

OP

**RECORD OF INTERVIEW -
RAY STEVENS**

EXHIBIT No. 224
.....CLERK

TAPE NO: 1 (of 2)

DATE: 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

PLACE: GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL

TIME COMMENCED: 09:20

TIME CONCLUDED: 10:10

INTERVIEWEE: RAY STEVENS

INTERVIEWER/S: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

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: RAY STEVENS
Legal Officer: THERESA HAMILTON
File Number: MI-05-2482
Directory :

COPY TAPE 1 OF 2 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN RAY STEVENS AND
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT
COMMISSION

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

RS = RAY STEVENS

KB = DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

UI = UNINTELLIGIBLE

1 KB The time now is 9:26 am on the morning of Friday the Thirtieth day of September 2005
2 I'm present in the office of a Mr Ray STEVENS, who is attached to the Mayor's office
3 Gold Coast City Council and I intend to conduct an audio recorded interview with Mr
4 STEVENS in relation to a matter that the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently
5 investigating pertaining to the Gold Coast City Council and elections, of 2004, for the
6 purposes of voice identification I'll ask every person present here starting with myself to
7 state their full and correct name my full name is Kenneth William BEMI, I am a
8 Detective Inspector of Police currently performing duties at the Crime and Misconduct
9 Commission in Brisbane
10
11 RS My name is Raymond Alexander STEVENS born first of February 1953 my current
12 employment here at the Gold City Council as ah Mayor's Executive Assistant
13
14 KB What I intend to do today Mr STEVENS is to interview you about this matter in the form
15 of an audio recorded interview, and by that I mean, whatever you say or I say will be
16 recorded, as we speak, do you clearly understand that
17
18 RS I clearly understand and (ui) and completely agree with the same
19
20 KB Thank you do you require any other person to be present here with you during this
21 interview
22
23 RS [Over talking] No I don't, no
24
25 KB Can you please state your current address
26
27 RS My current address is 20 Fitzwilliam Street Carrara and I've been at that address since
28 June of this year, in premises that I am currently renting
29
30 KB And you mentioned that your current position here Executive Assistant, to the Mayor Mr
31 CLARKE

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32
33 RS Correct
34
35 KB How long have you held that position for
36
37 RS I've held that position since May 2004
38
39 KB Can you tell me what that duty – entails
40
41 RS Ah, the duty, is basically assisting the Mayor in ah, 'n ah carrying out his mayoral duties
42 ah which may include, ah correspondence which may include, ah matters of investigation
43 into ah issues before the council, ah it may include following up, on, with residents ah
44 that he doesn't have the time to follow up on, ah it's generally ah, ah taking some of the
45 wor' workload from the Mayor
46
47 KB In other words you're the Mayor's assistant hence Executive Assistant
48
49 RS Correct
50
51 KB Are you responsible for the supervision of any staff at all
52
53 RS Yes I am officially under the administration I'm ah, ah responsible for the staff in the
54 what they call er ah in the mayoral support group ah which is currently at, ahm, 4 staff
55
56 KB And what positions do those 4 staff hold
57
58 RS We have ah 2 personal assistants to the Mayor, ah if you like a number 1 and number 2
59 personal assistant, we have the Mayor's ahm, er sort've ah her official title, is Research
60 Officer, ah and ah and speech writer type of thing, and the thir' the ah the fourth person,
61 has ah really just become a permanent position with the Mayor's office in terms of she's
62 the secretariat to ah a number of advisory boards that the council has which is handled
63 through the, Mayor's office
64
65 KB Prior to assuming, your current position here, what duties did you perform - or what role
66 were you in prior to becoming the, Mayor's Executive Assistant
67
68 RS Ah-ah I've been in private enterprise since 1997 ah I was formerly with ah Local
69 Government ahm I have ah a my own, ah, my private company, ahm I have ah which has,
70 other, clients which ah, I was allowed to continue, ahm when I took the position on
71
72 KB May I ask what that company is
73
74 RS Yes it's called R-A-S Enterprises Pty Ltd it's just a small family company
75

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76 KB And you were a former Mayor here on the Gold Coast
77
78 RS Correct I was Mayor of Albert Shire, in 19 for '94, after the amalgamation of the Albert
79 Shire and the Gold Coast I became the Mayor of the first Mayor of the new Gold Coast
80 from 95 to 97
81
82 KB You agree, yesterday, we had a telephone conversation and arrangements were made to
83 conduct this interview here today with you
84
85 RS Yes I do correct
86
87 KB Can you recall what that conversation was just generally
88
89 RS Yes ah it was in relation to [sighs] matters ah particularly in ah relation to the – ah bi-
90 election that was held – in ah – ah-oo
91
92 KB January 2005
93
94 RS January 2005-09-30
95
96 KB And – on my recollection I actually outlined ah, I wanted to talk to you about that and
97 issues surrounding the bi-election in particular whether any approaches were made to any
98 candidates at all
99
100 RS Correct
101
102 KB From yourself
103
104 RS Correct
105
106 KB As I said earlier on the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently conducting an
107 investigation, and it's spelt in the terms of reference
108
109 RS I think you said Ron then
110
111 KB Sorry
112
113 RS I think you said Ron – Ron's down the end there, I'm Ray
114
115 KB Nah – no sorry I don't know if I mentioned your name (ui) [laughter] I think you might
116 have miss-heard
117
118 RS Ron, I'm sorry I
119

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120 [Laughter]
121
122 KB That's okay, I apologise if I did
123
124 RS Yeah it's [laughingly]
125
126 KB Ah as I said earlier on the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently, undertaking
127 an investigation, that's ah, been outlined in the terms of reference which I don't know if
128 you've had the opportunity
129
130 RS [Over talking] Yes I have, yes I have
131
132 KB To read at all so you understand what the nature of the enquiries are
133
134 RS Correct
135
136 KB Perhaps if I can start off – during the [sighs] March 2004 elections held on the Gold
137 Coast here, did you have any knowledge of a campaign fund, for, certain candidates, that
138 were running, in that March election
139
140 RS Yeah none whatsoever I didn't have any ah, ah knowledge or ah involvement in 2004, ah
141 local government election campaigns, at all in terms of ah, it was probably of no interest
142 to me, I had just completed, a State election in the February of 2004 where I'd run, ah for
143 the State seat of Gaven, under the Liberal Party banner and had been unsuccessful, and ah
144 I took no interest or no part, whatsoever with any ah, any matters relating to the election
145 of 2004
146
147 KB So you certainly weren't running as a candidate
148
149 RS Absol' [over talking]
150
151 KB Ah for-for the local elections here
152
153 RS [Over talking] (Ui)
154
155 KB For the State elections you were
156
157 RS Yeah – absolutely correct ah my only involvement, was to give ah the then Ron
158 CLARKE, a phone call to wish him the best 'n to give him my considered opinion that he
159 was going to win the election in a canter
160
161 KB Did you provide any other assistance to Mr CLARKE at all in (ui)
162

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163 RS [Over talking] None whatsoever and I ha' really, ah hardly knew I'd met him a couple of
164 times over the years through Coran Cove, ah I think I'd met him while I was Mayor and
165 he was doin' ah proposing, ah to get a race track a running track over at Coran Cove or
166 Runaway Bay I'm sorry, ahm but I really didn't know him that well at all but it was just
167 ah, ah a phone call of ah to give him a bit of support 'n ah, 'n lift his spirits I suppose
168 comin' into an election
169
170 KB Did you have knowledge of any election fund
171
172 RS [Over talking] None
173
174 KB Whilst you were running
175
176 RS Absolutely none
177
178 KB Have you any – knowledge as to who administered the fund, at all
179
180 RS No absolutely none
181
182 KB What candidates accessed that fund
183
184 RS No, absolutely none
185
186 KB Knowledge of a, proposed ticket running for council at all
187
188 RS No, none whatsoever
189
190 KB Knowledge of a power block in council
191
192 RS Absolutely none -
193
194 KB So to summarise, ah your knowledge of any, election funding for candidates during that
195 election, locally I'm talking about on the Gold Coast here you have not got any
196 knowledge at all
197
198 RS None
199
200 KB And you certainly, weren't aware of the existence of any fund at that stage
201
202 RS No – I really had, nothing at all to do with the 2004, election and was really only like
203 thousands of other Gold Coasters ah interested spect'tor
204
205 KB Did you have any dealings with, a printing company QUADRANT at all
206

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207 RS No
208
209 KB Do you know that company at all (ui)
210
211 RS [Over talking] I do know of the company they approached us ah to do the, ah media work
212 ah when I was pra' the proponent for a cable car in the hinterland a number of years ago
213 they live at Mudgeeraba, they work out at Mudgeeraba, the principal was a fellow called
214 Chris MORGAN, who happened to be on the same, hinterland tourism ahm committee
215 promoting tourism in the hinterland that I was, in 1998
216
217 KB [Over talking] (Ui)
218
219 RS He was he was, chasing our business if you like
220
221 KB Did you employ, the services of QUADRANT with your own campaign at all
222
223 RS No, I've never had any business dealings with QUADRANT we didn't even, look at
224 them, a second time, for the cable car, but I do know of him
225
226 KB Is there anything else that you'd like to comment on, in relation to the, Gold Coast City
227 Council elections in March 2004 just any general information that you think may be of
228 assistance
229
230 RS Mmm - no not really cause I-I gotta say ah it was aah an election that I, didn't take, any
231 interest in I suppose I was probably
232
233 KB [Over talking] Obviously you were busy running your own campaign
234
235 RS A little bit disappointed ah on the outcomes of the February, ah State election, ahm, and
236 ah you know I sort've ah, you know just couldn't be ah get inspired or interested in-in ah
237 the whole process at that particular point in time
238
239 KB And in fact the majority of time leading up to those elections in March, you were no
240 doubt pre-occupied with your own election campaign
241
242 RS [Over talking] Oh totally - absolutely totally ah-dah we-we, we went right up until
243 February the I don't know sixth it was early February sixth or thirteenth whenever the
244 election was, and ah we really went flat out on that ah I suppose ah the ah, it-it's-it's a
245 major, let down when you're a loser, after an election ah I've had it a couple of times now
246 I lost the 97 election as well, although I got to say that sorta, faired a little better for me
247 because the week after this 97 election I was out doing my cable car - and ah that took
248 me a couple of years to do that and ah, then I was devastated when that was knocked
249 down by the government so, ah there is a major, let down, and of you know I took no
250 interest in March whatsoever other than just to make the phone call

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251
252 KB Perhaps if I can direct your attention to, the bi-election
253
254 RS [Over talking] Yeh [spoken softly]
255
256 KB That was held in January 2005 here
257
258 RS Correct
259
260 KB As a result, of the death of the late, Sue ROBBINS who was, the councillor for that ah
261
262 RS Division
263
264 KB Ah Division – and that was down Currumbin way
265
266 RS Yes
267
268 KB Can you explain if any your role in the bi-election
269
270 RS Ah I basically, was an interested party, as t' oppose to, the 2004, no interest whatsoever,
271 ah through my role as the Mayor's Executive Assistant, I suppose in some ways I have to
272 be the ears and eyes, of what's happening around the council – and the directions things
273 are taking and who are likely ah candidates who are likely winners, and ah the effect that
274 may have on, the views that the ah the successful candidate may have, ah for the council,
275 so I did take an active interest in the 2005 bi-election although I took no involvement,
276 quite clearly because of my, ah position in the Mayor's office which I recognise as a, a
277 very ahm, ah important, ah independent office, that cannot, and does not take any,
278 political, ah sides, in any shape or form, so I had no, involvement in the 2005 election at
279 all, with any candidates, ah, or you know or any, matters or, pertaining to the result of that
280 election
281
282 KB Did you know who the candidates were
283
284 RS Absolutely
285
286 KB Could you outline those for me please
287
288 RS Aah no not all of them I can remember some of them, ah I can remember James KELLY,
289 ah because he worked in an office just down the hall from me, ah, not the current position
290 there, ah further down, on my way to the toilets to be honest er which I pass regularly, I'd
291 known James KELLY ah from his Channel 9, reporting days, and to be honest when I
292 came to council I was quite surprised to see him in here, ahm, he actually interviewed me
293 several times during the 2004 election so I knew James KELLY, ah I knew, ah Chris
294 ROBBINS was running, eventually there was humming and arring about it but, she was a

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295 relation of Sue's a sister-in-law as I understood it – ah but I, had only, ah sorta, nodded to
296 her – ahm, at f' at the funeral Sue ROBBINS and my, you know knowledge of her was
297 very very limited only, I knew that ah you know she carried the ROBBINS' name of
298 course, ahm, I knew there was a Kelly TRIGGER running, for the Labor Party, ah Kelly
299 I'd sort've, just no I didn't really know but I'd sorta, run into her as terms of a ah, [sighs]
300 she was a ah, you know, Labor Party candidate for a different State I think in Federal
301 elections – ah Peter TURNER the former Deputy Mayor – of Gold Coast ah Council and
302 a friend of mine, he ah heads Kirra Surf, he ah, had a friend of his whom I can't
303 remember her name running, ah he asked, me could she talk to me I mean I had several
304 people ringing and saying you know, what's happening whose going on s-who were the
305 candidates, but I can't remember her name to be honest, ahm, ahm, but it was a friend of
306 Peter TURNER's, aah who else ran – ohh there was the Citizens for Democracy people I
307 think, we thought for a-a good while that the doctor Karen COATES was gonna run, ahh
308 but she didn't run
309

310 KB She was from the Liberal Party was he

311
312 RS No Karen COATES was ah, [clears throat] ah a serious, I don't know aware, (ui) I really
313 didn't know her, but ahh I'd sorta kept an eye basically ahh she was ah Sue ROBBINS's
314 former opponent, and it was over a-a doctor's surgery in hinterland or something like that
315 so, ahh
316

317 KB Operating from home (ui) [over talking]

318
319 RS Yes I think it was yeah, so I-I thought she was going to run ahm – [exhales] wha' ah – I
320 can't even think of who the Greens were I think it was Inga LIGHT – Inga LIGHT – I'm-
321 I'M not sure – but – yeah the so, there was a few at about, 6 or 8
322

323 KB What about a person Niree CHRISTIANSEN did you know her at all -

324
325 RS No – whose I, no
326

327 KB Niree – Niree
328

329 RS Niree no
330

331 KB Yeah – yeah – actually she wasn't um, she wasn't a candidate ah – in the – bi-election she
332 was a candidate, actually the, two thou' March 2004 elections
333

334 RS Oh okay
335

336 KB Yeah – just in reflection
337

338 RS Yeah

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339
340 KB But you didn't know her in any event
341
342 RS Nnn
343
344 KB What about a person by the name of Irene WARRING
345
346 RS I've, known of the name Irene WARRING and I think I've – confronted her I (ui) never
347 been, sorta officially introduced but she is are, a very vocal critic of the council ahh she
348 ee' – did she I don't think she ran did she run for cri' [tinkling of china] oh for-for the-
349 the Division
350
351 KB Believe so yes
352
353 RS She did she yeah, no I ah certainly haven't spoken to Irene WARRING [telephone rings
354 in background] and ah – sorry can I just – hello – Hi Connie good I'm just tried up for the
355 moment – (ui) thanks bye [hangs up phone] I'll just put a divert to that, ah sorry about
356 that
357
358 KB You're right
359
360 RS [Over talking] (Ui)
361
362 KB Sorry back to Irene WARRING ahm, did you know her at all ah not necessarily in the bi-
363 election at all but ah
364
365 RS No I-I don't know Irene WARRING, I don't think I've spoken to her unless I have,
366 spoken to her at in the front of the council meeting ah which 's been a rabble, I don't
367 really can't remember, speaking to Irene WARRING ever, I certainly haven't met her
368 formally
369
370 KB Now
371
372 RS I know of her, you know she's quite a, you know, ah activist if you like – she comes to
373 council regularly
374
375 KB Yeah – Irene WARRING was actually ah – running in opposition I think ahm to
376 Councillor Greg BETTS and ah that was in the March 2004 elections
377
378 RS Okay
379
380 KB Yeah
381
382 RS I knew she'd been a failed candidate

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383
384 KB Yeah
385
386 RS Well I knew she wo' is a failed candidate yes so was (ui) Greg BETTS yeh
387
388 KB Any other candidates that you're aware of, in the bi-election
389
390 RS [Sighs] (Ui) Division 14
391
392 KB (Ui) yeah – that actually ran
393
394 RS Mmm – [scratching sound] - no the main ones I re' ohh there was a bloke wasn't there
395 Warren JAMES – yeah he's the nut case he ahh I saw, I passed him he was on the
396 highway at one time and he's got this sign out, he's seen standing on the highway vote for
397 me yeah, he runs regularly, yep – any others [laughs] any I (ui) [laughingly]
398
399 KB That's about all it's just, your recollection actually I
400
401 RS Yeah – yeah
402
403 KB I probably confused you a little bit with Irene WARRING and ah
404
405 RS Yeah that's okay
406
407 KB And Niree CHRISTIANSEN but that was, actually, back in March 'n-'n 2004 those
408 elections
409
410 RS [Over talking] Four
411
412 KB Yeah
413
414 RS Yeah yeah – there was a Green that ran and I'm sure it's Inga LIGHT – is it Inga LIGHT
415
416 KB I'd have to double-check on that to be honest that's ah one name that ah, I haven't seen –
417 Inga LIGHT
418
419 RS Yeah she's a constant runner of, State, Federal and Local Government, for the Greens
420
421 KB Did you provide any [sighs] any financial assistance or any other assistance to any of the
422 candidates at all that were running in that bi-election
423
424 RS [Over talking] (Ui) – bi-election absolutely not no and, I don't have the capacity, ah and
425 ah I certainly didn't
426

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427 KB Did any other councillors to the best of your knowledge, provide any financial assistance
428 to any of the candidates that were running in the bi-election
429

430 RS No, I knew ah, as it turned out, ah – [sighs] – I really – the only contact I've had, was ahh
431 with James KELLY mostly just walking past are you running are you not running that
432 sorta stuff, no I ah I don't know who, got financial assistance or, or in any matters of
433 financial assistance really I was just sorta more interested in who won it, to be honest
434 from the council's make up, and I thought Chris ROBBINS was gonna go pretty well –
435 just on the name alone
436

437 KB Now with, James KELLY you said previously that, you know him
438

439 RS Correct
440

441 KB And you knew him from his Channel 9 reporting days
442

443 RS Correct
444

445 KB So to speak – ahm and now he's employed, with, by council here, as a
446

447 RS He wa' he was then as well
448

449 KB He was then as well
450

451 RS Correct
452

453 KB In the media section
454

455 RS In the media section correct
456

457 KB And he ran as a candidate for, Division 14 as a result of that bi-election
458

459 RS Correct -
460

461 KB Did you at any stage, approach, ah James KELLY, with the offer of any financial
462 assistance, towards his election campaign at all
463

464 RS Absolutely not -
465

466 KB Can you recall having any conversation with him in relation to his election campaign
467

468 RS Absolutely correct – that I did have conversations from time to time it was quite a, a
469 ongoing process, over a number of weeks ah, probably I don't know, from December on,
470 are you running are you not ah somewhere along the line he ah, I know someone

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471 mentioned that he was gonna be a candidate – and ah which I thought was pretty strange,
472 being a, council employee, ahh it's, very very tricky to run as a council employee – ah
473 fortunately he wasn't running against the councillor, so ah he didn't get anyone off-side
474 but we've had it in the past other times when council ee-employees have thought gee, that
475 guy's a moron I can run against him, and it makes for a very difficult work place
476 afterwards obviously in particularly in someone working in the media so, yeah I had an
477 interest there ahh and where he was at and ah even his background you know ahh, ahm,
478 you know how he fitted in and why he would want to run as a councillor and so sorts of
479 things I suppose we talked, and ah he just felt that he could do it you know 'n that sorta
480 stuff, and ahm – you know I supp he um, (ui) from, he might've questioned me a couple
481 of times on what he thought his chances 'id be and ahh I – you know I didn't really know,
482 that much about Division 14 ahm but, you know I asked him a few questions, and to be
483 quite honest I thought he was a very poor candidate and he'd have great difficulty
484

485 KB Who instigated the conversation with him did you

486
487 RS Ohh

488
489 KB Approach him or did he approach you
490

491 RS Oh-oh 'll, we had a lot of conversations not just one I mean ah every time I sorta go past
492 the toilet I'd find out, someone would've told me that hey James KELLY is a possible
493 candidate, and I would've said ahh something along the lines as hey James you running
494 for council, just, as any matter of interest, and oh could be or might not be that went on
495 for probably a month or two, really ahh what are you doing ah are you havin' a go or not
496 'n it was just of interest to me, that someone in the same ah office was running – and ah
497 [sighs] you know they were all sorta I suppose he'd say ah who do you, you know who do
498 you think 's running and that sorta thing and ah what about ah is Sue, you know, oh I
499 think we all thought the doctor was, was, would be the favourite, Doctor Karen
500 COATES, ah cause she'd had gone very well ahh in the last election against Sue
501 ROBBINS, ahh, so in terms of instigation, ah I mighta said, are you running – ah but after
502 that it was just, I'd, you know a genuine, interaction of ah conversation on many
503 occasions

504
505 KB So (ui) go back ah, to what, I touched upon before did you offer him any specific advice
506 in relation to how he should run his election campaign
507

508 RS Absolutely not
509

510 KB At any stage did you, contact him to come into your office at all to, discuss, his, running
511 as a candidate
512

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513 RS [Over talking] No I didn't contact, he popped into my office after hours one time I think
514 he was a little concerned about whether he'd be running or not, but I-I-I can remember
515 one time he came in sat exactly where you are -
516

517 KB You can't recall you, phoning him for him to come into your office, at all [over talking]
518

519 RS No I can't
520

521 KB Ah you can't recall could that, could it have happened or, you're saying that no it didn't
522 happen
523

524 RS Ahhh I wouldn't 've called him over I wouldn't of thought I would've ah talked to him
525 there or ah I would've said hey, you know if we're talking about the thing and he was
526 running or not I might've said hey well, you know, pop in when you're ready or
527 somethin' like that but I, can't remember phoning him to say come on over to my office
528 'n, and request him to come in

530 KB At any stage did you tell him that a certain, amount of money was available to help his
531 election campaign if he, wanted it
532

533 RS Absolutely not, and ah we had this matter raised before I had a call from Fiona
534 HAMILTON of the Bulletin, and she said Ray I understand you're bank-rolling James
535 KELLY - and I said absolutely [laughingly] not - and ah I raised the matter with James -
536 I'd said hey where did this story come from, and he said, I don't know he said ah, I said
537 (ui) I said when did I ever offer you money and he said to me you haven't - I said James,
538 you asked me what it would take, ah I went through his credentials, I said how long have
539 you been living on the coast, and ahh he like (ui) short time I don't know 6 weeks or
540 something like that that he'd been living in his current address at Currumbin or whatever
541 it was or a couple of month I can't even remember what it was, I said oh you, you married
542 oh I got a partner, ah I said oh so ah, where are your community groups or your
543 associations surf clubs or anything like that down there, ah, mind you I don't really know
544 the guy that well you know other than, as an interviewer from the television station, so he
545 said oh no not really don't know anyone there I said well you know you, it's gonna be
546 really difficult for you down there to get, you know a certain amount of ah groups cause
547 as a candidate for council you have a, ah if you're known in your area you'd have a th', a
548 thousand, people that would know you, and vote for you cause they know your face or
549 whatever, I think James might've been going on the fact that he was are a television, in
550 his own mind or television, star ah a fact that he's done some interviews but the reality is
551 no one, recognises who does television interviews, they'd know the Rob READINGS 'n
552 the, (ui) KRANOWSKI's but, whoever does the interview no one really knows so, I
553 would've said I said well mate you're gonna need a fairly little packet, to get along and
554 do this thing and ah you know you need about twenty-five grand, to ah run that side of
555 campaign to get you up - and I would've, told that I mean that [hand clap] you know
556 that's I would've said for sure, but never - did I, say I would, help him or would I get

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557 anyone else to help, cause again I repeat, I thought he was a hopeless candidate I thought
558 he had no chance – and ah unfortunately ah what happened ah after that, James got into
559 bed with two other candidates, like-minded candidates [hand clap] and that's where the
560 story ah came back to me but, when I, asked him about it cause I was really upset that
561 Fiona HAMILTON from the Bulletin, had called me and said hey you're funding
562 candidates I'dn't any involvement whatsoever [hand clap] I said what's the bottom of this
563 story, anyway, obviously I [hand clap] I got led to James KELLY and I said whe', when-
564 when did I offer you money he said you never offered me money – so, if he's saying I
565 have now he's changed his story again
566
567 KB And where did this conversation take place with him that, you-you said to him that you
568 would need twenty-five thousand dollars
569
570 RS Here [hand clap]
571
572 KB (Ui) in your office or
573
574 RS Yeah
575
576 KB Outside or
577
578 RS Probably here
579
580 KB In-in the office
581
582 RS Yeah
583
584 KB Right
585
586 RS Yeah when he came over I'd say in that evening [hand clap] and he wanted to run through
587 he said oh I think I'm gonna run you know this sorta stuff
588
589 KB And you didn't call him over, to your office to speak with you
590
591 RS No – no [over talking]
592
593 KB He just came in did he
594
595 RS Yeah, yeah
596
597 KB He said yeah I-I'd – (ui)
598
599 RS I think I had a couple of them we're going back, here wa-away (ui) I think we had a
600 couple of talks

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601
602 KB This would've been in December 2004 because the bi-election was held in January 2005-
603 09-30
604
605 RS Well it would've been December hmm - yeah
606
607 KB When you said about him getting into bed with like-minded candidates you just
608 mentioned before what-what was that, about
609
610 RS They had a preference it was in the paper, and he was doing a preference wha' with what
611 we call, the three lower key, type, it wasn't Kelly TRIGGER 'n it wasn't Chris ROBBINS
612 - it wasn't ah who else were there there were three of them and I can't even remember
613 who they were - and I can't even remember whether it was actually 3 it could've been 4
614 but there were 3 of them that called themselves like-minded and were swapping
615 preferences - there was a story in the Bulletin on that
616
617 KB And you're not quite sure who they are
618
619 RS Nmm I think erh I was gonna say Irene WARRING but she wasn't a candidate but it, I
620 can't remember who they were
621
622 KB You made mention of a newspaper article - ah and Fiona HAMILTON approaching you
623 - or she contacted you
624
625 RS She contacted
626
627 KB By phone I take it
628
629 RS Correct
630
631 KB And she basically - put it to you - whether
632
633 RS You're funding the campaign your organising
634
635 KB [Over talking] You were specifically funding, certain candidates
636
637 RS Correct
638
639 KB Right - and those candidates were -
640
641 RS [Sighs] I don't think she mentioned any candidate - ahm I don't thin' I think she said are
642 you organising, part of the campaign I can't remember if she said (ui) - was it Ja' no she
643 never mentioned James KELLY
644

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645 KB She didn't specifically mention James KELLY
646
647 RS No
648
649 KB What about Kelly TRIGGER
650
651 RS No, no, no – I mean she's a Labor Party girl I mean I, I don't even know Kelly really – I
652 don't even know if she said are you funding – any particular person, I mean I think the,
653 Fiona's comments were – ah did you offer a candidate, a candidate, ah money to run
654 their cam' and I think it was a bigger figure I think it was about forty grand
655
656 KB I'm just referring to a newspaper article dated the – Twenty-First – of the First, 2005-09-
657 30
658
659 RS Yeah
660
661 KB Appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletin – and it's titled nasty campaign, I'll show you that
662 shortly but – it's a story by Fiona HAMILTON where
663
664 RS [Over talking] (Ui)
665
666 KB She claims that, she writes that 2 claim meaning candidates 2 claim that they had been
667 offered thousands in election funding before Christmas potentially from developers, I'll
668 just show you that article now
669
670 RS Yeah
671
672 KB And just invite your, comment on it
673
674 RS Yeah [shuffling of papers] – do you want the little, written bit oh no
675
676 KB Yeah (ui) take your time
677
678 RS [Over talking] Take the whole lot
679
680 KB Just yeah read through the – the whole lot if you like [shuffling of papers] – [a long
681 pause] – [shuffling of paper] –
682
683 RS (Ui) – they are funny times – [sound of movement] – [laughs] – [a long pause] – yep,
684 thank you, good (ui) [laughs]
685
686 KB So that's the article that ah
687
688 RS [Over talking] Yeh

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689
690 KB You would've been referring to before when Fiona HAMILTON – rang you and
691
692 RS She rang me probably before she wrote that article
693
694 KB Right
695
696 RS [Over talking] I would've thought
697
698 KB It would appear she would've because then it would've been in (ui) to you
699
700 RS [Over talking] Then she would've made comment, yeah
701
702 KB But, in any event
703
704 RS Obviously that would've been where the accusation, yo' know, that I got wind of the
705 accusation that I was funding candidates, and that's when I would've said to James
706 KELLY what sorta bullshit's this, or pardon me [laughs]
707
708 KB Oh, you're right
709
710 RS [Laughs] And ah – and ah at that particular point in time ah James KELLY said, well it
711 didn't come from me because you never made me so he at that particular point in time
712 said that that, accusation, was nothing to do with him
713
714 KB That's what he told you, James (ui)
715
716 RS [Over talking] That's what he told me
717
718 KB But in any event you certainly didn't approach either, James KELLY or Kelly TRIGGER
719 or any other, candidate (ui) funding
720
721 RS [Over talking] Offering money – absolutely not
722
723 KB Or saying that a certain amount of money was available, ah to their election or for their
724 election campaign
725
726 RS [Over talking] Absolutely not
727
728 KB I've had the opportunity to interview – James KELLY – previously
729
730 RS Hmm hmm
731
732 KB And what I'd like to do is just

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733
734 RS Go through his accusations
735
736 KB Ah, go through his a, ah
737
738 RS Statement
739
740 KB [Over talking] Allegate, well, it's
741
742 RS Allegations
743
744 KB Allegations or assertions
745
746 RS Assertions assertions yeah (ui)
747
748 KB Alright he – ah says that ah he, ran as a candidate in the bi-election which we know he
749 did
750
751 RS Agreed
752
753 KB In January 2005 – prior to that in about mid-December, aw early December and mid-
754 December – ha-he claims that he was telephoned by yourself – and you asked him – if
755 you could see him in your office here
756
757 RS Well I've already – clearly ahh, enunciated what happened into those matters and it
758 wasn't just a one off phone call, in fact I think he initiated coming in ah as I said before
759 after hours, because he didn't really want to be seen in work time and I, I work back
760 obviously from time to time, but we'd have many conversations about it really even
761 before that in terms of, discussing whether he would-would run or he wouldn't run
762
763 KB So can you recall making a phone call to him and (ui)
764
765 RS [Over talking] No I can't
766
767 KB Right okay and you've said that before that he (ui)
768
769 RS [Over talking] No
770
771 KB Specifically (ui) a phone call, asking him to come into the office here
772
773 RS Yeah no I can't
774

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775 KB And he claims that he would've received this phone call from yourself for about 3 or 4
776 days after, it was announced in the paper, that he was going to run as a candidate and
777 that's that time period, early to mid-December
778

779 RS Well, I do remember he was on and off for a long long time – and ahh-I, you know I don't
780 know whether he was a candidate or wasn't a candidate for a quite a while and that was,
781 the base are you gonna run James or aren't you running and that sort've stuff, and he was,
782 that's where the conversation which were many, in ahh, that ahh he'd ahh he'd chat to me
783 about whether he had the right credentials, all the rest of it
784

785 KB And – you outlined before that's basically the discussion you had with him, about his
786 credentials 'n
787

788 RS I never said he was hopeless to his face
789

790 KB No
791

792 RS But I mean
793

794 KB If he was sorta known, his profile you would've discussed
795

796 RS I asked all those questions, I said (ui) [over talking]
797

798 KB And you made the comment that you would need, at least twenty-five thousand dollars
799

800 RS Correct
801

802 KB For your election campaign
803

804 RS Correct
805

806 KB Right, it didn't go beyond that at all
807

808 RS Absolutely not
809

810 KB Correct me if I haven't summarised that correctly but
811

812 RS Oh no that's, you're right on Ken
813

814 KB (Ui)
815

816 RS I didn't have the capacity and nor would I bother as I said, I thought he was a very
817 ordinary candidate
818

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