

TOLOSAPUB00146
27/04/2022

TOLOSA
pp 00146-00183

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER M. HALL QC
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION TOLOSA

Reference: Operation E17/1221

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL, 2022

AT 2.00PM

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This transcript has been prepared in accordance with conventions used in the Supreme Court.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Darams.

MR DARAMS: Chief Commissioner, just before I ask Ms Li some more questions, just a housekeeping matter I want to deal with. Just for other reasons, Exhibit 1 needs to be renumbered Exhibit 2, Exhibit 2 needs to be renumbered Exhibit 3, and in relation to Exhibit 2 – that is, what is now
10 going to be Exhibit 2 – I wish to tender to become part of Exhibit 2, documents which are in volume 1, additional documents.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR DARAMS: Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: What are the additional documents?

MR DARAMS: So the bundle of documents I called volume 1, additional
20 documents. So they should become part of Exhibit 2.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. So Exhibit 1 is now to be Exhibit 2 and 2, Exhibit 3. Correct?

MR DARAMS: Correct.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. Just to make it clear on the record, the documents previously identified when tendered this morning which was marked as Exhibit 1 should be re-numbered as Exhibit 2, and Exhibit 2 will
30 be numbered Exhibit 3.

MR DARAMS: All right. That's all, Chief Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR DARAMS: Thank you. Now, Ms Li, before the luncheon adjournment you were being asked some questions about Mr Chidiac and what you understood he was, in terms of his services, providing to I-Prosperity. Do you remember those questions?---Yeah.
40

Now, one of the – well, as I remember your evidence, you said that Mr Gu introduced you to Mr Chidiac. Is that right?---Yeah.

On the first occasion. Did Mr Gu say anything to you to the effect that if you had any development issues you could contact Mr Chidiac?---I can't remember.

10 Did Mr Huang say anything to you to the effect that if you had any development issues you could contact Mr Chidiac?---The first occasion I received agreement.

Yeah. So you received the agreement, you had a conversation with Mr Gu or Mr Huang?---I cannot remember.

But it was one of them, wasn't it?---Should be.

When you say "should be", what you mean to say it's either one of them, that is either Mr Huang or Mr Gu, not someone else?---Not someone else.

20 So just back to this conversation with either Mr Gu or Mr Huang when they gave you the agreement, do you remember them saying anything to you to the effect that if you did have any development issues you could contact Mr Chidiac?---I can't remember.

Well, what did they tell you?---They engaged a consultant.

Yes, but what did they say you could contact Mr Chidiac for?---Anything regarding something development for I-Prosperity.

30 All right. So at least that part of the arrangement was discussed with you, anything development related to I-Prosperity.---Anything related to I-Prosperity, yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Just before you go on, would you again move closer to the microphone and speak to the microphone?

MR DARAMS: Did you ask them, that is either Mr Huang or Mr Gu, what Mr Chidiac's consultation fee was in relation to, what he was being paid for?---I think that's in the agreement.

40 Yes, but my question is slightly different. Did you ask?---I didn't ask.

You didn't ask.---I didn't ask.

You never asked either Mr Huang or Mr Gu "What's this consultation fee being paid for?"---They give agreement, nothing with a scope of work.

Sure, but my question was slightly different. Are you saying you never asked either Mr Gu or Mr Huang what this consultation fee was being paid for?---I asked them, no, they give it to me, not I give it to them.

10

No. They gave you the agreement, I understand that.---Ah hmm.

What I'm asking you is did you ask them a question, either Mr Gu or Mr Huang – just let me finish and then you can give your answer – either Mr Gu or Huang, did you ask them what the consultation fee was being for?---I did not ask.

You never had that conversation?---(NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

20 THE COMMISSIONER: You're shaking your head. Does that mean no?
---No.

You had a financial interest in the I-Prosperity venture, did you not?---I had an interest in the I-Prosperity Waterside Rhodes.

Sorry, you what?---I had an interest in the I-Prosperity Waterside Rhodes.

30 Yes. And money you had invested, the millions of dollars you say you had invested, no doubt led you to closely follow the proposed development and its financial viability. Is that right?---Sorry. Can you say that again, Commissioner?

You were interested in the financial viability of the project?---Of Rhodes Waterside, yes.

You had a very large sum of money invested?---Yes.

40 That's why you would have been keenly interested in the financial viability of the project as it went forward?---The project, yes.

Yeah. And that would include ensuring that they were getting the right consultants together?---Yes.

And that the money that was available for contributors like you was being wisely deployed- - -?---Yes.

- - - and utilised?---That's right.

And not squandered?---Yeah.

10

And so far as Mr Chidiac is concerned, you're aware, aren't you, that the arrangements in relation to which he entered into to provide services for the Rhodes project involved a very large sum of money?---But that's related to I-Prosperity.

You're aware that I-Prosperity had agreed to pay Mr Chidiac handsomely for his services. Is that right?---Yeah, that's right.

20 And because Mr Chidiac was being very well paid, you were very interested in what he was doing for the project. Is that right?---He had been engaged by I-Prosperity - - -

No. Just answer my question. Because he was being paid a very large amount of money by I-Prosperity, you were very interested in what he could do for the project?---For Rhodes, yes.

In particular, he was somebody who you thought could be very helpful to get the project approved by the council. Is that right?---You ask me?

30 I'm asking you - - -?---I don't know.

- - - that you appreciated that he was being retained, contracted by I-Prosperity, and being paid very large amounts of money to help get the project through the approval processes of the council?---Are you talking specifically Rhodes or I-Prosperity projects?

No, I'm asking you, as to your awareness. Firstly, you're aware, as you've said, that I-Prosperity had entered into a contract for the services of Mr Chidiac?---Mmm.

40

Yes?---Yeah, that's right.

Yeah. And you were very interested in what he could do for the project, you being a major contributor to the project?---So what's your question?

Yes?---What's your question?

The answer yes? You were interested in what Mr Chidiac could do for the project?---Yes.

10 Yeah. Is that right? You seem to hesitate. Is there any doubt about it?
---No, I don't know what Your Honour say, but I think we're talking about different things.

All right. Mr Chidiac was going to provide services for I-Prosperity?
---Mmm.

You knew that, didn't you?---I knew that, yeah.

20 And you were interested to know what he could do for I-Prosperity in relation to the Rhodes project?---In relation to Rhodes, yes.

And you were aware that some of the services he was providing was to try and get the Rhodes project through council and obtain the relevant approvals?---You mean providing consultant?

You knew that part of his role - - -?---Yeah.

- - - was to help get the project approved. Yes?---Yes.

30 Approved by the council?---Yes.

And you were interested in what he could do to help get the approval for the project?---I interest - - -

You were interested - - -?--- - - - what he could do.

- - - weren't you? You were interested to see what he could do for the project?---He is limited by that, what he can do.

40 Were you interested or disinterested in what Mr Chidiac could do for the project?---Do you mean I curious or - - -

No. Were you interested to find out what he could do and was doing for the Rhodes project so far as obtaining approvals from council?---I'm interested. Are you saying I'm curious or I'm interested? I'm, I'm not interested.

Oh, you're not interested?---Why I'm interested?

But you've got a heap of money - - -?---No, I have - - -

10 - - - invested in this project.---No, I have interest in a lot of project (not transcribable)

And you say, what, you put \$3 million of your own money into this project?---Uh-huh.

And you're not interested in what Mr Chidiac was there for?---So you mean I'm curious or I'm interested, because if you say I'm interested, one project going to have a lot of consultant I need to be interested in.

20 Well, you know Mr Chidiac - - -?---Yeah.

- - - provided services to get it through council.---Yes.

Yes. What services did he provide in that regard?---That's what I'm saying. They got a consultant and then they book in the meetings.

What services, to your knowledge, did Mr Chidiac perform to get this project at Rhodes through the approval process at Canada Bay Council?
---At the very beginning or - - -

30

Right through. From the beginning to the end.---I only know anything I, I related, I'm related, but the other thing I don't know.

What did he do, madam?---For example, I need to book the council meetings. I need to get a consultant, right consultant to do this kind of project. That kind of thing.

Yeah.---Yeah.

40 But how did he work with council on the project?---I don't know.

You don't know.---I have no idea.

Not interested?---How can I interested?

You were speaking to him.---Yeah.

And Mr Chidiac from time to time about the project, were you not?---Yes, we talk a lot of people time to time about the project.

10 No, I'm not talking about a lot of people. I'm talking about two people.
---Yeah, I know - - -

I'm talking about Mr Chidiac and I'm talking about Mr Tsirekas. You discussed many times with each of them the Rhodes project, did you not, over the period of time before the companies collapsed?---Before the company collapse.

You did speak to those two people many times, did you not, about the Rhodes project?---Yes.

20

And you were speaking to Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac from time to time in relation to the approval processes for the Rhodes project. Is that right?
---Yes, that's right.

Right. And you also spoke to Mr Gu about the processes going through council to obtain approvals.---Yes, that's right.

MR DARAMS: Let me check, Commissioner. Did either Mr Gu or Mr Huang tell you that if you had any issues about the development, that
30 what Mr Chidiac could do would be to lobby council on behalf of I-Prosperity?---I can't remember.

At the time – well, when you say you can't remember, you deny that they told you, either one of them, that Mr Chidiac could lobby council on behalf of I-Prosperity in relation to its development? You don't deny that.---I can't remember.

You can't remember.---I can't remember.

40 Now, you understood, didn't you though, that one of Mr Chidiac's relationships was with Mr Tsirekas?---Yeah, I saw it.

You saw it. When you say you saw it, that's because you went to meetings with Mr Chidiac and Mr Tsirekas.---Meeting?

You met with Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac - - -?---Yes.

- - - about the Rhodes development.---I met them for Rhodes development for, for - - -

10 When you met with Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac together, you were speaking to them about the Rhodes development, weren't you?---Yes.

You met them in restaurants where you spoke about the Rhodes development, didn't you?---I can't remember.

You can't remember. Do you remember going to the Sahara restaurant and meeting Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac in Burwood?---Yes.

20 Yeah. So you remember that one now. Is that right?---In Burwood, yes.

The Sahara restaurant in Burwood.---I can't remember the restaurant.

You don't remember the restaurant.---But in Burwood, yes.

In a restaurant in Burwood.---In a restaurant.

30 Okay. Well, let me come about it another way. Where do you remember in Burwood meeting Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac?---Somewhere close the shopping centre.

Okay. Well, close to the Burwood, what shopping centre?---Burwood shopping centre.

All right. Was it the Westfield?---Yeah, Westfield.

Yeah. Do you recall how many times you did that?---How many time? Once.

40 Once.---I think so. I can't remember. Maybe once, maybe twice. I can't remember.

Maybe twice. Did you ever meet Mr Tsirekas and Mr Chidiac in council's office? When I say council, I mean Canada Bay Council offices.---I can't remember. I've been there many times but I can't remember. I can't remember.

THE COMMISSIONER: You keep saying "I can't remember" over and over again. Do you have a poor memory?---I think so. I even couldn't remember my internet banking.

10 You think you have a poor memory, do you?---Yes.

Has that always been the life story of you, that you've always had a bad memory?---Because I've too many things.

Pardon?---Because I have too many things.

MR DARAMS: Now, who is Mr Daintry?---Daintry?

Yeah.---What's the name?

20

Brett Daintry.---Oh, he's a town planner.

Do you know Mr Daintry?---Brett, Brett?

Yes.---Yes.

Have you used him on any projects as a town planner before?---Yes, I did.

How long ago did you do that?---I can't remember.

30

Can you remember the project or projects?---Projects. Rhodes.

The Rhodes development?---Yeah.

When did you start using Mr Daintry on that?---Starting from design competition, I think.

Was he engaged as a consultant on the - - -?---Yeah, he is one of the consultant, that's right.

40

One of the consultants. Was he one of the consultants that – I withdraw that. What was he engaged to do?---Town planning.

Yeah. So how long did he do the town planning work on the Rhodes development for?---How long?

Yeah.---On and off.

On and off?---Yeah.

10

Was this in addition to Mr Furlong?---They are different scope of works.

Okay. So my question was did you have both of them engaged – sorry. Were both engaged at the same time?---Yeah.

Yep. And so what was Mr Daintry doing?---Town planning as well.

20 Yeah. But when you say different scopes of works, can you assist us with what scope of works Mr Daintry was doing and what Mr Furlong was doing?---Mr Daintry was at very beginning for the design competition for the jury to give the comments of the compliance of the design, and David Furlong is doing the town planning report when we submit the first and second and third planning proposal. And then Mr Daintry was doing the proposal with the State Government for the planning argument.

30 So let me understand that in terms of the chronology. Mr Daintry was engaged towards the commencement of the development, is that right? ---No. Mr Daintry was engaged for the design competition as one of the jury to give the design compliance about the competition, the design.

Okay. I understand that. So he was engaged for the purpose of the jury competition?---For the design competition, not jury competition.

Sorry, the design competition, which was at the beginning of the development project, correct?---The, yes, that's right.

40 In terms of the planning proposal or proposals submitted to Canada Bay Council, Mr Furlong was engaged to provide those services?---That's right, that's right.

Then in terms of any engagement with the state, you mean New South Wales Planning Department?---Ah hmm.

Mr Daintry came back and was involved in that process?---Mr Daintry coming back with more about the feedback to the State Government's result.

10 Sure. That's consistent with what I was suggesting to you that in terms of any correspondence or proposal submitted to Canada Bay Council, the town planner engaged for that purpose was Mr Furlong?---That's right.

Now, Mr Furlong was engaged at the suggestion of Mr Chidiac?---Yeah.

Yeah. Was he one of these consultants who was recommended as a part of the overall services Mr Chidiac was providing?---Sorry? What was your question again?

20 Was he one of these consultants who Mr Chidiac provided as a part of his advisory services, the services he provided to I-Prosperty, Mr Chidiac? ---Aha, yeah.

You said that he recommended consultants?---Yeah.

Mr Furlong was one of them?---Yeah.

You couldn't remember the names of any other persons?---Valuer.

Yeah, the name of the valuer.---Can't remember.

30 No. Any other consultants?---Safety, but not related to Rhodes, but.

No. That was on some other project.---Mmm.

Now, do you remember when you first met Mr Furlong?---I can't remember.

Did you meet him in an office somewhere, for instance, Mr Chidiac's office?---Can't remember.

40 Did you ever go to Mr Chidiac's office?---Has he got office?

Well, that's what I was asking you.---I can't remember.

Do I take it from your answer that you never attended an office where Mr Chidiac worked?---No.

Did you ever meet Mr Chidiac in I-Prosperty's offices?---No.

No. Where would you meet Mr Chidiac?---I can't remember.

10 Sorry.---I'm sorry for that. I, I'm just telling you the truth. I can't remember.

You can't remember wherever you would meet Mr Chidiac? Would you meet him in a café? Would you meet him in a restaurant? Would you meet him on the side of the road? Would you meet him in a park, sitting down on a bench? You must have some recollection or memory of where you would meet Mr Chidiac?---No, I can't remember.

20 Did you ever meet Mr Chidiac or did you just text him?---This is the first time or you say normally where I meet him?

Normally, throughout this relationship.---Sometimes I met in the café but I thought you asking me the first time. I can't remember the first time.

So let's put aside the first time. Go to these, where would you be meeting Mr Chidiac when you were meeting with - - ?---Coffee shop.

Which coffee shop?---In Burwood, in the shopping centre.

30 In the Westfield at Burwood?---Yeah, Westfield Burwood Shopping Centre.

Anywhere else?---Sometime he come into my office at Rhodes.

Come to your office?---Yeah.

Anywhere else?---Anywhere else? I sent text most of the time. Text, text message.

40 I see. Now, could the witness be shown volume 6.8, page 266? Now, again, this is an extract of the WeChat conversation between you and Mr Chidiac, so this extract is from around 3 December, 2015. Now, I draw

your attention to the messages at the bottom of the page, if we could scroll down, please? Just keep scrolling, yes. So this message here. It's a message from Mr Chidiac to you on 3 December where Mr Chidiac says, "Okay. I'm with David Furlong and the mayor. I thought if you were around Burwood, drop in." Now, you respond after that "Okay." If we can go to the next page. And you say, "I come Burwood." Then you send another message asking where Mr Chidiac is and he responds, "Sahara, next to Westfield, 100 Burwood Road." "Okay, coming now." So when I was asking you some questions before about meeting Mr Chidiac and Mr
10 Tsirekas at Burwood, does this assist you now? That is do you recall that it was at Sahara restaurant?---I don't know the restaurant called but next to Westfield.

Right. So this one says, "Sahara next to Westfield." It's likely that's where you met?---Possible.

When you say "possible", what, you mean to say, "It's likely that's where I did meet them"?---Possible.

20 Now, did you ever ask Mr Chidiac to arrange a meeting with Billbergia?
---No.

No. Could the witness be shown volume 6.8, page 268? I'll draw your attention to the message down the page, please. See, right, so this is three days later. You say, "Joseph, can we meet Billbergia on Wednesday night?" So the evidence you just gave me before was wrong, wasn't it?---If I was writing here, yes.

Ms Li, this is your message to Mr Chidiac.---Yes.
30

So when I asked you before whether you ever asked Mr Chidiac to arrange a meeting with Billbergia and you said no, that evidence was wrong.---Okay, yep.

Now, do you remember whether you attended a meeting arranged with Billbergia?---I cannot remember.

You cannot remember. Do you remember asking Chun to organise a dinner where you would meet Billbergia?---I cannot remember.
40

You can't remember. Okay. Okay. Is it possible that you asked Chun to do something like that?---I can't remember.

Oh, okay. Okay. Could the witness be shown volume 6.7, page 19? Sorry, page 18. Now, you agreed with me yesterday that this is, well the person referred to here as Chun Linx is Chun Zhou, that's right?---Yeah.

I-Prosperity employee?---Yep.

10 Now, the first message on 7 December, 2015, so after this message I just took you to with Mr Chidiac on the 6th, you say to Chun, "Hurry up and make a restaurant booking for me." Is that translation accurate?
---Yeah, that's right.

You then say to him, "I'm just flat out lately." That's right, that translation?---If it's from my devices, yes.

Yeah. Now, just go down to the bottom, the last message. So you can see at the bottom the last message is from Chun. If we go over to the next page.
20 He says, "Chubby told you to make a booking." And I think you said yesterday that's a reference to Mr Gu.---Ah hmm.

That's right?---That's right.

Then you say – sorry, Mr Zhou says, "I'm not familiar with that side." When he said "that side" what did you understand he's referring to?---Can you go back to the last page.

30 Sure.---What they are talking about, then that's that side.

Yes, we can go back to the previous page.---Okay. Go the next page. Do you have any other context? There's nothing about which restaurant.

Well, we'll come to the next context. Now, just read those messages to yourself. Tell us when you need to scroll up.---No. What's your - - -

Do you need to scroll up now to see the rest of the messages?---No, I don't need to.

Right. So then he says, just note this here. He says, “I have booked Phoenix in Rhodes for 6.30 Wednesday, seven to eight people, private area.” So is that, the Phoenix is a restaurant in Rhodes is it?---That’s right.

Now, the reference to “I have booked Phoenix in Rhodes, Wednesday, seven to eight people,” I want to, if you can take this from me the Wednesday is 9 December, so this is being sent to you on a Monday, the 7th. If you just accept that. Can you remember now who was going to be attending that dinner?---I can’t remember.

10

Can’t remember. I want to suggest to you that it was going to be people from Billbergia including Mr Kinsella. Does that assist you? Would you accept that that’s who it’s with?---I totally cannot remember this one at all.

Okay. So if we go back to, please, volume 6.8, page 268. Go back to that message on 6 December, “Joseph, can we meet Billbergia on Wednesday night?” Now, that’s a message to you asking Mr Chidiac whether he can arrange a meeting with Billbergia. Correct?---Yep.

20 Why did you ask him whether he could arrange a meeting with Billbergia?
---Do you have any other context? I can’t remember.

No, just focus on my question, please. Can you tell me why – you sent this message to him. You must have some knowledge why you’re asking him if he can arrange a meeting with Billbergia.---I cannot remember here why I’m asking but I did meet Billbergia for some anchor issues.

Well, didn’t you ask Mr Chidiac whether you could meet Billbergia because you understood that he could arrange that meeting with Billbergia at this
30 stage? That’s the only reason why you asked him, isn’t it?---Because I think he knows those owners.

Yeah. Did he tell you that he knew those owners?---I can’t remember if he told me but I think he knew.

Well, how else would you find out if he didn’t tell you? Did someone else tell you?---Mmm, because when I ask the number 1 he know the owner and he even know the shareholder. So I think he might know people surrounding the site.

40

Well, back to my question. So, sorry, do I understand your answer to be that you sent this message because you thought he might know the owners of Billbergia because he knew the owners of 1 Marquet Street?---That's right.

Right. Is that really the basis upon which you sent this message to Mr Chidiac?---Yeah.

10 Yeah. Isn't it the fact that Mr Chidiac told you that he had some relationship with Billbergia?---I can't remember.

Now, Mr Chidiac asks you, sorry, he asks you what time and you respond, "Let's say 6.00pm. I will confirm the place later." If we go over the page, Mr Chidiac suggests Wednesday the 9th. You understood that to be Wednesday 9 December, Ms Li?---What is my, what is your question?

20 You understood what Mr Chidiac was saying to you was arrange the meeting with Billbergia for Wednesday the 9th?---Oh, is it? No. Looks like something else.

Well, let me try and assist you with your recollection, Ms Li. So the next message down, you respond, "Yes, agreeing to Wednesday the 9th." Then you then say, "Wednesday night, 6.00pm in Chinatown. I will wait for you in front of Chinatown."---Yep, yep.

So when you say, "Yep, yep," this is now helping you now, is it?---No. I'm just understanding what I am seeing.

30 Oh, I see.---I, I am trying to book on Wednesday in Chinatown and he say he doesn't have time in Chinatown, has to be local, so we meet in Rhodes.

Yes. Then we go down, "We could do anywhere in Rhodes." This is from Mr Chidiac to you. You respond, "Okay. Let me organise." What I want to suggest is that you then go to Chun and get Chun to organise the meeting because you're too busy, is that right? Sorry, organise the restaurant. That's right? That's how we understand these messages being linked together, don't we?---Is the dates linked? If the date's linked, then yes.

40 Yeah, the dates are linked, that's what I'm suggesting to you. The dates are linked.---Yeah. Then, then, yes. Then that, that's why I said Chun to organise dinner.

Yeah. Chun organises Phoenix at Rhodes for Wednesday 9 December, seven to eight people. That's right?---If I ask him, then he should do the same thing.

Yes. Now, if we can go to page 271. Again, top of the page, this is on the 9th. You say "Joseph, can we catch up this afternoon, 4.30pm in Rhodes? I have documents ready for you." Then you respond, sorry, you then send another message. "Joseph, 4.30pm okay? Michael comes with me." So that's Mr Gu, isn't it, Ms Li.---If I am saying so, then should be.

Then Mr Chidiac says to you "Could we do it after we catch up with John Kinsella?" Well, "Kinsalla" but it should be "Kinsella".---Mmm.

That's right?---Yeah.

You then go and say, "I confirm with Michael. He just landed and a little bit sick." So it's the case, is it, that Mr Gu just landed in Australia that day or just before?---Possible.

20

Sorry?---Possible, yeah.

Possible. Well, when you say "possible", you mean that's likely what happened because you've written that?---Yes, that's right.

Now, if we go to page 272. The entry on the 9th, down the bottom of the page, you send to Mr Chidiac. You say you're going to meet with Michael after dinner. He responds, "Okay." Now, do you remember now the dinner that evening with Billbergia?---No.

30

No.---I cannot remember.

THE COMMISSIONER: You don't remember attending a dinner with Billbergia representatives when there are seven to eight people present- -? ---I cannot remember.

- - - including yourself and Mr Chidiac? No? No recollection?---No recollection at all.

40 How many times have you met with the representatives or a representative of Billbergia?---Many times.

Many times?---Yeah.

I see. In relation to what matters?---Anchor encroachment.

Pardon?---Anchor encroachment.

What's that mean?---It means anchor going to the other side which was our side.

10

And so far as this meeting is said to have taken place in December 2015, with representatives of Billbergia and others, you say you have no recollection of even being there?---You mean this meeting? This meeting, no, I have no recollection at all.

MR DARAMS: Ms Li, this meeting wasn't about anchoring, was it?

---I can't remember this, this meeting at all but I did meet them for, Billbergia for the anchor issues many times.

20

Perhaps if the witness could be shown page 270 of volume 6.8? Now, just before I take you to these messages, leave them on the screen. Ms Li, you are the person who reached out to Mr Chidiac and said to him, "Can you organise a meeting with Billbergia?" Right?---Mmm.

You accept that?---Yeah, if I write it, yes.

Yeah. You did write it. So I'm just asking you. You're the person who wanted to meet with Billbergia and are you saying you have no recollection now of meeting with them?---That's right.

30

And you have no recollection as to why you wanted to meet with them? ---For the, I have, I have a key issue to meet with Billbergia. It's about anchor. But I'm not sure if that's that meeting referring to.

So if we go to page 270. Just at the top of the page. So this is before the meeting. Mr Chidiac says to you, "It would also be a good idea to list the points you want to discuss with them." Now, what he's saying to you is make a list of the things you want to talk to Billbergia about, isn't he?

---That's Joseph writing to me.

40

Yeah, that's right.---Yeah.

You respond, "Yes, I will get it prepared." You're agreeing that you're going to prepare some things you wanted to talk to Billbergia about.---Yep.

Then Mr Chidiac responds, "It would initially be a meet and greet and then we could put to him what we want him to cooperate with us on." And then you say, "Yes, I will have a rough talk with him. Detailed discussion would be with his team after." And then – so does this help you with your recollection of what this meeting was about?---(NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

10

No. Isn't this your initial introductory meeting by Mr Chidiac with Billbergia?---I can't remember.

Okay. Perhaps if the witness could be shown page 274 and go to the message at the bottom of the page. So this is a message from Mr Chidiac to you on 10 December, 2015 and Mr Chidiac says to you, "I think it would be a good idea if we catch up with Angelo and you brief him on how our meeting went with John. Council would be encouraged that we could work together with Billbergia."---Maybe the laneway.

20

Sorry?---In the planning they require a linkage between Billbergia site to our site. About the laneway. But the construction time frame it would be much different, so their laneway would not be able to linked to our old houses. I think that might be something we want to meet with Billbergia.

Right. So when Mr Chidiac says to you that he thought it would be a good idea to catch up with Angelo, can you assist us as to why Mr Chidiac thought it would be a good idea?---Because that's council proposed for having the linkage between two sites owned by different owners.

30

Yes.---Mmm.

Well, why didn't you suggest to Mr Chidiac that you could catch up with the council staff and have that discussion with council staff?---No, that's he recommend me to catch up with Angelo.

But what I'm asking you is why didn't you say to him, well, why don't we catch up with council staff and fill them in about our meeting with Billbergia?---I didn't ask.

40

I know you didn't ask – sorry, that's - - -?---Why I'm not ask?

Yeah, why - - -?---I don't know. I didn't ask anyway.

Did you understand that the reason that Mr – or one of the reasons Mr Chidiac was engaged was to be an avenue between you and I-Prosperity and Mr Tsirekas?---Sorry, your question again.

10 Did you understand that one of the reasons why Mr Chidiac had been engaged was so that he could be a connection between I-Prosperity and its development proposal and Mr Tsirekas?---Your question is do I understand Joseph is a connection between I-Prosperity and the mayor?

Yes.---Yeah, I know they know each other, yes.

No, but you understood, didn't you, that that was one of the reasons why Mr Chidiac was engaged by I-Prosperity because he had that relationship with Mr Tsirekas and that Mr Chidiac could be your – when I say your, I-Prosperity's – connection to Mr Tsirekas?---Do you mean now or - - -

20 At the time that he was engaged, so going back to 2015/2016.---No idea.

No, that's what you understood though, wasn't it?---At that time I don't know what their relationship is.

Yeah, I'm asking about your understanding.---At the time I don't have that understanding.

30 You didn't have an understanding that through the engagement of Mr Chidiac by I-Prosperity, that I-Prosperity would have an avenue to speak or meet with Mr Tsirekas through Mr Chidiac? You didn't understand that? ---At that time, no.

No. Did you ever come to that understanding?---Afterwards.

When?---Afterwards, when? During the time when we do the proposal.

40 Well, when you say during the time you did the proposal, when was that? What time are you saying?---Mmm, maybe later, so '16, early '17 or when we submit it.

THE COMMISSIONER: So you say it was not till late 2016 or '17 that you were aware that Mr Chidiac was able to have Mr Tsirekas available to deal with matters concerning the Rhodes development?---Yeah.

Thank you. And as time went by, from the very beginning right through, who was I-Prosperity's main contact in council to talk about the proposed development of I-Prosperity at Rhodes?---We actually didn't contact council much.

10 No, but who was the person or persons within council that I-Prosperity had frequent contact with concerning the proposed development at Rhodes?---In council? Tony.

Associated with council.---Tony.

Who?---Tony.

I can't hear you.---Tony.

20 MR DARAMS: Mr McNamara?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. It's Tony McNamara?---Tony.

And he was?---We didn't contact much about council. We do - - -

I'm asking you, who were your contact points, when I say you, I mean you, I-Prosperity, within council concerning the proposed development at Rhodes? You said Tony was one. Who else?---Mainly Tony, Tony before the submission.

30

Who else?---Who else. Before the submission? Before our submission?

No, no. I'm just saying throughout the development process.---The full process.

The planning process and trying to get development approvals. You say one of your contacts within the staff of the council, was Tony McNamara? ---Yep.

40 And we know that another contact that you had when in council, associated with council, was Mr Tsirekas.---Yes.

And you had frequent discussions with him from time to time, and other members of I-Prosperity would speak to Mr Tsirekas.---For the mayor, not much.

But you and others within I-Prosperity would speak to Mr Tsirekas from time to time about the development?---Regarding development most of - - -

No. Is that right?---Not that frequent.

10

Pardon?---Not that frequent, time to time.

Yeah, I'm not talking about frequency at the moment.---Ah hmm.

I'm just talking about persons associated with council who I-Prosperity spoke to, dealt with, concerning the Rhodes development. Was it confined to Tony McNamara and Mr Tsirekas?---What do you mean by confined to?

20 Was most of the contact with Mr McNamara and/or Mr Tsirekas about the proposal?---The most is Tony.

Yeah. And Mr Tsirekas.---Very, very, very rare.

Very rare?---Very rare.

But nonetheless he was available and did speak, you did speak to him from time to time about the project?---Oh, you mean after submission or before submission?

30 I'm talking about at any time through the process from 2015 onwards.
---Then we speak to council staff more. We not, we very rare to - - -

I'm not talking about frequency, as to who you discussed with more frequently. There are two names so far we have who were the contacts for I-Prosperity. One is Mr McNamara, right?---Ah hmm, yep.

And the other is Mr Tsirekas.---Oh, there are more, we got Paul Dewar, Gary, Peter.

40 No, okay. But those two were contacts I-Prosperity had about the Rhodes development?---Yeah, that, that's the contacts.

Yeah. And, furthermore, you'd had meetings from time to time with Mr Tsirekas about the Rhodes development?---Me?

Yes. Is that right. You? You and others - - -?---Me, me - - -

No, no. Listen.---One or twice.

10 No. You and others, from time to time, met with Mr Tsirekas and perhaps Mr Chidiac concerning the Rhodes development, did you not? It's a very simple question.---Yeah, yeah, that's right.

Right.

MR DARAMS: Yes. Thank you, Chief Commissioner. Ms Li, did you ever give Mr Tsirekas a mobile phone?---Huh? Me?

Did you ever give Mr Tsirekas a mobile phone?---No.

20 Did you ever give him an iPhone in November 2017?---No.

No? Give him any other model of phone in November 2017?---No.

No. Now, did Mr Gu ask you to arrange a meeting with Mr Chidiac and Mr Tsirekas so that Mr Gu could introduce an investor to Mr Chidiac?---No.

30 Could the witness be shown volume 6.7, page 207? I just want to draw your attention to the message towards the bottom of the page on 29 February, 2016. So this is a message from you, "Joseph, does Angelo have time this Thursday night? Michael wants to introduce his investor to you." See that?---Yeah.

Doesn't this suggest that Mr Gu asked you to arrange a meeting so that he, Mr Gu, could introduce an investor at least to Mr Chidiac?---I cannot remember this.

40 Now, I asked you before but I'll ask you again. In relation to you sending these messages, we can assume that when you sent these messages, what you were setting out was accurate, so in relation to this message, Mr Gu had asked you to arrange a meeting with Mr Chidiac and Mr Tsirekas being

present so that Mr Gu could introduce an investor to, well, at least Mr Chidiac. That's right, isn't it?---I cannot remember this one.

No, I know you can't remember this one, as well, 'cause you can't remember a number of things, but what I'm suggesting is that if you've written that, that's what happened, that is Mr Gu says to you "Ms Li" or "Belinda", I don't know what he referred to you, but "Can you go and arrange a meeting with Joseph and the mayor, I want to introduce an investor to them"?---Possible.

10

Well, when you say it's possible, what you really mean to say is, "Yes, because I wrote that, that's what Mr Gu asked me to do"?---I can't remember I wrote this. Sorry.

Don't worry about whether you can remember whether you wrote it or not. The fact is you did write it. What I'm asking you is that when you did write it, the reason you did write it was because Mr Gu asked you to do that thing that you've referred to in the text message. That's right?---Yeah, if this one is, I wrote it, then, yes.

20

Yeah. Then Mr Chidiac says to you, "Happy for you to pick a restaurant." See that? And then we go down a few messages. Mr Chidiac's suggesting to you that it should be Golden Century. That's the restaurant, not sure if it's still around, but in the Sydney, in Chinatown. Is that right?---Mmm, that's right.

Do you remember going to the Golden Century with Mr - - -?---Can't remember.

30 No. You then say you've booked it. See that?---Yeah, see it.

Now, Mr Chidiac says, "Tell them you want a table at the back with privacy." See that?---See that.

You say, "I booked room." Now, did you – when you say you booked a room, is that a private room, is it?---Should be.

40 Yeah. Then if we go over the page, you say to Mr Chidiac, "And in front of investor, just say the Rhodes site's all secured." Right. So can you tell us why you told or gave that instruction to Mr Chidiac?---I can't remember. But at that time I think it's because still under option, so maybe they're

asking questions, it's a site already owned by you. So instead of explain what is call option, I think that's might be the purpose.

Yeah, weren't you effectively giving some instruction to Mr Chidiac to say to him, look, make sure that when you're talking to the investor to let them know things are okay, we've got the properties, everything's okay?---Mmm. That's right.

10 You wanted Mr Chidiac to provide comfort to the investor, is that right?
---Just don't make it confuse.

Don't make it confused?---Yep.

You wanted – what you're asking Mr Chidiac to say to them was to give them the, well, to suggest to them things are okay with the development.
---Purchase, yes. No, no, purchase. 'Cause - - -

20 The, yes, the purchase of the properties.---Yeah, 'cause it was purchase under option.

Yeah.---And in the Chinese mind it's "Have you purchased?" But option, it's, it's where you have the right. I just don't want to make very complicated. It's option or exchange, these sort of things.

That was something important for the investor, was it?---Of course.

30 Yeah. It was also important for the investor for Mr Tsirekas to be present, that's right?---It's Michael asked, then he must have believed that something would be good.

Right. So if we go back to the message on page 207, where you say "Michael asked", what you're saying is that Michael asked you to make sure that Angelo was also present with the investor, is that right?---Michael want introduce him to, introduce to, introduce his investor to you.

That's what I wanted to understand. Did Mr Gu tell you that he wanted to introduce the investor to Joseph, or Joseph and Angelo, or Angelo?---I think it's Joseph but want Angelo to present.

40 He wanted Angelo to be present at that meeting with the investor, that's right?---I think so. That's why I asking if he got time.

Yeah. Did you understand that it was important for Mr Tsirekas to be present at this meeting with the investor as well? Was that consistent with your understanding?---Mmm, I don't have that kind of understanding.

You don't. What understanding do you have, if any?---Understanding in regards to - - -

10 Of why Mr Tsirekas was being asked to attend this meeting as well with the investor.---I think that's just Michael's strategy.

Yeah, so just help me out with the strategy. What did you understand of that strategy? That is, it would be - - -?---Michael probably just want to show that it's a good relationships with local communities and also the government people. That's kind of things to show the investors.

20 Yeah. Did you have that conversation with Mr Gu at any stage to say, look, it's important that we have or show the investors that we've got Mr Tsirekas or the mayor - - -?---I think that's Michael's understanding.

Yeah.---It's important.

Well, what I'm, yeah, what I'm asking you - - -?---Asking me.

30 - - - is that did you understand, because you had some conversation with Mr Gu about all of this, that that's what he was hoping or what he was wanting to do? That is, have Mr Tsirekas attend these meetings or attend this meeting with the investor because it was important for the investor to see Mr Tsirekas?---What is your question?

Yes, was that – you say that was Mr Gu's understanding.---Yeah.

Did you know that that was his understanding because he had that discussion with you, he talked to you about that?---No, he already asked me.

Yeah.---I think that's his understanding.

Yeah.---Yeah.

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Darams, there's a matter I've got to attend to. It'll take 10 minutes.

MR DARAMS: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: It might be convenient to take a break now.

MR DARAMS: Sure. Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: I'll resume at, it's just after 3.15. I'll resume at
10 about 3.30. Just before I do adjourn, have you any idea how long you'll be
with this witness? I'm not pressing you but - - -

MR DARAMS: Yeah, I'll be with Ms Li tomorrow morning. I'm hoping to
- - -?---Sorry, I've got a settlement. I can't be here tomorrow.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well.

MR DARAMS: May it please.

THE COMMISSIONER: I'll adjourn for 10 minutes. 3.30.
20

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

[3.16pm]

THE COMMISSIONER: I think somebody's gone to get the witness.

MR DARAMS: I think that's right.

MS HOGAN-DORAN: Commissioner, Ms Li may be around at the ladies'
30 toilets.

THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry? I can't hear you.

MS HOGAN-DORAN: Sorry, Commissioner. I believe Ms Li may be
around in the ladies' toilets. I saw her go that way if that's of assistance.

THE COMMISSIONER: All right. I think we'll just wait and see what
happens.

MR DARAMS: Ms Li, I want to ask you some questions about Mr Chidiac's fee for his services. Now, you know that Mr Chidiac received a payment of \$150,000 in June 2016 from I-Prosperty?---I don't know.

You don't know that. Well, you were a director of I-Prosperty Waterside Rhodes at that time, weren't you?---That's right.

What I suggest to you is that you did know that he was receiving, that is Mr Chidiac, a payment of \$150,000 in June 2016.---I don't know.

10

You don't know. Okay. Well, could I ask the witness be shown volume 6.8, page 52? So, this is an exchange between you and Mr Chidiac in June 2016. If we go down to the middle of the page, can you see Mr Chidiac says to you, "Sent invoice." You respond, "Harry already paid." And then the next one is "150K". That's your message to him. Do you see that?
---(NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Ms Li?---I see it.

20 Yeah. So you're sending him a reference to a payment of \$150,000. Now, can you – well, firstly, does that assist you with your recollection?---No.

No. Now, perhaps did you have a conversation with Mr Chidiac about this \$150,000 payment?---No.

No. Well, where did this "150K" reference come from?---I can't remember.

Now, are you sure you can't remember?---I can't remember.

30 All right. You were though being asked to contribute to Mr Chidiac's expenses, or sorry, Mr Chidiac's fee, weren't you?---What's your question?

You were being required to contribute, that is pay, some of his expenses, sorry, his fee.---I was required to contribute his fee? No.

To part-payment of his fees?---I was requested my who?

Well, wasn't that the arrangement that, in terms of the costs or the expenses for the planning process, as a unit holder you were being asked to contribute
40 money to pay those costs and expenses, is that right?---Planning, yes.

Yes. But wasn't Mr Chidiac's fee a part of the planning process?---Depends on how I-Prosperty count it.

Could the witness please be shown volume 1.1, page 257? Sorry 250, so the next – yes. Now, this is an email from Mr Huang to you. See that?
---Yeah.

Now, do you remember receiving this email?---No.

10 Right. Now, do you remember, just read the email, please. Have you read the email now, Ms Li?---Yes.

Does that assist you with your recollection?---No.

Did you receive similar emails to this one during, well, let's say 2016 to 2019?---Should be.

So when you say "should be" you agree that you did receive similar emails like this?---Yeah.

20

Could the witness be shown the next page, page 258? This is, I want to suggest to you, a statement of all the costs and expenses incurred in relation to the Rhodes development at least as at 6 April, 2016.---Yeah.

Now, is this right? You were sent this by Mr Huang and he says, "Here are all the expenses that have been paid or funded," you can see here, "funded by I-Prosperty. Please contribute your proportion of these expenses"?
---What is your question?

30 So that's what he said to you in the email and what I'm suggesting to you is that what you were required to do was pay at least part of the expenses incurred in relation to the planning stage of the Rhodes development. That's right, isn't it?---That's right.

Right. So back to my question. You were being asked to contribute at least in part to the fees being charged by Mr Chidiac?---That's right.

40 So, in those circumstances, weren't you interested in knowing why Mr Chidiac was also being paid at least \$150,000 in addition to his consulting fee in June 2016?---That's not addition. It's just accumulated. They haven't paid. They pay it.

Sure. Okay. Well, now, perhaps if the witness could be shown volume 1B, page 22? Now, have you seen this invoice before?---I can't remember.

Is that your handwriting?---No.

But you, I think you agree before you were a director of this company at this time?---Yes.

10 This is referring to a payment, sorry, an invoice from Mr Chidiac on 10 June, 2016, for \$165,000. See that?---See it.

Yeah. And are you saying you have no idea why Mr Chidiac submitted that invoice to I-Prosperty Waterside Rhodes, a company of which you were a director?---I say I cannot remember.

Right. Do you remember now by seeing this?---I can't remember, but that's the invoice, was the engagement, then have to pay, have to pay.

20 Well, is there any reason why you can think of as to why you would be getting this additional, sorry, this payment in June 2016?---Based on their agreement.

Based on the agreement.

THE COMMISSIONER: See Mr Chidiac, according to the invoice we saw a moment ago, was paid close to \$90,000 for three months and then for the next two months, May/June or half of June, 10 June, he's been paid in addition to that 90,000, approximately 90,000, it might have been a shade
30 under 90,000, he's now submitted another invoice with no particulars other than it's called consulting fee, with a round figure of \$165,000 plus GST. These were vast sums of money being paid to Mr Chidiac at this time. You must have been, as a director, aware of that fact, is that right?---I don't know what's the other two invoices you mentioned, but I don't think they're going to - - -

I'll put it again. As a director you would have been aware of the fact that he's being paid large sums of money in 2016, is that correct?---How can you say large? How much is large?

40

You were aware of what he was being paid by I-Prosperity company, of which you were a director?---Yeah, I aware of the pay but as per the agreement.

You agree with me? You were aware?---I'm not agree with you the other two invoices you mentioned. I didn't see.

You were aware that he was being paid very large sums of money in 2016 by I-Prosperity company - - -?---As - - -

10

- - - of which you were a director, is that right?---Yeah, as per the agreement.

And he would render invoices, no particulars, just consulting fee and a round sum such as this one, 165,000 plus GST. You were aware that was the arrangement?---I didn't see that invoice but I know Harry paid. There's writing there.

20 You were aware that he was being paid this sort of money for whatever services he was providing?---As per the agreement, yep.

Yes, yes, as per the agreement.---Yes.

And is there any way the company, you being a director of it, was provided with any details as to what these consulting fees related to? Whether it was for lobbying, whether it was for introductions or - - -?---No.

30 No. But he was paid for – in 2016, Mr Chidiac was paid as a lobbyist, was he not?---He was paid.

You agree?---I don't know.

You do know, don't you, that he was paid - - -?---I know he paid, yes.

- - - for lobbying work, lobbying services?---Yeah, I know he's paid, yes.

40 Yeah, yes. You knew he was paid for lobbying services and other services, is that right?---I know he's being paid, but if you define the services, just refer to the agreement.

You knew he was being paid to lobby Canada Bay Council or members of – I withdraw that – or Mr Tsirekas in particular, is that right? That was part of his function and services, wasn't it?---I don't know.

You don't know? But you were a director of this company and you were very vitally interested in this project because you had a lot of money invested in it. Is that correct?---That's right.

10 And you were liable to contribute towards the substantial fees that he would be rendering under his agreement to you, under the agreement with the company?---That's right.

Right. And at least part of that remuneration was paid for his lobbying activities in relation to the Rhodes development project.---That's right.

And do you say that in lobbying for the project, he was lobbying anyone associated with Canada Bay Council other than Mr Tsirekas?---I don't know.

20 You don't know. But he was lobbying Mr Tsirekas from time to time in relation to the Rhodes project?---He contact him.

Yeah.---Yep.

In order to lobby, to get his support in other words.---Yeah.

Okay.

30 MR DARAMS: Yes. Ms Li, could I ask that you be shown volume 1B, page 20. Now, this is an invoice from Mr Chidiac, dated the 31st of May, 2016. Do you see that?---Yep.

Have you seen any of these invoices or invoices of this type before from Mr Chidiac?---I can't remember.

You can't remember. So this invoice for the period May 2016 was in the amount of \$20,833. Do you see that?---Yep.

40 I just want you to note this invoice date, being 31 May. I want to show you another document. Could the witness be shown page 31 of that volume 1B?

So this invoice is dated 30 June, 2016. It's referable to the next month, that is the month of June 2016. Do you see that?---Ah hmm.

Have you seen this invoice before today?---I can't remember.

This month Mr Chidiac charges \$35,000. Do you see that?---Yeah.

Now, did you have any conversation with Mr Chidiac about this increase between - - -?---No. It's Harry informed me the increase to the payment.

10

Sorry, So Harry, Mr Huang, told you that he, Mr Huang, had increased the payment, is that right?---Yeah, that's right.

THE COMMISSIONER: So just to be clear about that. Was the arrangement initially that Mr Chidiac would be paid \$20,000 a month under the agreement, under the consulting agreement, and that it was later increased to 35,000 a month? Is that right?---Yeah, that's right.

20 Right. And you say that the increase from 20 to 35,000 a month was arranged by Harry, is that right?---Harry told me but I'm not sure if it's arranged by Harry.

He told you. What did he tell you?---He just said that invoice have to be increased to 35 payment, the payment have to be increased to 35.

And did he, talking to you as a director, explain why he was proposing to increase - - -?---He said because Joseph come to him saying he doing more work.

30 I can't hear you. Would you talk to the microphone, please, and speak up? ---He say it's because Joseph come - - -

Madam, would you move close to the microphone?---He ask - - -

No, that's too close. Now try and again and keep your voice up.---Harry saying because Joseph going to him and saying he is doing more work.

And was there a discussion as to what extra work he was claiming to have done?---No discussion with me.

40

No discussion. You never saw any document that would justify an increase of that kind from 20,000 to \$35,000 a month?---I can't remember there is.

No. Yes.

MR DARAMS: Do you know, Ms Li, who during this period of time in, say, the first part of 2016, so January to June 2016, do you recall whether Mr Huang was in Australia often or was he often outside Australia?---I can't remember.

10

Okay. In terms of the I-Prosperity development at Rhodes, were you the person in Australia who was dealing, on behalf of I-Prosperity, dealing with Mr Chidiac? Is that your understanding?---Regarding the Rhodes, I contact him.

Yeah, but is it your understanding that in terms of this period of time, that is January 2016 to June 2016, that in terms of dealing with Mr Chidiac on behalf of I-Prosperity, you were the person who was mainly dealing with Mr Chidiac?---I am the person who contacts for Rhodes, yes.

20

Yeah. So you would have been in a position to assess whether or not Mr Chidiac had been increasing the amount of work he was doing, wouldn't you?---No. Because the engagement is not done by me.

Yes, but you're having the day-to-day dealings with Mr Chidiac, you're in the position to assess, well, is Mr Chidiac doing more work than he was doing, say, in January. Isn't that right?---Assess, no-one asked me to assess.

30 Yes, but you're the one who's dealing with Mr Chidiac in relation to the Rhodes development.---Yep.

You would know, yeah, Joseph's doing more work now in June or May 2016 than he was doing in January 2016. You would be in that position to make that assessment, wouldn't you?---If he require, yes.

If, sorry, when you say "if he require", who require?---If, if people require me to do assessment, yes, I can tell.

40 Well, was it your recollection that Mr Chidiac was doing a lot more work or much more work as compared, so in May 2016 as compared to January

2016?---From my perspective, I don't know. I don't, I don't know whether there is more work.

Right. Did you have a view about whether or not Mr Chidiac should get this increase in pay each month?---I have no comparison, so I don't know.

No, but did you have a view as to whether he should be receiving this increased amount of money?---I didn't investigate this kind of lobbyist, how much need to pay.

10

Sorry? You didn't investigate?---I didn't investigate this kind of work, how much need to pay. I don't know, so - - -

You didn't investigate how much you would have to pay for this lobbying work. Is that what you're saying?---That's right.

Yeah. Now, do you remember having a conversation with Mr Huang about increasing Mr Chidiac's pay?---He called me, I, I remember.

20 Mr Huang called you?---Yes.

Yeah. Did Mr Huang tell you how much it was to be increased?---About 10,000 something.

Yeah. Okay. Now, could the witness be shown volume 1.2, page 77? Now, there's an email. I know this isn't to you, Ms Li, but do you know who Kevin Ji - - -?---No.

30 You don't know who he is. Now, perhaps if the witness could be shown page 86? Now, do you see this is a wedding invitation to Mr Tsirekas? ---Yes.

Did you receive a similar wedding invitation?---No.

Now, bear with me one moment. Now, have you ever spoken to Mr Ji before?---No.

You don't know who he is?---No.

40 Right. So could the witness be shown volume 6.8, page 73? Now, just draw your attention to the message down the bottom of the page. It says,

this is from Mr Chidiac to you. He says, “Do you need copies of our passports?” This is 22 July, 2016. See that?---Yeah.

Now, you respond to Mr, well, Mr – sorry. Mr Chidiac then says, “Have you spoken to Sandra in Ryde Council?” And then you send a message to Mr Chidiac saying, “Kevin Ji will contact you for ticket.” See that?---They send it to me.

10 It appears to go from your message from you. Do you see direction
outgoing from – that’s your number there. Don’t, you don’t need to read it
out, but that’s your number, isn’t it?---Yep.

To JC, Mr Chidiac.---I can’t remember this part.

You don’t remember Mr Kevin Ji?---I don’t know him.

You don’t know him? Chief Commissioner, I note the time.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Darams. You will finish your
examination of the witness tomorrow morning?

MR DARAMS: We’ll finish the part of it tomorrow morning, yes.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: The question arises then as to whether there will
be any application by those with leave to appear to cross-examine the
witness. Is there anyone present here who foreshadows an application?
No? There’s no indication at the moment. In any event, I just draw
attention to the Commission’s procedures that are published on the
Commission’s website. In effect, that requires written identification of any
matter or matters upon which leave is sought to cross-examine a witness and
the relevance of the matter or matters in question. Yes, now, I’m sorry, did
somebody down there want to raise anything?

40 MS HOGAN-DORAN: Commissioner, Hogan-Doran. I appear for Mr
Tsirekas. The transcript of the examination from yesterday was not made
available to parties until about after 10.30 this morning and hasn’t been fully
reviewed. I am in difficulty tomorrow. Ms King of Counsel will be present.
I’ll take some instructions overnight in relation to any matters and identify if
there’s application.

THE COMMISSIONER: So you're in effect asking for a deferral of any cross-examination?

MS HOGAN-DORAN: I am. I am. If we identify something of note.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, look, what I might do is I'll leave it to you to discuss with Counsel Assisting arrangements that may need to be considered and I'll determine in the morning as to how we'll proceed from there.

10

MS HOGAN-DORAN: Thank you, Commissioner.

MR DARAMS: Thank you, Chief Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, Ms Li, you will be required back here tomorrow morning at 10.00am.---Can I schedule another day?

Sorry?---Can, can I schedule another day? Next month sometime.

20 I'm sorry, I can't hear you.---Can I schedule another day? Next, next month.

No, all I'm addressing you on now is tomorrow.---Yeah, I'm asking - - -

And I'm – no, no, just listen to me. I'm indicating to you, you are required to attend the Commission tomorrow to give further evidence, commencing at 10.00am. Now, if you have any other matters you want to raise, then you can raise those with Counsel Assisting or any other officer of the Commission who's here in the hearing room, and they will – if there's a
30 requirement to speak to you about any procedural or other matters, they will address those with you. Very well. I'll adjourn.

THE WITNESS: So can I schedule?

THE WITNESS STOOD DOWN

[4.04pm]

AT 4.04PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY

40

[4.04pm]