

## Trip to China

- Sometime in March 2016 a meeting was arranged for a Chinese person to meet me in my Mayoral office by my Personal Assistant. This was a normal occurrence.
- I met with the person and 3 or 4 others. Through an interpreter he was introduced as Mr Liu.
- I was told through an interpreter that he was from Tangshan, a city approximately 2 and 1/2 hours from Beijing. I was told that an earthquake had completely destroyed the city 40 years previously and had been completely rebuilt.
- I was also told that he owned 5 Power Stations, 4 of which were coal powered and 1 was powered by using energy from "kitchen waste". He had a fleet of trucks that collected the kitchen waste every day and powered that particular power station.
- The interpreter indicated that Mr Liu had been to Canberra to meet with the then Deputy Prime Minister Julie Bishop offering to invest up to \$1B in power stations. He stated that he would be willing to invest that money in Sydney.
- Mr Liu invited me to dinner in Dixon Street in the city to discuss the matter further. I had an interest in power generation as I had chaired a committee of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, (covering 1.5M people) which looked at reducing costs of electricity to homes and businesses in the area.
- I accepted the invitation and asked him if I could bring Councillor Hindi as he was interested in waste to energy and had been researching it for over 2 years. Mr Liu said that would be fine.
- When I arrived at the restaurant I saw Councillor Hindi and his wife and about 7 or 8 other Chinese people whom I may or may not have seen before as I have met so many Chinese people in Hurstville and Sydney.
- I was surprised to see a gentleman I had met at a couple of Chinese functions over the previous 6 months. He also was Mr Liu.
- Towards the end of dinner the 2 Mr Liu's had a signing ceremony. I asked the interpreter what it was about (as they spoke in Mandarin and the documents were in Chinese). He told me they were signing a Memorandum of Understanding to do some projects together in China.
- At the end of the dinner, after a discussion on the power plant, the Mr Liu from China invited us to visit the plant in Tangshan to see first-hand the process involved into turning kitchen waste into power. We accepted the offer and arranged a date and time to meet in China. He offered to pick us up at our hotel in Beijing.

- Dinner was paid by Mr Liu's (China) interpreter but we insisted on paying for our share and I left \$100 and Councillor Hindi \$200 for he and his wife on the table.
- In early April Councillor Hindi, his wife and myself decided to make a private trip (as a holiday) to Hong Kong, Shenzhen (for shopping) and Beijing. My wife was coming but had to pull out at the last moment as her mother got ill. We stayed in Shenzhen to do some shopping and then headed to Beijing where we stayed one night.
- Mr Liu (China) had arranged for his staff to pick us up and drive us to Tangshan. I was surprised to see some 15 to 20 other people also being picked up. I was really surprised to see Mr Liu (Sydney) as one of those people.
- We arrived in Tangshan and Mr Liu (China) met us at the hotel and took us to his power plant. Some of the other people also came. We were quite impressed with the operation of the plant.
- At approximately 6:00pm he invited me to dinner. Once again I was surprised to be taken to a large hall where approximately 500 of his employees and about 100 other people were there.
- Once again the two Liu's had a signing ceremony which I was told was the same MOU that they had signed in Sydney and they were making a big show about it.
- After the signing ceremony I was asked to make a speech and I spoke generally about the number of Chinese in Hurstville, how they contributed to our community and what good citizens they were.
- We then had dinner in the same hall.
- The next day they took us to many of the projects that had rebuilt the city of Tangshan.
- The following morning we went to breakfast and some of Mr Liu's staff were there. After breakfast we tried to pay for the hotel but were told that it had been paid by Mr Liu (China). We found that unacceptable and "argued with his staff". I left 2000RMB and Councillor Hindi left 4000RMB with the staff member who at first would not take the money but finally reluctantly took it.
- One of the people who had been picked in Beijing saw what happened and he gave me his Business Card and said he would gladly confirm what had happened.
- That morning we were taken back to Beijing.
- I have receipts for airfares and hotel bookings in Shenzhen and Beijing and can get a Statutory Declaration re the payment in Tangshan.

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- 17 • Once again the two Liu's had a signing ceremony which I was told was the same MOU that they had signed in Sydney and they were making a big show about it. *After*
- 18 • After the signing ceremony I was asked to make a speech and I spoke generally about the number of Chinese in Hurstville, how they contributed to our community and what good citizens they were. *They staff then left and*
- 19 • We then had dinner in the same hall. *with others*
- 20 • The next day they took us to many of the projects that had rebuilt the city of Tangshan. *and they reiterated that all the rubbish was collected for their (China) power plant*
- 21 • The following morning we went to breakfast and some of Mr Liu's staff were there. After breakfast we tried to pay for the hotel but were told that it had been paid by Mr Liu (China). We found that unacceptable and "argued with his staff". I left 2000RMB and Councillor Hindi left 4000RMB with the staff member who at first would not take the money but finally reluctantly took it.
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low  
Affordable Housing  
Rehabilitation

E19/0560/AS-07-002/PR-0002

4:1

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- 1 Personal Assistant or through 3rd party calling me  
- I don't recall.
- 6+7 Date of Dinner and time were arranged at the  
meeting in Mayoral office
- 8+9 Who were these people?  
Only recognized one person who I had met at function
- 10 Didn't you ask if any work was to be done in  
Australia or Hurstville?  
+ NO - I believed what I was told by the  
translator.
- 11 Who booked the hotel in Beijing and how  
did China Liu know where to pick you up?  
+ They recommended a hotel and we booked it ~~where~~ when  
we arrived there.
- 12 We insisted on paying for dinner.
- 14, I started to get a little bit suspicious  
to Mr Liu (China) was using us.
- 15 Liu (Aust) came as well.