

OP GRAND

RECORD OF INTERVIEW

EXHIBIT No. 226
[Signature] CLERK

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:

Complainant:	OPERATION GRAND
Subject(s):	OPERATION GRAND
Investigator:	DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI
Statement Of:	JOHN LANG
Legal Officer:	THERESA HAMILTON
File Number:	MI-05-2482
Directory :	

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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