

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 scribing]  
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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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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