

OP GRAND

EXHIBIT No. 265  
CLERK

STATEMENT OF ANNE JAMIESON

I am General Manager for the Sunland Group, working at the company's headquarters at level 14, 50 Cavill Avenue, Surfers Paradise.

I am aware that an issue arose in relation to a refund paid by the Gold Coast City Council in respect of the discount on a rates notice addressed to Carnriver Pty Ltd issued in January 2004 relating to the Circle on Cavill project.

As it is not part of my duties to be responsible for the supervision or payment of rates notices, I was not aware of this issue as it was developing.

4. However, some time in late September/early October 2004, I became aware of this matter when David Brown, National Design Director for Sunland, informed me that there had been an issue in relation to the discount and that the matter was to be discussed by the Finance Committee of the Council and that Sunland had been invited to attend the meeting and make representations to the Committee.
5. David asked me to accompany him as the company General Manager and I agreed to do so.
6. The Council advised us of the time and place of the meeting. When the specific item was reached, David spoke to the relevant facts and then I spoke generally about the company's philosophy and how we see ourselves as a responsible corporate citizen.
7. I noted that the rates notice had been issued but that it had not been delivered to the Sunland Group for some weeks. Once the notice was received by Sunland, it was paid immediately.
8. I reminded Council that due to the nature of its business, Sunland's rates bill was substantial and by taking advantage of the early payment discount, the company saved itself a considerable amount of money. In those circumstances, it made no sense for the company to adopt a cavalier attitude to the payment of rates and that there were systems in place to ensure payments were made within the stipulated time to take advantage of any discount.
9. I also pointed out that the company had an excellent track record in this regard; that it was prominent in local affairs and a regular contributor to local charities.
10. I made the suggestion that in the circumstances, a reasonable thing would be for Sunland to contribute the amount in dispute to a charity nominated by the Gold Coast. I said that we regularly contributed to such charities including The Lady Mayoress' Ball and this sum would represent a valuable contribution to that cause.
11. I have since become aware that my comments in this regard have been interpreted by Councillor Critchlow as being a threat to the Council that if they did not co-operate with Sunland in this regard, we might think twice about any future charitable contributions. This is an unwarranted interpretation and not something which I think could fairly have been inferred from what I said.

Taken 11 November 2005.