

OP GRAND

**RECORD OF INTERVIEW -
THOMAS RICHARD TATE**

EXHIBIT No. 318
[Signature] CLERK

TAPE NO: 1 (of 1)

DATE: 2 NOVEMBER 2005

PLACE: GOLD COAST

TIME COMMENCED: 12:34

TIME CONCLUDED: 13:11

INTERVIEWEE: THOMAS RICHARD TATE

INTERVIEWER/S: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

ALSO PRESENT: CIVILIAN INVESTIGATOR LUCINDA O'BRIEN

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

FILE NUMBER: MI-05-2482

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

COPY TAPE 1 OF 1 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN THOMAS RICHARD TATE AND DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION ALSO PRESENT CIVILIAN INVESTIGATOR LUCINDA O'BRIEN OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMISSION

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

TT = THOMAS RICHARD TATE
KB = DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI
LO = CIVILIAN INVESTIGATOR LUCINDA O'BRIEN
UI = UNINTELLIGIBLE

- 1 KB The time now is 12:34 pm on the afternoon of Wednesday the Second day of November
2 2005 I'm present at the Islander Resort, and I intend to interview Mr Tom TATE, in
3 relation to a current investigation that the Crime and Misconduct Commission, is
4 currently undertaking, in relation, to the Gold Coast City Council Elections held in March
5 2004, for the purposes of voice identification I'll ask every person present here starting
6 with myself to state their full and correct name my full name is Kenneth William BEMI,
7 I'm a Detective Inspector, of Police currently performing duties at the Crime and
8 Misconduct Commission in Brisbane
9
- 10 LO Lucinda O'BRIEN Investigator at the Crime and Misconduct Commission
11
- 12 TT (Ui) Thomas Richard TATE, Chief Executive Officer at the Islander Resort Group
13
- 14 KB Thank you Mr TATE – what I intend to do today is conduct an audio recorded interview
15 with you, in relation to the matter I previously outlined, what that means is whatever, you
16 say I say or my colleague here says will be recorded as we speak on tape do you
17 understand that
18
- 19 TT Understand
20
- 21 KB Are you agreeable to participate in this interview of your own free will here today
22
- 23 TT Yes I am
24
- 25 KB Do you require any other person to be present here with you
26
- 27 TT I do not
28
- 29 KB Thank you – can you please state your current address

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30
31 TT 66 Hillview Parade, Ashmore
32
33 KB And your date of birth
34
35 TT 15 January 1959
36
37 KB And you're the Chief Executive Officer here
38
39 TT Correct
40
41 KB At the Islander Resort and how long have you held that position for
42
43 TT 1993
44
45 KB Can you outline what your duties, ah entail
46
47 TT Basically ah, it's a top down, reporting system, we have a lot of ah, hotel investment, in
48 Sydney, and here in Queensland and, each General Manager report to me, ah includes,
49 budgeting and day to day, ah management of the ah, of, our operation, primarily in
50 Queensland now
51
52 KB As I said previously the Crime and Misconduct Commission in Brisbane, is currently
53 conducting an inquiry, into the Gold Coast City Council Elections held in March 2004,
54 can you, outline your involvement, if any, during, the lead up to those elections
55
56 TT Ah the time prior to, the election, I was president of Surfers Paradise Chamber of
57 Commerce, ah, being a president of Surfers Paradise Chamber, ah we, meet with other
58 president, of Chamber of Commerces ah together, it's ah, 'n unincorporated body so it's
59 an informal meeting, of all the presidents – ah we meet from time to (ui) time, once a
60 month or, once evevy, couple of months, 'bout, about issues that ah, Gold Coast ah
61 regional Pacific, issues, ah whether it be infrastructure, etcetera, ah, the Gold Coast ah
62 City Council, elections comin' up, so there's discussion (ui) regarding, ah, the, election
63 itself and ah, and out of that, ah there were er, discussion, within, their own, candidacy
64 within their own Division, so if I, for instance Coomera Chamber of Commerce would be
65 discussing about, Division 2, and Surfers Paradise would, talk about Division 7, and it's
66 not restrictive but we don't talk about any, any, anyone else who, who may be standing
67
68 KB Is this like a combined Chamber of Commerce meeting
69
70 TT It's a combine is (ui) it is a combined is in unincorporated bodies so it's the, it's really a
71 meeting of the presidents, on the Gold Coast
72
73 KB Continue

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74
75 TT From there ah, ah from what I recall ah – it's an ongoing, item and ahh, I can't recall
76 exactly who brought it up that ah, but ahhh, we (ui) perhaps should, endorse like-minded
77 cand'ites that is, ahh, people who are, ahm would support infrastructure and issues that,
78 we're, ah, trying to lobby, the local government, and ahm, and, conversely ah, we would
79 probably, look at, cand'ites that's ah, are not business friendly, that is ah, s-somebody
80 whose not logical or-or in-in-in their opinion within, the Chamber and, I guess, from
81 there, ah, each president is probably qualified to comment, within, the Division that
82 they're, reside in, and ah I wouldn't pretend to know, who ah, who or what candidate is
83 good for, the Gold Coast representing Division 1, etcetera, but, I would probably know,
84 who would be a good person to represent, ah Division 7 and ah, and, the question to ask
85 is, whether or not is ah, a Chamber issue, ah, or a personally issue, I think that's, that's a
86 grey area I'm talking about, ah, over the broad whether ah they have, ah closer ah
87 relationship with, the candidate within their Division, I only can speak on Division 7 ah
88 with, from memory there was four, candidates running for Division 7 and ahm, out of the
89 four, ah, we view it, we meaning Surfers Paradise that they're of ah high calibre
90 candidates, and, we as a Chamber really didn't need to, ahm, ah endorse any single
91 candidate for Division 7, ah, notwithstanding that, ah you might as well have a listen of,
92 what everyone else, got to say, regarding, current ah councillors or, ah, candidates within
93 their ah, their, ah Division, so, ah there was ah, an ongoing, meeting and, I think it came
94 into ah, finalisation where, there was a meeting held ah, within proximidy proximity of
95 the Islander

96
97 KB Whereabouts was meeting held

98
99 TT Ah it's the Gold Coast, ah Brew Pub which owns and operate by our family as well

100
101 KB Brew pump

102
103 TT Brew Pub

104
105 KB Pub

106
107 TT Yeah we brew our own beer – and ahm – and at the time there, there was gonna be,
108 funding and that ah, and that, the like-minded candidates, ahm, or, the ones that gonna be,
109 endorsed perhaps by various Chamber, is gonna be highlighted, and ah, and at the time ah
110 I think, Councillor David POWER was, ah, ah, gonna be heading that group, group (ui)
111 the, it's a loose definition (ui) I would say heading that, that ah, like-mind like-minded
112 candidates, and ah, and, we, the meeting was call, I think David was present and ah, and
113 together with ah, a few other presidents

114
115 KB Do you know when that meeting was

116

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117 TT Ahhh – I'm not I'm not sure it could be November 0-3, that ahm, I-I don't recall exactly
118 which month it is
119
120 KB Alright
121
122 TT (Ui) it, it's not enough time to plan
123
124 KB Whose idea was it, t' hold that meeting
125
126 TT Ahm from memory ahh I think ahh, it came out from dahhh, Chamber from the north I-I
127 think Coomera Chamber at the time is, ahh Brian ROWE or John LANGE John LANGE
128 I think 'n Brian was, ahh, was their vice, I'm not sure exactly, so it, it generate from there
129 beca', from memory ah, there's a bit of antagonistic ahh, with Councillor Peter YOUNG,
130 and, ahh the Chambers up there really, would wish that ah, that they be an alternative
131 council-councillor to Peter, ahm do we have an opinion on that, not really it doesn't really
132 concern us, I knew Peter from the previous election, I 'ave no cripes with him, but as a
133 Chamber President, ah would I support or not support it, it, makes no difference to me
134
135 KB Alright, so, this idea about, supporting, like-minded candidates, was that born out of a
136 combined Chamber of Commerce meeting – that you referred to previously or was it,
137 born before that took place that combined Chamber of Commerce meeting can you put it
138 in (ui)
139
140 TT [Coughs] I-I – I ah, I think it was born outside the combined Chamber meeting ah the
141 men-momentum was ah picked up and then was brought to the combined Chamber, to
142 see, what do you think of that idea, can we throw our weight behind it, I don't recall us
143 initiating it, ahm
144
145 KB So the driving, person or persons, behind this concept of supporting, like-minded
146 candidates at that time would've been either Brian ROWE or John LANGE from the,
147 Northern Chamber
148
149 TT Yes
150
151 KB And when you had the combined meeting, whereabouts was that held
152
153 TT Ah, we-we ah, we rotate from, from month to month it could've been at, in Southport at
154 ah Minter Ellison John (ui) office, could've been, ah in Nerang it, we-we absolutely
155 rotate and ah but I know that the meeting that David, POWER ah, did his presentation or-
156 or talk to us, was, here in Surfers Paradise
157
158 KB Was that at a combined Chamber of Commerce meeting or was it a, separate meeting
159

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160 TT I think it, it was a separate meeting but it was, ah born out of the combined Chamber
161 meeting so ah, basically, ah, it's an, it's an informal meeting where, if you wanna come,
162 ah as a result of previous meeting, come and less have, and have a listen if you're not
163 interested, don't come because there I don't believe there's a minutes taken on that
164
165 KB Was this concept about supporting like-minded candidates discussed at only, that
166 particular combined Chamber of Commerce meeting that you're referring to or was it,
167 discussed during a series of combined, Chamber of Commerce meetings
168
169 TT I think it was discussed ah as a series ah, er-er, it is ah, it's not ah definite one where,
170 okay let's do it like this, the point is, it was a growing dissatisfaction, ah by the
171 performance in council so as, your agitated, or as ah the council is, not result orientated,
172 and ah, it builds up the momentum you think well there's an election coming up, the
173 timing's right to do something about it, so, and that's how it would've started, it's like
174 lighting a match, you light one match because you think you need a bit of light, and then
175 you think well hang on I might light another one (ui) it grew from there I-I don't think it
176 was a, a calculated thing going, right, election coming up, it's about time we put a ticket
177 together, and take over the council that, that wasn't (ui)
178
179 KB So it didn't arise from a single meeting
180
181 TT No
182
183 KB It's more likely to 'ave risen from a series of meeting
184
185 TT Correct
186
187 KB Meetings – who would 've attended those combined Chamber of Commerce meetings all
188 the presidents
189
190 TT All the presidents of the Chamber of Commerce
191
192 KB Now if I can just, direct your mind, what happened, after the combined Chamber of
193 Commerce meeting well first of all before I get on to that, was the term or concept, like-
194 minded candidates, discussed during, those combined Chamber of Commerce meetings,
195 like-minded candidates
196
197 TT I think so
198
199 KB So that was a term that was applied to
200
201 TT Yeah
202

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203 KB Candidates who, certain members, of the combined Chamber of Commerce, would
204 support
205
206 TT Yes
207
208 KB And what was the general view of the combined Chamber of Commerce, was, there
209 consensus that, candidates should be supported or did, each president have a particular
210 view
211
212 TT I believe that each president had a, particular view ah, personally I had my own particular
213 view, ah, and really it only reflected Division 7, and, in other words, let's say if this
214 group, had, identified a candidate, that ah, that, I know the background that's not gonna
215 be, ah friendly, to our business in Surfers, ah or I don't want, other president to pretend
216 that they know what's going on, which Division 7 so I think, it's more of ah, attendance
217 in dah, the meetings, to ensure that, nobody encroaches on Surfers Paradise and without,
218 our Chamber, ah, ah being involved
219
220 KB So there was general consensus is it fair to say that that like-minded candidates should be
221 supported
222
223 TT I think, ahh, general consensus, within their own Divisions, ah so, well let me go back to
224 that meeting the-the essence at the end of the meeting, when I ask about Division 7, what
225 candidate did they have in mind, knowing already the four that dominated, ah, and ah
226 really, they didn't identify which one of the four, and the wording was that, in that case
227 we let the cards for' ah fall where it may, within Division 7, and once, that decision that
228 was taken that-that view was taking, then, our Chamber point of view is right, ah, yeh let
229 them run and-and I've never attend another meeting, after that meeting
230
231 KB Were there any minutes or other records kept of what was discussed, during, those
232 combined meetings
233
234 TT I think ah this matter wasn't, wasn't crystallise, to be on the agenda ah, I-I think it was
235 just a general discussion and-and dissatisfaction, it's not like a ah, an issue where ah the-
236 the traffic problem ah, in Surfers Paradise or, should we have a cruise ship terminal, or
237 ahm, or, a other issue that's so specific that, we, would put it on the table I don't believe
238 that ah it was (ui) agenda going, right, like-manded candidates, on the agenda, that's how
239 we gonna budget for it or, or manoeuvre it I, I don't believe that was on the agenda
240
241 KB Can you tell who ran in Division 7
242
243 TT Yeah ahn would be ah ah, at the time Max CHRISTMAS ah, Sue DOUGLAS, Jim
244 McINALLY, and, one other, don't recall her name
245

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246 KB Did Councillor POWER or any other, councillors or candidates attend the combined
247 Chamber of Commerce meetings at all, when like-minded candidates, was discussed
248
249 TT No
250
251 KB So you referred, to a meeting that took place at the Gold Coast, Brew Pub
252
253 TT Yes
254
255 KB And, you have, stated that it may have been in November 2003, in any event it was before
256 the elections held in March 2004
257
258 TT Yes
259
260 KB Can you tell me the [sighs] names of the people, who were in attendance during that
261 meeting
262
263 TT Okay I, I, I can't recall all, but ah the ones that, I can recall would be ah Brian ROWE,
264 John LANGE, ah I think Ian SOLOMON, may have been there, Bob JANSSEN, myself,
265 ahh, of course ah David POWER – could be a couple of others that ah, that are not,
266 boisterous only can remember the loud ones (ui)
267
268 KB Whose idea was it to hold that, particular meeting
269
270 TT I don't recall that
271
272 KB What was the purpose of the meeting
273
274 TT The purpose of the meeting for me is ah to give us an update, ah of – of this, idea of the,
275 the ah, the like-minded candidates ah, to see whether it's got momentum
276
277 KB Who-who was giving you that idea but because bear in mind that was discussed at the
278 combined Chamber, of Commerce meeting
279
280 TT Hmm hmm
281
282 KB So
283
284 TT I'd (ui) if I have to, I-I don't recall exactly but if I have to go, well by a weighting of it
285 whose, who, were pushin' more I would say ahmm ahh Coomera John LANGE would've
286 because ahm, h-he, the, they're, they had more to ahm [tuts], more to push for because
287 they're more satisfied with the current councillor
288
289 KB So in all probability

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290
291 TT [Over talking] But (ui) they were more motivated then, some of the others
292
293 KB In all, why were they more motivated do you know
294
295 TT Well because they're dissatisfied with Peter YOUNG, for whatever reason
296
297 KB So in all probability it could've been, John LANGE that, organised that particular
298 meeting
299
300 TT Probably
301
302 KB Do you know, the circumstances, how David POWER got involved, in that meeting
303
304 TT Ahn, I would say John would 've ah invited him
305
306 KB John LANGE
307
308 TT Yes
309
310 KB Now, John LANGE was connected with a candidate Brian ROWE are you aware of that
311 at all
312
313 TT Yes
314
315 KB Brian ROWE was also at the meeting you said
316
317 TT I think so but, you know – I'd, because his name's been brought up ah a few times so,
318 just, recalling that he was but, you know if you say, no actually he wasn't I wouldn't be
319 surprised either
320
321 KB Alright, so do you know why David POWER was there after all that, what you've said
322
323 [Coughing]
324
325 TT Whether or not ahhh – whether or not – he could get, more support, more funding
326 perhaps, I mean it, I can't see any other reason, ah you know if, if there's, otherwise
327 there's no, there's no point, telling everyone about, your, your game plan, ah if they're
328 not, wanting something in return but that is support whether it's in kind or in ah, in ah
329 funding, that's, my view of it
330
331 KB Did, Councillor David POWER during that meeting, make reference to, funding like-
332 minded candidates, for the election
333

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334 TT Funding issue was, raised, ah, but who raised it, I don't recall
335
336 KB Can you recall what, Councillor David POWER spoke about during that meeting
337
338 TT Only in general terms, that ah, that ahm, the momentum's built and that ah, there are,
339 like-minded candidates 've been running and that there'll be ah, ah, ah-ah-a f' a pool of
340 funds, that will ah help, ahm – help all these candidates
341
342 KB Like-minded candidates
343
344 TT (Ui)
345
346 KB That's a term he used
347
348 TT Hell, that's a hard one you know I don't know if I picked it up on the Bulletin or him or
349 whether it's current, but ahm, I'd, I – it were, let me put this way, the, the term wasn't
350 used was the ticket, or group they were not used so, was it ah did they use that to, to
351 paint the picture, I think so
352
353 KB Were there any records or minutes kept of that particular meeting
354
355 TT No [music in background] – can I just turn that off I, forgot
356
357 KB Sure .. so going back to this meeting, that was held in the Gold Coast, Brew Pub, if I can
358 just direct your attention to, funding which we've touched upon briefly
359
360 TT Huh huh
361
362 KB What's your recollection about funding, at that meeting the discussion about funding
363
364 TT The-the main source of funding ah, is really from ahm, the top end of town what I mean
365 by top end of town, is large business owner, ah and, ah developers, they're the one with
366 the money, you wouldn't go 'n door knock ah, ah, a photocopy shop or ah, a butcher
367
368 KB Can you recall, what David POWER said in relation, to obtaining funding from the top of
369 town did he speak about that
370
371 TT I'm not sure if he, he, direct that or whether, somebody else, ah but, I was advised that
372 ah, ah – the funding available will be sizeable, and it's building up, so but whether ah, it
373 came from David or, one of the other presidents I don't know
374
375 KB Were any specific developers mentioned that may be able to contribute to this, funding of
376 like-minded candidates
377

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378 TT I don't I don't recall that all-all I could say is that ah, ah - I just, presume, the large
379 developers that I know, ah will be targeted, but, whether the name was ah, was
380 highlighted, ah at that meeting, I don't recall that
381
382 KB Who were some of those developers that, you knew that, may have been targeted
383
384 TT [Over talking] (Ui) the SUNLAND ah RAY GROUP, RAPTIS, ahm, so
385
386 KB Were they mentioned at the meeting
387
388 TT I don't I don't re' because, it's, it's no need to, for me there's no need to discuss because
389 I, I know whose gonna be, targeted you know 'n be, you know just have to, look at the
390 local press to know whose got money (ui)
391
392 KB So just so I'm clear on this point funding the issue of funding was discussed at this
393 meeting, and developers ref' were referred to as, coming from the top end of town that
394 may be able to contribute to funding like-minded candidates but you can't recall, who
395 specifically spoke, about the issue of funding
396
397 TT No I can't
398
399 KB That, that's correct correct me if I've got it, wrong
400
401 TT Yes, you-you got it right
402
403 KB Is there anything else that you can recall at this meeting about, funding the issue of
404 funding
405
406 TT Yes because ahm, because the comment was, put that, ahh Division 7 the cards for (ui)
407 may, ah, then, Division 7, was not gonna be part of the, or recipient, to any of that
408 funding - ah well because I'm looking at, there's a pie being, you know we gonna get a
409 cut of it, and, but at the time I didn't want to d' really direct, any funding to any
410 individual, candidate at-at the time
411
412 KB You-self personally
413
414 TT Personally yeah
415
416 KB Ah as in your donation is that what you're referring to
417
418 TT Ahm, whether it's my donation or whether putting my hand up to say, hey listen we
419 should really, look into this friendly candidate from Division 7 and you should ah
420 earmark some money for him, so I'm saying that, we'd, we didn't, it didn't result from

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421 that – so because we're not gonna be part of getting any the money ah we meaning,
 422 Division 7, ah really is like, well do what you like
 423
 424 KB Alright so going back to Councillor David POWER you stated before he, provided some
 425 kind of presentation at that meeting
 426
 427 TT Just a verbal
 428
 429 KB A verbal presentation
 430
 431 TT Yes, vision ah, of ah, city vision of other candidates (ui) current problem ahh whose, who
 432 has been (ui) candidates perhaps
 433
 434 KB Hmm hmm
 435
 436 TT That sorta thing
 437
 438 KB Did he nominate, who would fall, into the category of like-minded candidates
 439
 440 TT He may have I'm I don't I don't recall that, I would say, yeah I'd, I'd say so but whether
 441 the, all those candidates are identified at the time, already ah, maybe only, part, not, not
 442 full
 443
 444 KB Can you recall, whom some of those candidates were, that were mentioned
 445
 446 TT No (ui) because I'd, mainly, er-er no, no longer of interest to me
 447
 448 KB How long did this meeting last for
 449
 450 TT Ahh an hour plus
 451
 452 KB And what was resolved, at the end of that meeting what was the outcome of that meeting
 453
 454 TT Ahm resolve I think ahh, that, they'll continue, with the ah, with raising the funding to, to
 455 incorporate these, candidates ah, and for my mind ah, resolved that ah Surfers Paradise
 456 stay out of it, because Division 7 is, they're not interested, (ui) good
 457
 458 KB So, the candidates in Division 7 weren't interested in, running
 459
 460 TT No I'd the-the, candidates running at the time on, in, in Division 7, they were not
 461 interested to thinking that ah they could, be part of it
 462
 463 KB Park of the like-minded candidates
 464

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465 TT Yes
466
467 KB So they wanted to, maintain their independence
468
469 TT [Over talking] Not – yeah and, and I didn't really, try to coerce anyone there because,
470 they're, there was no – there was no poor candidates let's say for instance if there was a,
471 poor candidate ah, like the previous election, and ah, with, dubious background and looks
472 like he's gonna get up, well then you, then you're a bit more motivated to, ah ensure that
473 somebody else has a good chance
474
475 KB And by the end of this meeting Councillor, David POWER was in full a, agreeance with
476 supporting like-minded candidates and, to ah try to, obtain funding from the top end of
477 town, from developers
478
479 TT Whether he himself directly or, or ah his supporters, I think that's, that's (ui) ahead
480
481 KB But he was agreeable to that idea that plan
482
483 TT I think so
484
485 KB In your opinion
486
487 TT Yes
488
489 KB Did anything else arise from that meeting, that you think may be of relevance ..
490
491 TT No I don't recall anything else
492
493 KB When the issue of funding was discussed, was there any mention of how this funding,
494 would be collected or where it would be
495
496 TT Not at the meeting
497
498 KB Who would administer it or
499
500 TT Not at that meeting
501
502 KB You know a person by the name of Lionel BARDEN at all
503
504 TT Yes he was, at one time he's former president of Robina's Chamber of Commerce, so I
505 met Lionel through, the combined Chamber over the period
506
507 KB Was he present at that meeting you're referring to
508

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509 TT No
510
511 KB Was his name mentioned at all as a possible person, whose name could be, put behind
512 the, fund after it, the funds were or donations were collected, from various people
513
514 TT Possible but, I don't re' I, I don't, I don't care by that time so I didn't really take any note
515
516 KB The point I'm trying to make I guess, was it possible that, the Lionel BARDEN, trust
517 fund was identified at that stage
518
519 TT Mmm – possible but I-I-I don't, I don't re', because I-I've switched off by then so, I don't
520 know
521
522 KB Or-I's, I should say the Lionel BARDEN er another term used to describe it was the
523 Lionel BARDEN Common Sense, fund at all
524
525 TT I haven't heard that term
526
527 KB You haven't heard
528
529 TT No – I think, I think, that mighta been crystallised after-er subsequent meetings to that
530
531 KB But in any event, Lionel BARDEN was not present at that meeting
532
533 TT No
534
535 KB Which David POWER and a number of other people who you've mentioned attended
536
537 TT Correct
538
539 KB Is there any, reference made, to, calling the, fund if you like after donations were
540 received, POWER and ROBBINS Election Gold Coast City Council Election Campaign
541 Fund
542
543 TT [Over talking] (Ui) not at, not at that meeting absolutely not
544
545 KB So the name of the, trust or, or the fund, wasn't, discussed at that meeting
546
547 TT No I don't recall it
548
549 KB What about HICKEY LAWYERS do you know HICKEY LAWYERS at all on the Coast
550 here
551
552 TT Yeah they do work for us

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553
554 KB Do you know Tony HICKEY the principal
555
556 TT Not very well but yes I do
557
558 KB Did he have any involvement in that meeting
559
560 TT No
561
562 KB Was, his firm discussed at all as
563
564 TT No
565
566 KB The person to administer the
567
568 TT No
569
570 KB The fund
571
572 TT Not at that meeting
573
574 KB What about in relation to yourself – re your involvement with, any person, during the
575 Gold Coast City Council election campaign leading up to March 2004 did you, have any
576 in-involvement supporting any, particular candidate
577
578 TT [Over talking] Yeah I – I supported ah Max CHRISTMAS, ah, ah basically ah, out of the
579 four, he was the first one to ask me to support – so, fine
580
581 KB Did you support any other person
582
583 TT No I didn't, you can't, you can't ah, you're either in or you're out you know
584
585 KB How did you support Max CHRISTMAS
586
587 TT Ahm – (ui) comment is ah, ah, I couldn't be there so I had, a couple of booth workers on
588 the day – ahm, I donated, some money, not sure how much probably about three grand
589 something like that
590
591 KB To Max CHRISTMAS
592
593 TT Yeah
594
595 KB Did you have any involvement with Councillor Sue DOUGLAS at all
596

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597 TT No
598
599 KB You didn't support her at all
600
601 TT ... Well - no
602
603 KB So Max CHRISTMAS was the only, candidate that you
604
605 TT [Over talking] (Ui)
606
607 KB Supported 'n he in fact was the incumbent at that stage
608
609 TT [Over talking] Correct
610
611 KB If I can just refer you back [sighs] to Lionel BARDEN you said previously that, you knew
612 him, from the, Chamber of Commerce, on the Gold Coast here, can you tell me when, it
613 was decided to, use his name behind the, trust fund at all to support like-minded
614 candidates
615
616 TT I can say it'll be after this meeting ah after that meeting because it, I-I don't recall that it
617 was crystallised at all
618
619 KB That was after the meeting, possibly November 2003
620
621 TT [Over talking] (Ui)
622
623 KB Do you know, when after that meeting
624
625 TT Not, no longer involved after that meeting
626
627 KB So you didn't have any further involvement with it
628
629 TT No zero
630
631 KB Did you make any contributions at all to, the like-minded candidates, if I can use this
632 terminology trust fund
633
634 TT [Over talking] No
635
636 KB Either Lionel BARDEN trust, trust fund
637
638 TT Nah
639
640 KB Or the ROBBINS 'n POWER

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641
642 TT Nah
643
644 KB Election tran campaign
645
646 TT No
647
648 KB Fund at all no – no contributions at all
649
650 TT No, no, in kind, or in, money
651
652 KB So you cannot, say, when, Lionel BARDEN became involved with the
653
654 TT I can't
655
656 KB The fund, can you tell me when HICKEY LAWYERS became involved in the
657 administration of the fund at all
658
659 TT No my knowledge, n' – Ken my knowledge basically ceased after that meeting
660
661 KB In essence – I know you've touched upon this before but – did you generally support that
662 idea – of like-minded candidates, and I know you've referred to Division 7 but
663
664 TT [Over talking] Yeah – yeah, yeah ah – the idea of ah having a, a caucus, in council ah – is
665 better than what we have, currently errr – cause in my opinion, looking at, er the way
666 council's run I mean I-I understood that people vote, not on logic but on who they like or
667 dislike, so it's on the issue – ah it doesn't really, ahh serve ahh our city, that well, ahm
668 having a caucus, at least you know where you stand, and ah, and do I support, that idea
669 yeah I, I, I ss', I still do actually would, would-would I support the idea of a political party
670 or (ui) for council I would
671
672 KB Were you unhappy with the performance of any specific candidates at all – or any
673 particular councillors
674
675 TT It's just, it's just an overall disappointment when you when you read of ah the carrying on
676 that happens in council that is the way they, yell and abuse each other 'n how they, throw
677 (ui) paperwork over each other 'n, 'n how, they call each others name, you know, to me
678 'n, indirectly, so it's the undermining that's ah, and the unprofessional, I think that's,
679 that's what ah, started it all
680
681 KB And were you involved in any way with the, collection of any funds, after that meeting, to
682 assist any like-minded candidate, (ui) candidates
683
684 TT No

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685
686 KB Sure on that
687
688 TT Hundred percent – the only funding I did was for Max
689
690 KB What about – negative campaigns are you aware of the, the term (ui) when someone runs
691 a negative campaign
692
693 TT I know exactly, I, they, they sent a leaflet that, was, printed out, to, be handed out to,
694 undermine Peter YOUNG – ah where Brian ROWE was, running I think it's Division 2
695 I'm not exactly, that-that came out I think ahhh you need to talk to Bob JANSSEN on that
696 one, ahh president of Nerang
697
698 KB So it's fair to say there was a negative campaign mounded against, Peter YOUNG
699
700 TT [Over talking] (Ui) they do it a little different out in the west, you know
701
702 KB Yeah – right
703
704 TT Yes, the answer's yes to your question
705
706 KB Any other negative campaigns that were run
707
708 TT There probably were but, I didn't pay, that much attention to, to them I mean between the
709 two mayoralty they, they blast each other I mean that's politics and ah, but the one that
710 stood out was, being in writing and handing it out but, that's ah, pushing the line quite a
711 bit
712
713 KB Do you know a person by the name of Chris MORGAN – from QUADRANT at all
714
715 TT No
716
717 KB Have you had any dealings with QUADRANT, do you know who they are
718
719 TT No
720
721 KB Advertising marketing firm at Robina, 'kay
722
723 TT I, never used them
724
725 KB So in summary – your view – of this meeting held at, the Gold Coast, Brew Pub
726
727 TT Hmm hmm
728

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729 KB In November maybe 2003 – you think that’s, where, the concept of like-minded
730 candidates, was not necessarily, born but, was started to be, become crystallised at that
731
732 TT I agree with that
733
734 KB Yeah is that, a fair way to describe it
735
736 TT Yeah
737
738 KB Because you said previously, the concept, really came up in previous combined Chamber
739 meetings
740
741 TT Mmm
742
743 KB But, after that specific meeting
744
745 TT I think, I think that’s the turning point
746
747 KB That was the turning point
748
749 TT That’s, that’s when it gets serious I think
750
751 KB Yeah – and from then on, you didn’t have anything to do with it you said
752
753 TT No because ahm, no
754
755 KB Is there anything else that you wish to say about ah any matter, that, maybe relevant to
756 what I’ve, discussed here with you today or any other relevant matter
757
758 TT W’ahhh – not really I just, personal opinion that’s all I’ll keep it to myself
759
760 KB Lucinda
761
762 LO No thanks
763
764 KB Well thank you for your time, ah
765
766 TT [Over talking] (Ui)
767
768 KB Mr TATE today, do you agree that, what you’ve told me during this interview is true and
769 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief
770
771 TT Nine hundred percent
772

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773 KB And are you satisfied with the way this interview has been conducted
774
775 TT Yes very nice
776
777 KB That being the case the time now is 1:11 pm on the afternoon of, Wednesday the Second
778 day of November 2005 this interview is concluded
779
780 [TAPE ENDS]

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