last year I think it was er – ah - we put Brian in, my place, he did a very good job mmm
246
247 KW So when did Brian actually finish up at the school -
248
249 JL I might be able to find that out in a minute mmm
250

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251 [Sound of scribing]
252
253 JL I know, ah when he finished, he took, possible a long holiday, might've been three
254 months
255
256 KW Ri'
257
258 JL And still being paid
259
260 KW Yeh
261
262 JL But ah I'm not do you want me to, try 'n find out that ah now
263
264 KW Oh we can find it out later
265
266 JL Okay
267
268 KW Not really vital, ah - [sound of pages being turned] - so do you, do you have any
269 involvement with Councillor David POWER
270
271 JL Yes, come across David a lot, because er, again, er connected with the Chamber of
272 Commerce, and er we used to invite him, a lot to our meetings, many meetings
273
274 KW Mmm
275
276 JL And ah, over the years ah, we've had people, coming here wondering what they could do,
277 with ah, particular properties and ah, in many cases I made, contact, ah with those people
278 and ah POWER and he used to ah, meet with them to tell them what they could or
279 couldn't do
280
281 KW And why was that
282
283 JL [Sighs] Going thro' I-I guess going through the normal channels er it was a case that -
284 David POWER could around and say to somebody, yes it's worthwhile putting in ah a
285 submission - ah or no I won't ah even entertain the idea
286
287 KW Cause he was the chairman of the Planning Committee North wasn't he or (ui)
288
289 JL [Over talking] Yes he was yeh
290
291 KW And that, that would cover this area
292
293 JL Yes, yeah
294

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295 KW On the Gold Coast
296
297 JL Mmm mmm
298
299 KW Ah who – who was or is the councillor for this particular region
300
301 JL Ah David POWER
302
303 KW So (ui) this is actually David POWER's division is it
304
305 JL Yes, yeah
306
307 KW Alright
308
309 JL I think it's known as Division 2
310
311 KW Hmm hmm, and the division that Brian ROWE ran in that was Division 5 was it
312
313 JL 5, mmm
314
315 KW Righ' whereabouts is Division 5
316
317 JL [Inhales] Ahh – they changed the boundaries [background noise] and ah, it took in Gaven
318 – ah – [faint sound of door closing in background] I think parts of Nerang – and
319 Helensvale – I (ui) they would be the main areas
320
321 KW Mmm okay
322
323 JL And I think part of Oxenford
324
325 KW Hmm hmm
326
327 CH When, when those boundaries changed was that, prior to that election or
328
329 JL Prior to the election, but I believe just – now don't ask me whether it's a month or 3 or 4
330 or 6 months I have no idea mmm
331
332 CH Okay
333
334 [Sound of scribbling]
335
336 KW Now – you say you approached ah, Brian ROWE – did you approach any other candidates
337 to run
338

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339 JL No
340
341 KW In the election
342
343 JL No – because – ah to, run as a candidate you gotta be able to have the time – and there
344 was somebody else I had in mind, and that's the ah, guy that owns the ah, Boathouse
345 Tavern, but ahm, it didn't go anywhere for the simple reason it was a case of ahm, he
346 wouldn't have had the time
347
348 KW Mmm
349
350 JL Where Brian ROWE, literally, ah would've been able to, afford all the time (ui) [sound of
351 pages being turned in background]
352
353 KW There's a, there's a media report that says that you approached ah, Rob MOLHOEK
354
355 JL No - no
356
357 KW I'll just, show you the extract
358
359 JL I-I – [laughs] you know irrespective [laughingly] (ui)
360
361 KW [Over talking] Plenty of media reports about this I can assure you
362
363 JL I do know ah well Rob MOLHOEK there's no doubt about it [sound of movement on
364 desk] in fact ah – I've sent Rob, ah we went to one or, two of his functions or whatever
365 the case may be, but ah, certainly ah, no way in the world
366
367 KW Mmm
368
369 JL Because I [loud noise in background]
370
371 KW I'll just show you an extract from the Gold Coast Bulletin, from Friday the Twenty-Sixth
372 of March it says Mr MOLHOEK, he said that he had not taken any money from the trust
373 fund was approached at his campaign launch by Southport Chamber of Commerce
374 President Ian SOLOMON, do you know Mr SOLOMON
375
376 JL I do know SOLOMON because – ah being in the Chamber [taps desk] we used to meet
377 about once every 5 or 6 weeks – at their various er chambers
378
379 KW Yeh, and real estate agent John LANG, who is actioning campaign, director for Division
380 3 candidate Brian ROWE
381

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382 JL Ah, well Division 3 is wrong but ah, no I don't care what it's got there, that's certainly
383 not the case
384
385 KW Okay
386
387 JL Mmm
388
389 KW That's alright [sound of movement] – alright, now
390
391 JL Now I was invited to ah Rob MOLHOEK's ah, a couple of functions, one I think was at
392 the ah, solicitor's office and the other one was, when we had it down on the ah, park that
393
394 KW So which division did MOLHOEK run in that was
395
396 JL Wouldn't have (ui)
397
398 KW Not sure
399
400 JL (Ui) number
401
402 KW Alright, so, were you involved in the selection of any other or-or like minded candidates
403 at all
404
405 JL No
406
407 KW Okay, have you any, involvement at all with, a trust fund variously known as the POWER
408 ROBBINS FUND, the LIONEL BARDON FUND [knocking sound] the COMMON
409 SENSE FUND
410
411 [Snigger]
412
413 JL No any monies that we would have had, or certainly ee, received went straight into the ah
414 – ah into the account nextdoor, and we wrote receipts out for everything
415
416 KW It, that's for the campaign fund
417
418 JL Yes
419
420 KW For Mr ROWE
421
422 JL Yeah
423
424 KW Right, how, how did you know then that that money was available, from this, fund
425

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426 JL I also knew Brian, BRAY, and ah also, ha' what's his name, David POWER said that,
427 there would be some monies coming through, for his, to help his campaign – and from
428 time to time I made, contact, or Barbara would've made contact with ah, ah David
429 POWER, or sent emails in the case, and may be, that we're short of funds we needed
430 extra monies
431
432 KW Mmm
433
434 JL And, a lot of the monies were not forthcoming, and ah, for awhile I actually had to
435 contribute, and put monies in, and ah, when the monies were there, I took them out and
436 put them back, into my own accounts
437
438 KW 'N, fair enough, ah, so – [sound of scribing] when we, when did you first, become aware
439 that there was money available from Brian RAY in this fund
440
441 JL [Sighs] Good question ah – [sound of scribing] [sound of door closing in background] it
442 was possibly after ah, Brian ROWE had, decided to, go for, council, he may have been
443 advised, again by somebody, ah that monies would've been available I don't
444
445 KW Ri'
446
447 JL [Over talking] Because I was ah – not privy to all of the, ah discussions or conversations
448
449 KW Right
450
451 JL But I know that he would've had conversations with ah – David POWER and possibly
452 others
453
454 KW Mmm
455
456 JL But who they were I don't know
457
458 KW Hmm hmm – ah
459
460 JL In fact it was, pretty frustrating in the end because I found that-that I was spending that
461 much time 'n that, if I wasn't careful at work he was going to suffer, very much so
462
463 KW Yeh [soft tapping sound] – alright – so your involvement [sound of pages being turned]
464 with, with the lo', that trust fund was basically you received funds for the campaign fund
465 for Brian ROWE and that was it [sound of door slamming in background]
466
467 JL Correct mmm
468
469 KW You didn't contribute at all that fund, int' **that** particular fund

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470
471 JL Yeh
472
473 KW Yes no – you, did you contribute to the, LIONEL BARDON TRUST FUND or the
474 POWER ROBBINS FUND
475
476 JL Me
477
478 KW Yes
479
480 JL No
481
482 KW Your, you contributed to Brian ROWE's fund
483
484 JL Yes I think – [sound of scribing] [sighs] – yeah I think, ah officially it was a thousand
485 dollars, but because monies were not – ah forthcoming ah I put in monies at one stage
486 then when the monies came in, I took the money out again
487
488 KW Hmm hmm
489
490 JL And Barb would ha, have all of those details
491
492 KW Yeh – I was just looking, at ah, Brian ROWE's return of gifts
493
494 JL Yes
495
496 KW That he's put in [sound of pages being shuffled] – he's signed the Twenty-First of April
497 2004 – he's put you down as contributing – a thousand dollars on the Twenty-Fourth of
498 the second
499
500 JL Yeh
501
502 KW Presumably, and it looks like another two and a half thousand dollars on the Eighteenth
503 of March
504
505 JL Yeah and I think you'll find that ah that two and a half thousand dollars was mine I had to
506 put in – because they were short, and you'll see where all the invoices were coming in
507 and nobody's being paid
508
509 KW Hmm hmm
510
511 JL And ah so we paid it then ah, we recovered the monies
512
513 KW Yeh

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514
515 JL But I think officially it was, a thousand dollars
516
517 [Sound of scribbling]
518
519 KW Hmm hmm – so the COMMON SENSE FUND from here given you, a contribution
520 which you received on the, or Brian says he's received on the Fifth of January of seven
521 and a half thousand dollars – another seven and a half thousand dollars on the Thirtieth of
522 January and twenty thousand dollars on the Twentieth of February so that's thirty-five
523 thousand
524
525 JL Well again I'd have receipts
526
527 KW Yeh
528
529 JL Yeah – I-I wouldn't (ui) tell you off-hand because
530
531 KW Hmm hmm
532
533 JL Again Barb would've, er banked those er
534
535 KW I noticed in here he declares QUADRANT – on various occasions for a thousand dollars,
536 or in kind do you know, any idea what that was
537
538 JL I don't even know what QUADRANT is, so I couldn't tell you (ui) [taps fingers on desk]
539
540 KW They're-are, a marketing firm – ah [sighs] – [muffled sound of door closing] – now Brian
541 ROWE's stated – again in the media – the Gold Coast Bulletin on the Twenty-Fifth of
542 March [sound of folders being opened] – [sound of pages being turned] – just, find the
543 right – [sound of pages being turned] – this is going back to the time when he was
544 considering, ah running, for council
545
546 JL What date
547
548 KW Ah the article's on, on the Twenty-Fifth of March 2004 – this is arf – just before
549
550 JL (Ui) that's just before [muffled sound of door closing in background]
551
552 KW [Over talking] That's right
553
554 JL So it must 've been well and truly before, mmm
555
556 KW He's talking about when he was considering running
557

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558 JL Right
559
560 KW And he's quoted as saying, at the time I was considering that, although he's running for
561 the council, [sound of page being turned in background] I knew that we were going to
562 need a bit, a budget, you don't go in with 2 and 6, I was aware of the fact that there were
563 monies available if I was prepared to run as a candidate
564
565 JL Yeh, mmm
566
567 KW So who would've made that offer to him – to fund his campaign if he were, blur available
568 to run
569
570 JL Well all I can tell you it wasn't through me – so I don't know what arrangements, or who
571 he'd spoken to
572
573 KW Hmm hmm so your arrangement with him, with him was that yo', you secured him as a
574 candidate, yo-you set the fund, set up a campaign fund
575
576 JL When, when you say secure him as a candidate
577
578 KW Well [over talking]
579
580 JL I suggested at one stage, he become a candidate
581
582 KW Yeh [sound of movement in background]
583
584 JL But ah, in the end ah, it was his decision, that er he was going to, [muffled background
585 noise] run as a candidate mmm, (ui) – but I think others, also spoke with him but, who
586 they were I can't tell you
587
588 KW Hmm okay – is there [page being turned] – anything else you want to tell us about – the
589 campaign for Mr ROWE – or Gold Coast election in general, for the city council
590
591 JL [Sighs] No I'd [sighs] when you spoke about the media, I, I think the only thing that er,
592 got people upset in the end, there was one specific person who was writing, ah always,
593 trying to make or get ah, I guess articles, and ah, a lot of people were lows at giving them
594 the articles because the information she was putting in was incorrect
595
596 KW Mmm, who was that
597
598 JL Oh –
599
600 KW Is that ah – JONES
601

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602 JL No, er-hang yes
603
604 KW Or GORE
605
606 JL No
607
608 KW She's now GORMAN
609
610 JL That's the one yes-yeah
611
612 KW Mmm
613
614 JL Alice, Alice JONES
615
616 KW [Over talking] JONES
617
618 JL Yeah once GORMAN [sound of movement on desk]
19
620 KW Okay (ui) – ah, now you say you, still have all the campaign, books accounts etcetera
621 [sound of shuffling through papers in background]
622
623 JL Yeh – yeh
624
625 KW Would you be willing t-to, make them available to us – for, the period of our
626 investigation we return to you
627
628 JL Yes mmm
629
630 KW We, we can give you a receipt for that, or, if you require we can give you a notice to
631 discover to (ui) [sound of pages being turned in background]
632
633 JL [Over talking] No, that's, that's fine – no good to me [laughs]
634
635 KW (Ui) we'll – yeah – we'll return them to you, when we're finished, ah we'll give you a
636 receipt before we leave
637
638 JL Mmm
639
640 KW Ahm [taps desk] – any other questions at all
641
642 CH Oh just er, er as pla' as far as any ah, political, affiliations is there any specific party that
643 you were dealing with in-in relation to having, Mr ROWE as a candidate
644

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645 JL No not at all because er [clears throat] ah, we're also, ah – because of my, association
646 with the Chamber, ah dealing with a Labor ah through ah Margaret KETCH cause she
647 was doing very very good, ah for this area, so, no political affiliations whatsoever
648

649 CH Okay, and-and have you ever run as a, run a campaign, as a campaign manager, on any
650 previous occasions
651

652 JL No
653

654 CH It's the first time you've, delved into that
655

656 JL [Over talking] (Ui) mmm
657

658 KW And the last time
659

660 JL [Laughs] - I just want to go fishing
661

662 [Laughter]

663

664 KW Mmm (ui) I've got nothing to, wanna (ui)
665

666 CH Nothing else you'd like to add
667

668 JL Look I don't think so ah – [sound of traffic] – no I think you've covered it pretty well and
669 as I say you can have a look at the books and ask any, questions from there
670

671 KW Mmm mmm
672

673 JL Ah – I wasn't too sure whether we had the books until, yesterday when your, the day be'
674 no yesterday, because I thought they may have been given to Brian ROWE, but Barb said
675 no I've got them – so I had a very quick look through them and ah I'd just like to point
676 something out to you that, is incorrect – ah, and that is that, it shows, on the receipts that
677 money was paid by the Gold Coast City Council, ah because a lot of the monies were T-
678 T, but Barb might be able to elaborate, why she put the Gold Coast City Council on

680 KW Mmm – by T-Ts you mean tele-telegraphic transfer or
681

682 JL Yes yeah mmm mmm
683

684 KW Directed, direct deposit I suppose to the account
685

686 JL Yeh, yeh
687

688 KW Okay

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689
690 JL Mmm
691
692 CH Now just ah in relation to perhaps to-to the, your being a campaign manager, how-how
693 did it come about that you became his campaign manager
694
695 JL [Taps fingers on table] Oh I think it's just because the association ah with the ah, ah
696 chamber – and ah I was fairly close to him 'n ah he was also the, ah I think at that stage
697 the ah, ah – Vice-President of the Chamber, I think
698
699 CH An-and whose idea was it that you become his campaign manager
700
701 JL Oh, he just asked me and I said yeah I'll be in it
702
703 CH So he asked you to
704
705 JL Yeah
706
707 CH Take up that post
708
709 JL Yeah hmm hmm
710
711 CH Okay no that's fine I've got nothing else, if-if there's nothing else to add we'll ah
712 conclude the interview, ah and everything you've told us today is true and correct
713
714 KW (Ui)
715
716 CH [Over talking] To the best of your knowledge and belief [tapping sounds] -
717
718 JL Sorry
719
720 CH Everything, we've spoken to you about today is true to the best of your knowledge and
721 belief
722
723 JL Yes, absolutely
724
725 CH Ah, thank you we'll terminate the interview at ah 2:30 pm, thank you very much
726
727 JL Oh I'll just see if I can get that
728
729
730 [TAPE ENDS]

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Record of Telephone Conversation

TAPE NO: 1 (of 1)

DATE: 11/10/05

PLACE: COOMERA

TIME COMMENCED: 9.15 A.M.

TIME CONCLUDED: 10.06 AM.

INTERVIEWEE: JOHN LANG

INTERVIEWER/S: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

LEGAL OFFICER: ANNA McDONALD

RE: OPERATION GRAND

FILE NUMBER:

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Subject(s):	OPERATION GRAND
Investigator:	DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI
Statement Of:	JOHN LANG
Legal Officer:	THERESA HAMILTON
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COPY TAPE 1 OF 1 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN DETECTIVE INSPECTOR
KEN BEMI AND JOHN LANG

LEGAL OFFICER: ANNA McDONALD

RE: OPERATION GRAND

KB = KEN BEMI

JL = JOHN LANG

CH = CRAIG HAWKINS

KB: The time now is 9.20 a.m. on Tuesday morning the 11th day of October 2005. I'm present in the office of JOHN LANG, Lang Realty at Coomera, and I intend to conduct an interview with Mr LANG in relation to a present investigation that the Crime and Misconduct Commission is undertaking in relation to the Gold City Council elections of 2004 and other Council-related matters as per the terms of reference. For the purposes of voice identification, I'll ask every person present here, starting with myself, to state their full and correct name. My full name is KENNETH WILLIAM BEMI. I am a Detective Inspector of Police currently performing duties at the Crime and Misconduct Commission in Brisbane.

CH: My full name is MICHAEL CRAIG HAWKINS. I am an investigator with the Crime and Misconduct Commission, based in Brisbane.

JL: And uh I'm JOHN LANG, from Lang Realty, uh ex-President of the Chamber of Commerce and connected with the Brian Rowe er um BRIAN ROWE er request to get into Council.

KB: Thank you for your time MR LANG this morning. Do you agree that you have been previously interviewed in relation to this matter on the 29th of September 2005?

JL: Yes I have.

KB: Can you tell me how long you've been in the position at Lang Realty here? I take it you're the direct principal? Director-principal?

JL: Er since 1988.

KB: And how long were you the president of the Chamber of Commerce at ...?

JL: Coomera – seven and a half years.

KB: When did you retire?

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JL: Er I retired March I think it was last year and uh at that stage BRIAN ROWE took over, and he remained there for about twelve months, and uh till he was offered the position of principal in a school in Western Australia.

KB: So how long have you known BRIAN ROWE for?

JL: Uh when they first opened St Stephen's, which um going back would have been the early nineties, uh I made a point of going over there and introducing myself to the then principal and that was the first time I'd seen BRIAN and we've kept in contact ever since. Uh we also contributed over the years to the school, that's St Stephen's school.

KB: Then you were BRIAN ROWE's campaign manager for the March 2004 Gold Coast City Council elections?

JL: Yes

KB: Can you briefly outline what your role was as campaign manager?

JL: I I guess, uh looking back, um, the idea was to um uh get a number of people on the committee, uh with the assistance of BRIAN and uh I think YARWOOD was the main person uh who certainly suggested where BRIAN uh should perhaps uh devote his time and efforts.

KB: That's MICHAEL YARWOOD, the solicitor?

JL: Yeah, that's MICHAEL YARWOOD, because he had uh extensive experience in previous campaigns.

KB: And in your previous interview, you outlined who those other uh campaign members or campaign committee members were and just for the purposes of clarification, can you just repeat who they are? Or who they were, I should say.

JL: Uh I did leave them on a list with you, but uh certainly uh one was BOB JANSSEN, although he did not er spend that much time er he attended some meetings, but not others; uh IAN FRIAR, again you'll see in the copies of minutes, uh where they attended; um MICHAEL YARWOOD, er he certainly was in attendance, uh PETER YORN and he may have perhaps had one or two meetings only, CATHERINE BARRY, she was the secretary, and er she spent a lot of time taking the minutes, and DAVID TREATURE, from time to time attended various meetings. Now most of those meetings were held over at a place called "Love a Coffee" at Oxenford.

KB: Were you responsible for any campaign fund in connection with BRIAN ROWE's endeavour to be elected?

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JL: Uh in other words, did I contribute?

KB: Were you responsible in any way for any fund? Did you either contribute, did you manage a fund, did you set up a fund for his campaign?

JL: Lang Realty contributed I think a thousand dollars, er in some instances, we had to advance moneys because um the moneys that were spent on the campaign and no moneys were forthcoming, although they were promised, from time to time; and we had to put the money in short-term, but we recovered all that, apart from a thousand dollars, which was uh an official donation

KB: There was a BRIAN ROWE election campaign I take it?

JL; Yes

KB: Were you responsible for managing that er fund at all for the campaign?

JL: I well I because that it was from this office, I've had to take responsibility, yes. But it was left again with BARBARA, because BARBARA did all the accounts. That's BARBARA CHRISTOFELL.

KB: Were you responsible for directing any donations into BRIAN LOWE sorry BRIAN ROWE election fund at all?

JL: Only where there was perhaps um uh various functions and um I attended those functions and uh if any moneys were forthcoming, indicated it was for the BRIAN ROWE campaign. One in particular was the uh tavern over there at uh Pacific Pines.

KB: Did you receive any money from developers at all to go into his election campaign?

JL: Uh yes, uh in fact, if you look at the records, you'll find that where I've made receipts out they're from those respective developers.

KB: Did you make any declaration at all in relation to those gifts uh donations?

JL: Uh no because that was uh left to BRIAN ROWE. And I know that he did make a declaration.

KB: First document I'd like to refer to here today is one that has been published by the Nerang Chamber of Commerce and it's a monthly newsletter dated December 2003. In particular, there's a paragraph or a segment I should say on the role of the Chambers, as I'm indicating to you here, it's highlighted. And just for the record, I'll just read what that says. There is a general agreement among all of our city's chambers, that we must

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become more influential in it's governance. The best way to achieve this is to take a more active role in the upcoming elections. How this will manifest itself has yet to be determined; however, there is a sub-committee looking into those policies that the Chambers feel are pre-requisite in influencing what constitutes a suitable candidate, be they incumbent or otherwise. We will keep you informed. Well my first question in relation to what I've just read out I guess is who was responsible for publishing that paragraph or that article?

JL: I'm assuming it was BOB JANSSEN, because uh BOB JANSSEN from time to time made er a number of er policy er speeches and what have you to the papers, and also their own members.

KB: So was BOB JANSSEN the president of the Nerang Chamber of Commerce at that time, December 2003, to your knowledge?

JL: I'm sure that he was at that stage, yes.

KB: Now perhaps if I can just take you through what I've just read into the record: There is a general agreement among all of our City's Chambers that we must become more influential in it's governance". Was there a general agreement?

JL: Look, to my knowledge, the answer is no. Perhaps that's a loosely-worded document, because we used to attend the Chamber of Commerce meetings under the uh guidance of JOHN WITHERETH, and uh I can't remember at those meetings, any general agreement.

KB: The Chambers of Commerce, are they apolitical or political organisations?

JL: To me, they're not political, uh but after saying that, they're certainly in touch with the various aspects of either federal government, state government, or the local council because unless they uh were in those positions, they wouldn't be able to help the members.

KB: So what you're saying it's a little bit of poetic licence in that opening sentence, that there's a general agreement amongst all of our City's Chambers that we must become more influential in its governance.

JL: Spoken from our point of view, yes.

KB: And I'm referring to the general agreement.

JL: Yep, mm.

KB: Do you still have regular contact with the Coomera Chamber of Commerce?

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JL: Yes, I'm still a member; er I've stepped down, but I do not play any active role whatsoever.

KB: Been there, done that. The second paragraph "The best way to achieve this (this is the general agreement) the best way to achieve this is to take a more active role in the upcoming elections. How this will manifest itself has yet to be determined; however, there is a subcommittee looking into the policies that the Chambers feel are pre-requisite in influencing what constitutes a suitable candidate, be they incumbent or otherwise". First of all, what's your knowledge of subcommittee looking into the policies?

JL: Look from time to time, er I shouldn't say time to time, I think there was one incidence where a number er met, uh at TOM TATE's um at the Islander one day at the pub, other than that, I don't know of any other meeting.

KB: Do you know the date of that meeting?

JL: No, not off-hand

KB: TOM TATE's the er president of the Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce?

JL: He was at that stage. Whether he still is, I don't know. But um from our point of view, all I was interested in doing was running the race for our area and uh the Chamber of Commerce of Coomera.

KB: And as you've just outlined, that could have been the reference to the sub-committee meeting at the Islander?

JL: Could have been. That's right.

KB: So do you know what constituted a suitable candidate?

JL: I think there was certainly a lot of controversy about er some of the existing members of Council, and uh from all walks of the Community, and um I believe that again, where I got involved, that uh I spoke with BRIAN ROWE, I thought he was going to make a very very good candidate, because he was certainly civically-minded. But um he also got on reasonably well with er PETER YOUNG, and um they used to often meet at various functions, and uh I don't think there's any animosity between PETER YOUNG or BRIAN ROWE.

KB: In what division was BRIAN ROWE running in?

JL: Er five.

KB: And that's PETER YOUNG's division?

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JL: Yep, correct, mm-hm

KB: Were you the president of the Coomera Chamber of Commerce in December 2003? At the time this newsletter was published?

JL: Yes.

KB: So as far as the Coomera Chamber of Commerce was concerned, at that time, prior to the March 2004 elections, you would support the candidate, I'm talking about the Chamber, would support a candidate such as BRIAN ROWE? Or just yourself?

JL: I don't know. I think that in fact er BARBARA would be able to tell you, but um I did write a newsletter and I very very seldom refer to the campaign. Er I believe it was not from my point of view that it was political, and that's why I kept off it. And our job was to take on I guess uh er oh where did I put it um problems, if you want to call it that of any of our members and try and sort that out. Uh it certainly would have been brought up from time to time uh it might have been at meetings uh whereby BRIAN ROWE was going to speak, but uh it was left to the members. We did not try and influence them in any way whatsoever.

KB: So let me put it to you this way: in your opinion, was the Coomera Chamber of Commerce supportive of BRIAN ROWE, in his election endeavours?

JL: Absolutely that was left out; and it was up to the individual members to decide who they wanted to vote for, and that's exactly the same which occurred when various members of the state government um the representatives got up and spoke at our different meetings; we left it entirely to the members. We did not try and influence them in any way whatsoever. And that also went for the federal er members.

KB: Did the Coomera Chamber of Commerce make any contributions, financial contributions or any other service they provided to assist BRIAN ROWE in his election endeavours?

JL: Uh look, on the surface I would say no, but uh if there's nothing there in relation to the uh uh receipts, the answer would be definitely no. Because that was certainly an individual choice and if anybody wanted to contribute, they could do it directly themselves.

KB: And you referred to this before, but in your opinion, a suitable candidate would be a candidate – what do you think's meant by that "suitable candidate"?

JL: Well, I'd had a fair bit to do with BRIAN over the previous ten or eleven years, and uh as I said, because he was civically-minded

KB: Yeah.

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JL: Uh he was a very very good speaker and he was certainly a very good president for the short time that he was with uh with the Chamber. He also started something which was known as the Globe of Coomera, and he was the one behind it, and uh did an excellent job. But um, just generally, knowing what BRIAN was and at that stage, he hadn't uh he hadn't resigned from the uh school, and I believe that he would have been suitable for that specific uh position.

KB: And that school is St Stephen's that you're referring to?

JL: Yes.

KB: So this part here about the Chambers the Chambers plural collectively feel are prerequisite in influencing what constitutes a suitable candidate; OK and that's referring to the subcommittee looking at the policies for the ...

JL: As I said, there was only one meeting, er at TOM TATE's, and um apart from that, as I said, we kept off the political aspect of it.

KB: Oh right. So can you comment at all what the Chambers collectively thought was a suitable, what constituted a suitable candidate? I'm talking about the Chambers collectively.

JL: Absolutely not at all.

KB: OK. Is there anything else you'd like to say about that?

JL: No, I as I said, we used to put out a um monthly newsletter, and I'm sure we would have copies of that, and if you like I can certainly dig through the archives and let you see all of these newsletters that I've put out.

KB: I'd appreciate that, thank you. Do you have any connection with MULHOEK at all? Running as a candidate?

JL: No. I was asked this in the previous interview, and I went to a function at um Bell's, when he had a particular function there one night. I also went to um a function down on the water but certainly as a person absolutely none at all.

KB: An examination of BRIAN ROWE's election documentation, there's a pamphlet that includes an endorsement from five current and former presidents of the Nerang and Coomera Chambers of Commerce.

JL: Right.

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KB: Are you aware of that at all? Pamphlet?

JL: Yes, yep, mm.

KB: You'd be obviously one of those former presidents? Well, at the time, you were the president.

JL: That's right, mm

KB: So you were supporting BRIAN ROWE as you said before, as an individual?

JL: Correct, yep, mm. And I think that was supported by IAN FRIAR, if I recall, um BOB JANSSEN, uh it might have been COL MARR, I'm not sure on that and it might have been COL KLEINSCHMIDT, but there certainly was a uh brochure put out.

KB: Could it be do you think it could be interpreted that the Coomera Chamber of Commerce as a whole was supporting BRIAN ROWE in that pamphlet?

JL: Not at all. Nope.

KB: I'm just asking your opinion of course on this.

JL: Yep.

KB: So as far as you're concerned, definitely that's not the case, it was just yourself as an individual?

JL: Correct.

KB: To the best of your knowledge, did either yourself or BRIAN ROWE receive any money from the LIONEL BARDEN Trust as it was referred to?

JL: I don't honestly know. I was aware of it during the course of the campaign but um most of the um and you'd have to speak with BARB on this um where that money came from, I know some came uh when we spoke to DAVID POWER. He said, oh look, we'll be able to get some more funding, but what actually came from the LIONEL BARDEN Trust, I know not.

KB: Did he say where he could get that funding from, DAVID POWER?

JL: No. I know that at one stage, um as I said, we spoke with HICKEY and I think that he suggested contacting someone else uh I found out he didn't even know what name it was uh was it Quantum?

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KB: Quadrant Printing

JL: Quadrant um I wasn't even aware of them until very very late in the um in the campaign and I think that uh contact was made there also again, you'd have to speak with BARBARA.

KB: Did you contact TONY HICKEY, did you say?

JL: I didn't, no. I think the office did. I think you'd find that BARBARA may have.

KB: Of course, before it was referred to as the LIONEL BARDEN Trust, it was originally referred to as the POWER and ROBBINS election Gold Coast Election Campaign Fund. Does that ring a bell?

JL: I never heard of that at all.

KB: So just to be clear, what you're saying here today is that you're not aware of any funds directly coming from the LIONEL BARDEN Trust Fund. You did contact or yourself, you contacted DAVID POWER?

JL: Yes

KB: And he obviously stated that some funds would be available?

JL: Correct

KB: But you're still not sure where those funds came from? That's what you're saying?

JL: That's exactly right, yep.

KB: So you can't say if they came from the POWER and ROBBINS Election Campaign Fund or the LIONEL BARDEN Trust Fund or the the Commonsense Trust Fund was another term?

JL: No I uh I know LIONEL BARDEN quite well; we used to see each other at the various Chamber meetings, but uh I don't believe I was ever in contact with LIONEL BARDEN during the course of the campaign. I think the last time I saw LIONEL BARDEN was at a function uh uh somewhere in Surfers Paradise.

KB: Have you any written either notes or diary entries of the date and the content of the conversation with DAVID POWER that you had?

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JL: No. All we would do, if we were running short of money, we were told that moneys would be available, uh I'd more than likely just give him a ring, or BARBARA would ring him, or email.

KB: When you had the conversation with DAVID POWER, well first of all, do you know when you had that conversation with him?

JL: It would have been during the campaign, that's about all I can say.

KB: What was the forum used? Was it by phone, or in person?

JL: Usually by phone.

KB: From this office?

JL: Yes.

KB: Did you ask him at all where those funds may come from?

JL: No he just um he just said that funds would be available

KB: Can I ask you why you didn't ask him where the funds would come from?

JL: Really, I wasn't particularly interested. He would just, he indicated recently that um he thought that BRIAN was a very good candidate and he would be able to get um funds from a number of people.

KB: BOB JANSSEN you referred to him previously I believe as the president of the uh Nerang Chamber?

JL: Yep.

KB: What was his involvement in relation to BRIAN ROWE's election campaign? If any?

JL: Very little. He used to attend meetings and uh put his six penn'orth in and uh you'd have to refer back to the minutes which were kept and uh that would be about all. Uh BOB JANNSEN is one to uh perhaps uh uh often write various letters uh he went I think public on a few occasions when it was um uh I think it was purely a connection with the Chamber the Nerang Chamber but certainly nothing to do with us.

KB: Did he make any donations at all to BRIAN ROWE's fund?

JL: Not to my knowledge, no, mm-hm. Uh there was a a crowd called the Committee for Sustainable Futures um now he wanted the various Chambers to be members of that and I

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contributed I think fifty dollars to it out of my own personal money but I did not involve the Chamber under any circumstances.

KB: Is there any other comments you'd like to um make in relation to the Chamber or BOB JANSSEN or anything else we've spoken about so far?

JL: No I don't think so uh as I say uh BOB JANSSEN used to write various letters to the papers. He was also in touch um with them by phone, but uh as I said, he used to run his own race. Sometimes he would ring up and tell me what he had done, and you know it went in one ear and out the other to a degree because uh uh you know he'd ring me in this office and I'd be tied up on other things.

KB: Do you know TONY WHITE at all, the president of Gold Coast North

JL: Yes, yep, mm-hm. Mm-hm

KB: How would you describe your relationship with TONY?

JL: Uh we used to meet at the various uh Chambers and um I don't think ever there was any comment to Tony in relation to the candidacy under any circumstances

KB: I have here an email sent from BOB JANSSEN to yourself; it appears to be yourself anyhow. It's dated Tuesday the 25th of November 2003 at 5.34 p.m. and I'll just show you that email; have a read through it

JL: Mm go on mm-hm

KB: That's JOHN that's yourself he's referring to that was sent to you I take it?

JL: Uh let's have a look. To Coomera... I'm assuming if it was sent to us, it'd be a copy in my file, in the file that I gave you.

KB: It appears it could have been to yourself; it appears that JOHN is yourself

JL: It possibly is; um BOB JANSSEN tried to run another er chamber within the chamber which was the Western Chambers, because according to BOB JANSSEN, uh our requirements west of Surfers Paradise were often entirely different to what um the other Chambers such as Southport or uh Southport and Surfers Paradise may encounter.

KB: If I can just read you the opening paragraph of that email; it's from BOB JANSSEN, dear JOHN, firstly I met with BRIAN today for lunch and gave him my assurance of support. Do you know who that BRIAN is, he is referring to?

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JL: I'm assuming that the only person I could think of would be BRIAN ROWE. If he gave the support, that's the only person it would be. Again, that's my assumption.

KB: I hope that I did not give him cause for concern. You know how blunt I can be at times.

JL: Well again, I would have no idea what was said.

KB: So it appears that BOB JANSSEN was supporting BRIAN ROWE in his election campaign?

JL: Oh well he was sitting on the committee

KB: Yep

JL: But I don't think he took any active part in their support. You know I don't think he handed out cards or anything of that nature mm-hm

KB: Do you know if he collected any donations?

JL: I'd say no

KB: Do you know if anyone else on the committee election campaign committee collected donations for BRIAN ROWE's campaign?

JL: If they did it certainly would have been as a receipt.... Nobody came up to me and said oh look I've got X number of dollars

KB: I'll just refer to a number of receipts and emails that I have and invite your comment on them. This is all documentation relevant to BRIAN ROWE's election campaign; and a lot of this material you provided. First one is a receipt dated the 1st sorry dated the 5th of the 1st 2004 from the Gold Coast City Council being contribution BRIAN ROWE campaign to the amount of \$7 500.00

JL: Right.

KB: Do you know anything about that receipt?

JL: No you'd have to speak with BARBARA on all of these, because a lot of these moneys I think were TT'd into an account that we have with the Heritage and uh when I looked at the file the other day I said to BARB why have you got the Gold Coast City Council? She said oh I thought that's where it came from. But um you'd have to again speak with BARBARA on that. You'll find there's quite a few of them.

KB: You refer to the Heritage Building Society, that's....

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JL: Correct

KB: Very close by I think

JL: Next door

KB: Right next to you?

JL: Yep, mm-hm

KB: And why are the moneys deposited into the Heritage Building Society?

JL: Well it's easy for us to keep a tab on it, knowing exactly what's there all the time, and uh it was just well because we also run it

KB: What were the funds used for?

JL: Er BRIAN ROWE's campaign.

KB: And the account was what was the account called?

JL: I assume it's the BRIAN ROWE campaign, just a sec I'll check

KB: Yep. So who was responsible for setting up the BRIAN ROWE election campaign fund with the Heritage Building Society?

JL: Who was that?

KB: Who was responsible for setting up that fund?

JL: Oh sorry, yep mm

KB: Well you were the manager for the campaign so you took the responsibility for setting up the campaign fund

JL: Yep

KB: Whose signature appears on that receipt?

JL: BARBARA

KB: So you can't offer any explanation why it's made out to the Gold Coast City Council?

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JL: No, in fact I wouldn't even have seen any of the receipts; I trust BARB well enough that anything that came in she would have made receipts out. Mm, mm.

KB: Of course it's highly unusual for a receipt to be made out to the Gold Coast City Council for an election donation, as you can appreciate.

JL: Yep, exactly, that's right, mm, mm.

KB: I have another receipt made out to GCCC which is the abbreviation for the Gold Coast City Council I would assume

JL: Yes, that's right

KB: And it's dated the 30th of the 1st 2004.

JL: Mm mm

KB: And it's made out once again for \$7 500.00 and it was a donation for the BRIAN ROWE election campaign

JL: Yep.

KB: Once again a little bit unusual for the Gold Coast City Council elections

JL: Oh to my knowledge the Gold Coast City Council didn't contribute any funds at all, but again, speak with BARB. Er I think more than likely what used to happen the funds were TT'd into the Heritage and she used to just make out a receipt. I would assume that uh if she spoke with DAVID POWER uh that she needed further funding; and that came through that's possibly why she's uh put it down as the Gold Coast City Council.

KB: Whose signature appears on that receipt to the best of your knowledge?

JL: That's BARBARA again

KB: That's her signature?

JL: Yep. (UI)

KB: You're familiar with the signature?

JL: Sorry?

KB: You're familiar with the signature?

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JL: Yes, mm

KB: Yet another receipt made out to GCCC, Gold Coast City Council, dated the 20th of September 04, being for contribution BRIAN ROWE election campaign, this time to the amount of \$20 000.00. Once again, can you comment on that receipt?

JL: Er again, I wouldn't know personally, but um um if you want copies of the Heritage er statements, I can see if we can get them for you

KB: I think we may have those

JL: Oh OK.

KB: And once again, whose signature appears on that receipt? (overtalking) Quite a substantial donation, twenty thousand

JL: Yes a few substantial donations, I think, another one I think from JOHN FISH, another one from Aurora

KB: In fact there's a receipt here from Lang Realty; a thousand dollars for contribution to the BRIAN ROWE election campaign

JL: Yes, yep

KB: That's your own donation?

JL: That's correct

KB: And another sizeable donation from Fish Developments; \$24 000.00

JL: Yep

KB: Dated the 10th of the 3rd 04 for BRIAN ROWE's election campaign JOHN you just received a phone call to clarify the name of the account for BRIAN ROWE?

JL: Correct; I did

KB: And can you state what that is what it was?

JL: Uh the uh BRIAN PHILIP ROWE er Campaign Election Fund

KB: Thank you for that. I'll just show you a document here; looks like a reconciliation statement of some sort. It's titled the BRIAN ROWE campaign fund account. It's got expenses; these are the headings: expenses, amounts paid, balance outstanding

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JL: Mm-hm

KB: Some form of reconciliation?

JL: Yes.

KB: Statement. Of interest is the amounts received from the Gold Coast City Council as per those receipts; those dates, they correspond to those receipts I read out?

JL: Mm

KB: Can you make any comment in relation to (UI)

JL: No except in my opinion they're not from the Gold Coast City Council and BARBARA will qualify exactly what uh she believes or where those funds came from

KB: And this is the actual reconciliation report?

JL: Yep

KB: In relation to the BRIAN ROWE campaign fund account. And once again those...

JL: I've got a faint suspicion there was a reconciliation and there would have been a subsequent reconciliation because one had to be in by a certain time I think and uh I think that they put another one out with extra moneys coming in. Same date of

KB: It hasn't got a date on this one. This one, the last one I'm referring to is dated the 22nd of March 2004

JL: Right

KB: Which is a week out from the elections basically. But once again that appears, the Gold Coast City Council for those amounts, corresponding to those dates I've already mentioned to you and I see here there was a contribution to MULHOEK

JL: That could have been right; but it would only be a small one

KB: \$200.00

JL: Yep, and I think oh from him you mean?

KB: Cleared deposit sorry, from MULHOEK, that's correct

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JL: Yes, I remember him putting in a small one, and I think even a letter went with that

KB: Yeah it was came under cleared deposits, so it's from him

JL: Yeah.

KB: Did he make any other donations?

JL: No.

KB: Just the one off?

JL: That's it.

KB: There's another reconciliation report here, BRIAN ROWE campaign fund account, and that's dated the 16th of sorry the last statement was the 16th of February 2004. I just haven't got a date for this one.

JL: Didn't you say the other one was March?

KB: Yeah. This must be says the date of the last uh sorry my mistake; date of bank statement so that'd be the current one, the one before the one I previously referred to, and once again those cleared deposits from the Gold Coast City Council appear. Have here a copy of a letter that's addressed to CHRIS MORGAN of Quadrant Printing

JL: Right

KB: And it appears to your name appears on the bottom of that letter, signing it off, yours faithfully, LANG Realty, and it's got JOHN LANG can I show you that document?

JL: Yeah as I said to you I haven't uh until quite late in the campaign that I had any awareness of him. And that I think was only through BRIAN ROWE telling me about it.

KB: Mm. But obviously when you wrote this, did you write this letter? Are you the author (UI)

JL: I'll soon tell you if it's my wording. Yes.

KB: You're the author of the letter?

JL: I'd say so. Yeah, there you are.

KB: So obviously at the time this letter was dated, the 4th of February 2004, which is approximately six weeks prior to the election, you knew who CHRIS MORGAN was?

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JL: Uh only again I think through BRIAN ROWE. I was told to write to him from either BRIAN or somebody else.

KB: Did you know what Quadrant did?

JL: No. I've found out since. I think they were advertising people.

KB: I'll show you this letter. You've got re. BRIAN ROWE election campaign. Further to our telephone conversation of even date, we are enclosing a reconciliation of expenses to date for the BRIAN ROWE campaign fund, together with an estimate of future expenses. And you've got listed here as expected, expenditure, additional expected expenditure, that is, an A-Frame float, preparation and hire \$3 000.00, telemarketing approximately \$900.00, Helensvale Plaza casual mall licence \$5 720.00, and you go on to say unfortunately with most of the up and coming expenses, the printers and distributors etc will not release the items until paid which is certainly causing us concern, particularly when we were informed the moneys were to be forthcoming immediately upon request. Can you just explain that? About moneys being made available?

JL: Well I'm assuming that it would have been uh if we made contact at that stage with uh DAVID POWER and uh and again I'm only assuming this and uh if were told then made contact with this crowd Quadrant, whether it was uh uh through DAVID POWER or whether it's uh BRIAN ROWE, I don't know.

KB: Can you explain your understanding of the arrangement with Quadrant?

JL: Nil. We had no idea.

KB: Advertising?

JL: Nil. Absolutely no idea at all.

KB: Who was this organised through? The A-frame float and telemarketing and... did you organise that with Quadrant?

JL: Uh I don't know. Er I think you'll find if there were receipts in there, that'll give you some indication. I'm pretty well sure it was BRIAN ROWE that did that.

KB: Did you ever speak to CHRIS MORGAN from Quadrant?

JL: I'd say that I spoke with him, according to that letter. But I certainly don't remember it.

KB: Did Councillor DAVID POWER have any conversation with you in relation to Quadrant and the services they provide, or a contact?

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JL: I don't know. I can't remember it. And the reason I can't, it may have been that BRIAN ROWE may er told me to make contact er but I certainly don't recall er DAVID POWER saying oh contact so and so.

KB: So how did you know what to put in this letter? Where did you get this information from?

JL: Well we would have had um again accounts er for those specific items. Now it was BRIAN ROWE who basically decided er with um YARWOOD er what was required for the campaign, because as I said before that YARWOOD had previous experience in er campaign running and also uh what to do

KB: So just to clarify it, you're writing this letter to CHRIS MORGAN at Quadrant, to inform him that moneys will be forthcoming and is he owed money? Is that the the nature of the letter or what's your interpretation?

JL: No, I'm assuming that the Quadrant was somehow going to pay the moneys, I don't know.

KB: Yeah, that's my interpretation of it. That's why I'm asking you. Do you know why they would be paying the money?

JL: No. Absolutely not at all.

KB: So the tone of well particularly this paragraph unfortunately if most of the up and coming expenses of printers and distributors will not release the items until paid, which is certainly causing us concern. Well that to me is your notifying CHRIS MORGAN of Quadrant of can you do something about this situation, because moneys are owed to these distributors

JL: Correct. I didn't have anything to do with the various brochures and uh these were I think done by um if I remember rightly, BRIAN ROWE er I may have corrected uh some of the brochures or the um the proof, but uh the the actual brochures would have been made up by BRIAN ROWE and possibly uh MICHAEL YARWOOD.

KB: When you say made up, you mean designed or...?

JL: Correct. And what to put on them.

KB: Who actually produced them?

JL: I don't know. I might have been no I was going to say Snap Printing, but it'll be in there anyway.

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KB: I might take the opportunity to suspend this interview for the purpose of changing the tape. The time now is 10.06 p.m. on the 11th day of October 2005, and this interview is now suspended.

DJK/I-J:/Misconduct/Lang, John Tp1 of 2 11.10.05

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RECORD OF INTERVIEW - JOHN LANG

TAPE NO: 2 (of 2)

DATE: 11.10.05

PLACE: COOMERA

TIME COMMENCED: 10:08 AM

TIME CONCLUDED: 10:29 AM

INTERVIEWEE: JOHN LANG

INTERVIEWER/S: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

FILE NUMBER: MI-05-2482

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COPY TAPE 2 OF 2 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION AND JOHN LANG. HELD AT COOMERA ON TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2005. ALSO PRESENT INVESTIGATOR CRAIG HAWKINS.

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

KB = Detective Inspector Ken Bemi (CMC)

JL = John Lang

CH = Craig Hawkins (CMC)

1 KB The time now is 10:08 am on Tuesday the 11th day of October 2005. This is tape 2. An
2 interview being conducted with Mr John Lang from Lang Realty Coomera. I'd like to
3 refer you to an email that was dated Wednesday the 28th January 2004 sent at 5:54 from
4 Sandra Wild at Hickey Lawyers to Barbara here at Lang Realty which I take it to mean
5 Barbara Christofell. "*Subject - Brian Rowe election campaign fund*". This is from
6 Hickey Lawyers. *Dear Barbara - in accordance with your request and as directed by*
7 *Councillor Power and Councillor Robbins the sum of \$7,500.00 has been deposited to*
8 *the following account.* It provides details of the Heritage Building Society account
9 named Brian Rowe which is obviously for his election campaign.

10
11 Do you know anything in relation to this sum of money?

12
13 JL No not off hand umm I'm sure that ahh Barbara at one stage mentioned that she was
14 making contact ahh with Hickey Lawyers but ahh in relation to getting some of the
15 funding but ahh I don't know - I didn't speak with them myself.

16
17 KB Had you, had you previously spoken with either David Power or the late Sue Robbins
18 regarding that money?

19
20 JL I would say yes because we more than likely ahh if we were running short of funds and
21 ahh we could see some funds required in the future ahh I'd say the answer is yes and ahh
22 we would have been more than likely instructed to contact ahh Hickeys by and I'm
23 assuming David Power.

24
25 KB So David Power would have advised you to contact Hickey Lawyers in relation to
26 receiving more funding?

27
28 JL Well we wouldn't do it off the back because we wouldn't have even know they were
29 there so somebody has obviously asked us to contact them.

30

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31 KB Did you know where this amount of money was coming from apart from Hickey
32 Lawyers?
33
34 JL Nope absolutely not.
35
36 KB Do you know the identity of the donors?
37
38 JL No
39
40 KB Are you are of what fund it may have came from?
41
42 JL No ahh the only time that we would ever know is if we wrote out a receipt direct.
43
44 KB So the receipt on this occasion would have been?
45
46 JL Possible Hickey Lawyers I'm assuming.
47
48 KB Written out to Hickey Lawyers. Did Barbara Christofell draw your attention to this email
49 can you recall that?
50
51 JL Nope
52
53 KB What was her role? Did she act on a lot of this correspondence?
54
55 JL Ahh not really umm I guess the time factor was absolutely getting out of control. Ahh I
56 remember just about crawling up the wall with the time that it was taking and ahh
57 Barbara's role was virtually being ahh keeping the books and obviously acting as my
58 secretary with any communication and correspondence.
59
60 KB So she would run any correspondence through you first before sending it out in relation to
61 funding in particular? Requests for additional funding?
62
63 JL Possibly.
64
65 KB The point I'm trying to make – she wouldn't just do it off her own bat without consulting
66 you at least.
67
68 JL No unless somebody has indicated that either there'd be more funds coming whether she
69 would automatically just take it up but ahh she would contact those people.
70
71 KB Was that – did you make any arrangement with Barbara to – funding was running low and
72 you required more funding to contact certain people without first seeing you?
73

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74 JL No I don't think so. Ahh I think that ahh if we were running short predominantly we
75 spoke and ahh kept on speaking with David Power because he more or less implied there
76 were people that were prepared to put in certain funding. But where that [sound of
77 coughing] pardon me came from I know not.
78
79 KB Did you speak to any other candidate – sorry any other ahh person other than David
80 Power in relation to receiving the funding? Anyone else in the Council that is. 'Cos
81 David Power was an incumbent.
82
83 JL No no no.
84
85 KB No other incumbent's you spoke to?
86
87 JL [pause] I had a meeting at one stage or sorry he was present Bob La Castra but I don't
88 think funding was ever discussed.
89
90 KB And he was an incumbent also Bob La Castra wasn't he?
91
92 JL Correct yes, yeah he mmm.
93
94 KB Anyone else that you can recall?
95
96 JL Ohh I'd also spoken with Grant Pforr but ahh just generalising as what I can remember
97 about how he was going with his campaign etc etc.
98
99 KB Did Grant Pforr or Bob La Castra comment to you at all in relation to any funding where
100 you may obtain it from?
101
102 JL Absolutely not.
103
104 KB I'd like to ...
105
106 JL I think they were running their own race.
107
108 KB I'd like to refer you to an email here now it's dated the 11th August 2004 at 3:00 pm and
109 it's sent from Barbara Christofell to David Power. Subject: Council Election. I'll just
110 show you that as I read it into the record. *"David, we will appreciate a follow-up on the*
111 *outstanding contributions regarding recent council elections. Regards yourself"* so
112 Barbara Christofell has sent an email in your name basically.
113
114 JL Yes mmm
115
116 KB Take note of that date the 11th August 2004 that's actually after the election.
117

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118 JL That's right because I think that ahh and if you refer back to the umm one of the umm
119 reconciliations there was quite a fair bit still outstanding and I know well after the
120 elections we were still trying to follow-up and follow-up to get the moneys in.
121
122 KB And once again David Power was the key point of contact to try and obtain...
123
124 JL [overtalking] Yes. I remember...
125
126 KB ...obtain those moneys.
127
128 JL Yes. He more or less implied he said ahh they were promised various funds but ahh
129 people had disappeared into the woodwork but he was going to still keep trying.
130
131 KB Did he identify those people?
132
133 JL No
134
135 KB And the email continues - this is from David Power to Barbara.
136
137 JL Mm mm
138
139 KB Dated the next day the 12th August 2004 at 9:55 am I'll just read it. This is what David
140 Power was saying "*many thanks for your prompt attention regarding the out*" sorry
141 that's not it. Disregard that. [pause] This is in response to your previous email chasing
142 up the outstanding contributions. This is from David Power. "*John I am still chasing a*
143 *couple of people but promises have been kept by a couple so far but we are still short.*
144 *Cheers David*".
145
146 JL Mmm
147
148 KB Can you recall this correspondence?
149
150 JL Yep mmm
151
152 KB Did you instruct Barbara Christofell to send this correspondence to David Power to chase
153 up the funds?
154
155 JL Would have because ahh at that stage we were the ones that were out of pocket.
156
157 KB She wouldn't have done it on her own bat?
158
159 JL No
160
161 KB Off her own bat?

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162
163 JL Mmm
164
165 KB And I'll keep going. In response to David Power's reply to yourself once again Barbara
166 Christofell sends an email in your name to David Power. That's dated the 12th August
167 2004 at 12:44 pm. *"David many thanks for your prompt attention regarding the*
168 *outstanding contributions. You mention presently there is a shortfall however in the*
169 *interim we will be pleased to receive the basic contributions which total \$8,459.97 as we*
170 *are being pressed for payment"....*
171
172 JL I remember something about that.
173
174 KB ...*"and have also paid out these other amounts over and above our own official*
175 *contributions. We are aware you are holding the complete reconciliation of outstandings*
176 *however outlined hereunder are the pressing amounts totalling \$8,459.97"* and there's a
177 breakdown *"Lang Realty, Brian Rowe, Catherine Barry, the local newsletter"*. You can
178 recall that?
179
180 JL Yes mmm
181
182 KB So once again you would have instructed Barbara Christofell to...
183
184 JL That's right mmm
185
186 KB ...formulate that content and send it off to David Power?
187
188 JL Yep because ahh we were pressuring at that stage I think ahh David Power to get those
189 moneys in. We just want to put everything to bed.
190
191 KB You send before that you don't send emails yourself?
192
193 JL Nope
194
195 KB You don't like computers you said?
196
197 JL Never used one.
198
199 KB Yep so you get Barbara to do it in other words?
200
201 JL Basically yeah.
202
203 KB And the email goes on as a result of that. The next email is the 23rd August so it's about
204 ahh a bit less than 2 weeks later. Another email sent to David Power from Barbara.

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205 *"David will appreciate a reply to this original email at your earliest convenience.*
206 *Regards John Lang"*. Obviously he hadn't replied to it.
207
208 JL Mmm
209
210 KB Do you agree that you would have instructed Barbara to send that?
211
212 JL Yep
213
214 KB And once again there's another email message from Barbara to David Power signed by
215 yourself with your name at the bottom of it – *"David we have not yet received a reply*
216 *regarding this matter. Please reply to this email as soon as possible. Regards John"*.
217 Once again you would have instructed Barbara to send that?
218
219 JL That's right mmm
220
221 KB So obviously David Power wasn't responding to the emails as it appears and you were
222 still short of funds?
223
224 JL Correct
225
226 KB Did you have any telephone conversation with him at all in relation to those shortage of
227 funds?
228
229 JL I would doubt very much because it's fairly hard to get hold of David Power at any time.
230
231 KB So how was this resolved?
232
233 JL I think you'll find umm that some moneys were brought into the office.
234
235 KB Here?
236
237 JL I'm pretty sure and don't quote me – I think it was about \$4,000 and ahh if I remember
238 rightly that was cash and again we made out a receipt and we distributed the last bits and
239 pieces of the ahh outstandings.
240
241 KB Who delivered that outstanding money?
242
243 JL Ahh I'm assuming – I didn't see it – I think it could have been David Power. I'd have to
244 be umm advised on that.
245
246 KB So he could have delivered it personally the money?
247
248 JL He could have delivered that personally.

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249
250 KB Have you got any record or notes of when that may have been?
251
252 JL No. If you look at ahh that file of mine originally you'll see where there was I think
253 moneys brought in.
254
255 KB Did you issue David Power a receipt as a result of receiving those funds?
256
257 JL No a receipt would have been made out but whether it was made out to him or not I don't
258 know.
259
260 KB Who would it be likely to have been made out to?
261
262 JL Ahh well if you got a copy of our ahh original documentation it would certainly show on
263 that. I've got a umm small problem with my bladder so I've got to sneak out. Do you
264 mind?
265
266 KB Sure. We'll just ahh suspend this interview at 10:20 am.
267
268 **Tape switched off**
269
270 KB The time now is 10:22 am. This interview is now resumed. Just going back to how you
271 were chasing the outstanding funding from David Power. Whose idea was it to contact
272 David Power to chase the funding? Was it your own? Was it Brian Rowe's or whose
273 was it?
274
275 JL No I think - it goes back to originally when umm when Brian Rowe decided to go for
276 Council or go for the elections I think it was advised by ahh David Power that ahh that
277 there would be certain moneys available for the ...
278
279 KB [overtalking] This is when he agreed to stand as a candidate?
280
281 JL Yes
282
283 KB Brian Rowe?
284
285 JL Yes, yep mmm
286
287 KB So when the moneys...
288
289 JL [overtalking] That would have been well and truly before he decided to stand.
290
291 KB When the moneys were not forthcoming as quickly as probably anticipated whose idea
292 was it to contact David Power to chase up those outstanding funds?

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293
294 JL Well I guess it was myself and/or Brian Rowe because they were funds that were more
295 than likely promised ahh from various people and ahh of course they weren't forthcoming
296 so we just kept hammering until we got it.
297
298 KB So in the main how were those funds disbursed from Brian Rowe's campaign?
299
300 JL How do you mean disbursed?
301
302 KB Well how - sorry - how...
303
304 JL Ohh okay
305
306 KB How were they umm - what were they spent on in relation to his advertising?
307
308 JL Whatever you've got there and the reconciliation right down to the ...
309
310 KB [overtalking] You previously - you previously provided that.
311
312 JL Yes
313
314 KB Was there anything else that you'd like to say in relation to chasing up the outstanding
315 funds from David Power?
316
317 JL No I don't think there's anything else. As I said umm we were short. We wanted the
318 money. We were promised various moneys and ahh we kept hammering until we got it.
319
320 KB So who was out of pocket? Yourself or Brian Rowe?
321
322 JL Ahh both. I think you'll find that ahh Brian Rowe certainly ahh put a lot of money or a
323 lot of the expenses on his Mastercard or whatever credit card that he had and ahh myself.
324
325 KB Did Brian Rowe have any meetings with David Power at all during the election
326 campaign?
327
328 JL I don't know. He may have. Again, certainly there was communication but whether he
329 had a meeting or not I don't know.
330
331 KB On the whole are you aware how that communication took place between Brian Rowe
332 and David Power?
333
334 JL Ahh not really no because I don't know whether they actually did.
335
336 KB Were you present at any meetings with David Power and Brian Rowe?

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337
338 JL Ahh initially when ahh it was decided that ahh Brian Rowe may or may not go ahh there
339 was certainly the odd meeting umm that David explained everything to Brian for him to
340 make a calculated decision whether he should ahh run for Council.
341
342 KB How many meetings took place?
343
344 JL Ohh it might have been one or two that's about all.
345
346 KB Whereabouts?
347
348 JL I think there was one at the Boathouse. I don't think there was any in this office.
349
350 KB This was prior to the election but you're not sure when?
351
352 JL That's right mm mm
353
354 KB Who else was in attendance at those meetings besides Brian Rowe, yourself and Power?
355
356 JL To my knowledge nobody.
357
358 KB Just you three?
359
360 JL Yeah
361
362 KB So...
363
364 JL [overtalking] And I'll just qualify that the reason being that as I said before I believe that
365 he would have made a very good candidate for ahh a Councillor.
366
367 KB So when David Power – you think it was David Power personally delivered the
368 outstanding funds about \$4,000 I think you said?
369
370 JL That was near the end yep.
371
372 KB Mmm so that was after the election took place?
373
374 JL Yes
375
376 KB Some time after the emails obviously?
377
378 JL Exactly. That was ahh the last ahh amount I think that was received.
379

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380 KB So when you received the funds you said before that they were deposited into the election
381 campaign fund of Brian Rowe?
382
383 JL That's right and ahh I think they were distributed to umm Brian Rowe, Catherine Barry
384 and myself for outstandings.
385
386 KB Did any of those moneys go directly to Quadrant at all? Quadrant Printing – that's Chris
387 Morgan's [ui]
388
389 JL Don't know couldn't tell you. And again that would show up ahh on ahh cheque
390 accounts if it had.
391
392 KB So what you're saying is the distribution of those funds are recorded on each occasion by
393 means of a receipt of some sort?
394
395 JL Yes
396
397 KB Were any funds distributed that weren't receipted?
398
399 JL Any distributed such as? What do you mean?
400
401 KB Okay were there any of those funds from umm ahh Brian Rowe's campaign fund okay...
402
403 JL Mm mm
404
405 KB ...that were spent on various services that aren't recorded?
406
407 JL No no
408
409 KB So the point I'm trying to make they're all recorded as being distributed to various
410 people?
411
412 JL Exactly
413
414 KB Mmm right.
415
416 JL Barbara set up a particular ahh [ui] account I think purely for that election.
417
418 KB Is there anything further you'd like to say in relation to any matter we've discussed here
419 today?
420
421 JL No I think you've covered it fairly well.
422
423 KB That being the case do you – Craig have you got anything to add?

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424
425 CH No
426
427 KB Do you agree that you've participated in this interview of your own free will here today?
428 Of your own free will did you participate in this interview?
429
430 JL Yes
431
432 KB Is what you've stated here true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?
433
434 JL Yes, yes it is.
435
436 KB The time now is 10:29 am on Tuesday the 11th day of October 2005. This interview is
437 now concluded.
438
439
440 **TAPE ENDS**
441
442

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