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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER HALL QC
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION SKYLINE

Reference: Operation E17/0549

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON THURSDAY 19 JULY 2018

AT 2.37PM

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CONVENTIONS USED IN THE SUPREME COURT.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes?

MR CHEN: Commissioner, I call Dr Janne Lindrum.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you.. Dr Lindrum, would you mind coming forward. Dr Lindrum, do you take an oath or an of affirmation for the purpose of giving evidence?

10 MS LINDRUM: An oath, thank you, Commissioner

THE COMMISSIONER: I will just get my associate to administer the oath, if you wouldn't mind just standing there for the moment.

<JANNE CLARA LINDRUM, sworn [2.38pm]

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Dr Lindrum. Just take a seat there. I understand you've come to Sydney on short notice. Thank you for your cooperation?---Thank you.

20 MR CHEN: I don't know whether the witness wishes to seek the benefit of the declaration, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. I'll explain the position, Dr Lindrum. The ICAC Act makes provision for witnesses to be given protection in the sense that evidence given here, if made on objection - that's the technical term - it can be then the subject of a declaration by me. The effect of that is that the evidence you give here can't be used against you in any future proceedings, criminal, civil or administrative or disciplinary proceedings.

30 You may not feel you need to, but it is a right that the Act gives to any person who comes as a witness, and you are quite free to say you'd prefer to make objection so that you can gain that protection if you feel you want to do that course. It is entirely a matter for you. You don't have to, but it's available to you, and there's no reason why you shouldn't if you want to, but I just want to explain to you that's the procedures under the ICAC Act?---Thank you very much. I don't think it is necessary.

40 All right. Well if at any point there's any matter raised with you that you think you would like to revisit this question before you answer the question, you're free at any point just to indicate that to me and we'll deal with it then, all right?---Thank you, sir. Good, yes.

MR CHEN: Would you tell the Commission your full name?---Yes, Janne Clara Lindrum.

Dr Lindrum, what is your current occupation?---I'm an author and I'm an entrepreneur, I guess, that's how people would describe me.

In the more recent period have you been involved in property development?---I've put together a master plan for the development of a foreshore site, which is not currently on the market, but the master plan has been lodged under section 53 of the Local Government Act.

10

The land is currently owned by the Crown lands department. It has previously been offered to the market. And I was invited by the local business chamber to review the site and to come up with a concept and I worked with a firm of architects called Artas and we came up with a concept which we presented in the public forum.

20

All right. To bring that together a little bit if I can, do you have some background in property development?---I've spent 20 years within the legal industry working my way up the ladder and during the late 90s the firm that I worked for, they were largely focused on property matters. And, in order to survive, I felt that the partners needed to look outside Australia for investment and I put together the Jennings site in Manly. When I say "put together", I negotiated the land acquisition, I introduced the international investment, I introduced the international investor to his local joint venture partner. I also negotiated the acquisition of a building in Neutral Bay, called Habitat, which was in the hands of National Mutual, which solved a problem for architect Garry Rothwell.

30

MR CHEN: Commissioner, I'm going to tender, if I can, now, a small bundle of material.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, very well.

40

MR CHEN: Perhaps described as material relating to the evidence of Janne Lindrum.

THE COMMISSIONER: I have a copy, I believe, here. Is that what you're referring to?

MR CHEN: That's so, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. I'll admit that bundle of

documents, being documents by and relating to the matters concerning Dr Lindrum. Those documents will be marked as one exhibit, and will become exhibit 96.

#EXH-096 - BUNDLE OF DOCUMENTS SHOWN TO DR JANNE LINDERUM ON 19 JULY 2018

10 MR CHEN: Thank you Commissioner. Now Ms Lindrum, oh sorry I call you Dr Lindrum, I'm going to ask you some questions about some dealings that you had with the, in general terms, land connected to the Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land in the period of 2016; do you understand that?---Yes.

20 Now I want to take you to some steps as to how that came about Firstly and as I understand it, you were, in about early to mid-April 2016, in Newcastle on an unrelated matter when you came across the Newcastle post office; is that right?---Yes, that's correct. Well, it was February 2016 and I had a been asked by a former executive of GPT to have a look at a site in Newcastle that was owned partially by the government and partially by GPT Trust, and he thought he had some ideas about how it might be developed, and so that's how I became to be in Newcastle. And we were walking down to this site and I passed the GPO post office. And having an interest in late historic buildings, late 19th century buildings, I, it caught my eye and there was a big iron gate and a big sign on the gate.

30 Stop there. What did the sign say, doctor?---It said, "The Awabakal people", or "Awabakal", I think it may have just been "Awabakal". I'm not entirely sure, I'm sorry.

All right. Now you read the sign?---Yes.

Did you observe somebody that appeared to have some connection to or who was on the property itself?---Yes. There was someone inside and the gate was open.

40 Right. Did you then take some steps to meet that person?---Yes, I waved to the person and he came to the gate.

Did he identify himself?---Yes, he identified himself.

Who was that person?---Chris Sharp.

And what did he say his role was for him being on the

site?---I believe I asked him what his role was. He didn't automatically offer. We shook hands, and I introduced myself. And he said that he was in charge of the restoration program for the GPO and I said, "Well, would it be possible to have a look inside?"

Did he show you around?---He did.

10 Inside the building or just the exterior of it?---No, he first took me down the roadway in and there was a - there's an outhouse that he had set up with safety vests and helmets and maps of the building. And he said he worked full time with the New South Wales railways department and that he was running the restoration program as one would run efficiently the railway. And then he took me both down into the basement of the building and on to the first floor, and then we climbed the stairs to the upper level.

20 And this building, I take it, was not occupied at the time?---No, it was empty.

And it was rundown, was it?---It is.

And in need of restoration internally and externally, I take it?---Definitely.

30 Did you express some interest to Mr Sharp at that stage about making some further inquiries in relation to the post office itself?---I asked him whether the - what the Awabakal people intended because it appeared to me, from walking through the building, that it was going to take quite a lot of money to restore and renovate this building and that it did have potential. I asked him what - you know, what did the people want to do, and he said that they wanted to turn it into some sort of hospitality or hotel and that the priority was the creation of indigenous jobs for the community.

40 Did you ask for some contact details to enable you to make contact with the land council itself?---Yes, I did, but I was about to leave to go to Singapore to meet with an architect who I worked with on a project in Wollongong, Stephen Pimbley, at Spark, and I asked Chris Sharp whether he'd have any objection - as he led me to believe he was in charge of the restoration project, would he have any objection to me having - gaining access to any plans or site documents that he might have that I could write up a

bit of a report on Newcastle and on the property itself and I could discuss it with Stephen Pimbley, who is - he's a very - he's a world-renowned architect, and just get Stephen's view, and before. before really - there's no point going to the people with any sort of ideas if those ideas weren't going to travel anywhere. So Chris Sharp did provide me with some documents, but I also did a lot of homework because there was a lot of information available online from a previous attempt to sell and develop this particular piece of property..

So between the information that Mr Sharp gave me and the information I researched, I put a report together which I discussed with Stephen Pimbley.

And did you ultimately then email a short letter to Mr Sharp requesting an opportunity to meet with him and representatives of the land council?---Yes, I believe I did do that.

Did he, in the course of that, suggest that the letter should be, at least in the first instance, addressed to Mr Richard Green?---I believe he phoned me and asked me would I mind writing the letter to Mr Richard Green.

As it turned out, it was to be emailed and you did email it to Mr Sharp; is that right?---Correct. That is correct. That's how he asked for it.

Would you have a look, please, at exhibit 96, of the material in front of you, page 1, is that a copy of the letter that you emailed to Mr Sharp on the 19th of April 2016?---Yes, it appears to be so.

And once you emailed that, in fact, the person who made contact with you thereafter was not Mr Green but Mr Sharp again; is that right?---Yes, Mr Sharp phoned me and said that, yes, the Awabakal people would like to meet me and they would like - he thought it would be best if I invited them to a morning tea and that I presented the potential to them at the morning tea.

And did, that seems to be that discussion about the potential for a morning tea, or a morning tea and the discussion, seems from the subject matter of this letter to have been discussed perhaps beforehand as well; is that right?---Look, I'm not entirely - it's quite some time ago, but I do believe that

I'm correct in saying that Mr Sharp felt, and he expressed the view firmly, that it would be best if - if I had formed the view that the property had potential and felt it appropriate to present that potential to the Awabakal people, it would be best that I did it as a host at a morning tea.

10 I see. And you actually made arrangements, did you not, for there to be a room available in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle for that to occur?---That's correct. I paid for it, yes, correct.

And you paid for it?---Yes.

And the date that that was to occur was the 27th of April 2016, was it not?---That's correct.

20 And you obviously went to Newcastle on that day, did you?---I went the night before.

All right. Shortly prior to that meeting, perhaps 20 or so minutes, did you receive a phone call from Mr Sharp?---Yes.

Did Mr Sharp tell you something about whether the meeting would be proceeding or not?---Yes. He - - -

30 What did he say?---Well, to the best of my recollection, he said, "There's been a change in plan", that he was sending his secretary down to collect me at the hotel and that the Awabakal people would prefer to have the meeting in their office and would that be okay with me? And I - I said, what could I do, and I said, "Well" - he said, "I feel that once they see you" - I thought it was quite an odd comment, "Once they see you, they'll come back with you to the Crowne Plaza. I said well, "Well, that's a little bit unusual." It is unusual but I had - I have done a view volunteering assignments with indigenous people so I knew unusual things can occur. And so I did leave Crowne Plaza to leave the morning tea in situ and I did agree to be picked up by a person, who I was
40 led to believe was Mr Sharp's secretary.

And was that person ultimately that came to pick you up Nicole Steadman?---No.

Who was it that came to pick you up?---I'm terribly sorry, I don't know her surname. I can't remember. Her Christian name was Nicole.

I see.---But she wasn't Nicole Steadman.

I see. In any event, did you go in a vehicle with her back to the land council's offices in Islington?---I did.

And did you meet with Debbie Dates, who was the chairperson, when you arrived?---Yes, there were - it was Nicole Steadman represented herself as the CEO of the Awabakal.

10

Just pause there. That's a different person to the person that picked you up, is it not?---Correct.

I see.---Yes. And Debbie Dates and there were two other indigenous ladies in the room, but Nicole Steadman asked them to leave and so we were left with the four of us in the room.

20

Was there some discussion about the proposed meeting that was to take place at the Crowne Plaza?---Yes. Debbie Dates said that she wanted me to know that they were very embarrassed - the people were very embarrassed, that they had no knowledge of the meeting until the night prior and that Chris Sharp had not made contact with them until the night prior to tell them about the meeting, and so that they feel that they had been placed in a very embarrassing situation and that I'd been placed in a very embarrassing situation, and that, notwithstanding, they were very interested to hear what I had to say.

30

In relation to the post office?---In relation to the post office, and Debbie Dates seemed to have done some homework in relation to me and my family history because she spoke - she spent a little bit of time speaking about my father and my family history, which I thought was interesting.

40

Right. What did they tell you, if anything, about the post office and whatever opportunity may lie there for you?---They said they thought there was a great opportunity and they led me to believe that at the time of the meeting and that they would get back in contact with me.

How long did this meeting take place for?---It was probably around an hour, approximately an hour.

Was the only property the subject of discussion between you and Ms Dates and Ms Steadman the post office?---At that

time, yes.

Was the discussion principally about the post office through Ms Dates or Ms Steadman or both? What was the position?---I think it was a general discussion. They were all participants in the discussion, except for Nicole, the secretary.

10 Now after the meeting ended, were you asked to do something in connection with Mr Sharp?---Yes, towards the end of the meeting Ms Steadman said to me that Chris Sharp was in illegal possession of the post office and that I needed to be made aware of that. And I expressed some degree of surprise on that because of, more especially, the set-up, the very detailed set-up in the hut that was outside, and the work that he clearly was doing, some work restoration inside. So someone had given him the keys. Anyway, she said he was in illegal possession and that he needed to return the keys to the office that afternoon. And I said
20 that - oh, and she - I don't recall her telling me not to have any conversations with him, and I think that I offered to contact him immediately after the meeting and that I would say to him that if he was in illegal possession of the post office, he should immediately return the keys - that would be my recommendation to him - and that he should do it before five o'clock and that that had been said to me.

30 After this meeting ended, did you actually attempt to speak to Mr Sharp?---Yes. What occurred was his - the young lady, Nicole, she was very distressed after the meeting because she - according to her, she said that she wasn't Chris Sharp's secretary and that he had no right to represent her as such.

40 I see.---And she was crying in the street and she felt that both the indigenous people and I had been placed in a rather embarrassing position. So we went and sat down and we had something to eat and she was a little bit concerned about - she expressed concern to me about Chris Sharp's state of mind. I didn't really get too involved in that, but I did make the phone call to Chris Sharp.

Did you ask him to return the keys?---I did. I said to Chris that this is what I had been told at the meeting and that if it was true, he should immediately return the keys before five o'clock.

Was that the last contact you had with Mr Sharp?---Personally, yes. He did ring my home, but personally, yes.

When he rang your home, what, did somebody else take the call or did you?---Yes, my husband took the call.

10 What was relayed that Mr Sharp told your husband?---My husband's name is Robert Yandell. He spoke to Robert and he said to Robert that he wanted to speak to me. And Robert said I wasn't there and he said, "Well, you need to give her a message that the problem is Nick Peterson".

20 Did you know who Nick Peterson was at that time?---I don't believe I did at that time. I did get an email from Ms Bakis, Despina Bakis, immediately - virtually immediately after the meeting, although I don't believe I read it until around about 2 o'clock or 2.30. I don't think she made any reference to Nick Peterson in that email.

I just want to take you back a step, Dr Lindrum, if I can. You didn't know who Nick Peterson was at the time that Mr Sharp called your husband?---No.

30 Is that right?---Yes, I believe that's right. That's to the best of my recollection. I don't have a memory of Mr Peterson at that stage.

40 As well, what that meant was obviously unknown to you or the significance of that comment was unknown to you; is that right? I'll put it this way, doctor: you didn't know who Nick Peterson was and the comment was made to your husband that "Nick Peterson is the problem", or words to that effect. You obviously weren't in a position to work out what on earth that meant?---No, I'm just - I'm - I'm - it's a while ago and I'm trying to see if there was ever any mention of - I have a vague recollection that there was mention of people not always getting on, but I don't have a recollection of a Nick Peterson having been named.

I see. All right. Now, Dr Lindrum, shortly after this meeting, did you receive an email from Knightsbridge North Lawyers?---Yes.

Would you have a look, please, at exhibit 96,

page 2.---Yes.

That's the email that you received, is it?---Yes.

And if you turn to the next page, you will see that you then sent a response?---Yes.

By email; do you see that?---Yes.

10 Now, you can see that's on page 3. You can see as well in the email that you sent on 28 April 2016 at page 3 that there was a discussion seemingly between you and, by that stage, Mr Peterson. Do you see that in the second-last paragraph?---Yes.

What you record there is that Mr Peterson told you that the proposed post office transaction was incomplete?---Yes.

20 Do you recall when it was that Mr Peterson had called you?---Well, I believe I contacted Knightsbridge North after I received this email and - - -

This is the email of 27 April?---Of the 27th of April, and we - I may have first spoken to Nick Peterson at that time and we organised to have a meeting when I was next in Sydney.

I see.---That's - that's my recollection.

30 Having regard to what's in the second-last paragraph of that email, was there some discussion about not only the post office, but also about the courthouse in Newcastle?---Well, yes, as per her email, Despina Bakis's email, she was saying that the post office had already transacted, which I thought was strange because I hadn't been told that in the meeting, but the courthouse was something they wanted me to look at. And looking at this email, yes, I do recollect Nick Peterson using words along the lines that, "Oh, it may not be over with the post office yet. That may have fallen through", something of
40 that nature.

Certainly. During the meeting involving Ms Dates, there was no discussion about the court, sorry about the post office having been sold or the subject of an incomplete transaction?---No.

Your only attendance there at Newcastle on the 27th of April and subsequently at the land council's offices was to discuss

that very site?---Yes.

10 It doesn't appear that this email from Ms Bakis refers at all to any proposal in connection with the post office, but certainly by the time you had spoken to Mr Peterson, he's suggesting to you that a transaction is underway, but as yet incomplete; is that the position?---Well, I think her second paragraph, that they'd moved to accept proposals, related to the post office, I took it to mean that they'd already made some judgment calls.

In any event - - -?---They had elected not to discuss.

I see. But whether in fact that was referred to by that letter, certainly by the time you'd spoken to Mr Peterson the next day - - -?---Yes.

- - - that was when?---Yes.

20 - - - you certainly knew that the post office was currently with some other developer and not available for you?---Well, yes, but he said something along the lines of, "Yes, but it may have fallen through"; it was uncertain.

In any event, was there some agreement for you to meet then when you were next in Sydney?---Yes, we did reach agreement to meet.

30 What is clear, Dr Lindrum, is that you did meet with a number of people on the 13th of May 2016 at the offices of Knightsbridge North Lawyers. Do you recall that meeting with a group of people?---Yes.

But prior to that meeting, there was, was there not, an earlier meeting at the offices of Knightsbridge North Lawyers?---Yes.

40 Do you recall the date of that meeting, Dr Lindrum, or approximately how long before?---I think it was about 27th of April - April, May. The date of the last meeting was on the 13th of May, wasn't it?

There was certainly a - - -?---Is that the group, the chair - the group meeting?

I'll show you the documents, Dr Lindrum.---That would be helpful.

It might help you work backwards.---Yes.

If you look, please, at page 5, you can see there an email from you to Knightsbridge North Lawyers, richard@indigenoulands.com, and the CEO of Awabakal LALC. Do you see that - - -?---Yes.

10 - - - down the bottom of the page? If you turn over to page 6 and 7, you can see the balance of your email. Now, I'll take you to that meeting shortly.---Yes.

So the meeting you attended initially in Newcastle was on the 27th of April. There's a meeting on the 13th of May. If I was to suggest to you that perhaps you met on or around 5 May 2016, does that sound right?---Yes, that sounds about right.

20 Was that meeting at the offices of Knightsbridge North Lawyers?---Yes, 9 Castlereagh Street.

Did Mr Peterson invite you to go to that office to meet?---Yes.

And when, obviously you went there that day. Did you go on your own?---Yes.

Was Mr Peterson there?---Yes.

30 Was somebody else there?---Yes.

Who was that?---Despina Bakis.

Was that the lady who was in the hearing room until a little while ago and walked out?---I'm sorry, she had her back to me.

40 In any event, that's the person, the person introduced herself to you as Despina Bakis, did she. When you went to the meeting on the 5th of May?---As to whether the lady - - -

That's unrelated to who was or was not in the hearing room. When you went to the meeting on the 5th of May 2016, the person who you met with Mr Petroulias introduced themselves as Despina Bakis?---Yes, and tendered her business card.

I see. I'm going to ask you to look at a photo before

I proceed further. Would you look just on the screen in front of you, Dr Lindrum, shortly, volume 1, page 1. Was that the gentleman Mr Peterson?---Yes.

Did you subsequently know that he used a different name?---I didn't know prior to coming to the Commission on the last occasion.

10 I see. All right, let's move ahead. Doctor, you've met with Ms Bakis and Mr Petroulias at the offices of Knightsbridge North Lawyers, which you think was on the 5th of May 2016?---Yes.

When you were there, was there any discussion about - sorry, did you meet in a boardroom?---We met in a small - not in a boardroom, but a small meeting room.

I see. The three of you?---Yes.

20 Was there discussion about the courthouse?---There was a - the courthouse was brushed to one side and - - -

By you or them?---No, no, by them. They wanted to talk about lands in Newcastle.

30 When you say "they wanted to talk", was it both of them talking?---Yes, but Despina Bakis, to the best of my recollection, asked Nick Peterson to go and get the - they had a map, a laminated map, and she asked him to go and get it and to show it to me.

Was there some discussion around what the map was said to show in terms of land?---Yes, this was a - I was led to believe that this was a parcel of land that the Awabakal people believed that was going to be signed over to them by the minister and that they wanted to - they were excited to see it developed and they wanted to explore its potential.

40 Was there any discussion about land that actually was held or owned by the land council in Warners Bay?---Oh, not - not to the best of my recollection, no, only that this land was going to be signed over to them and that they were nearly there with that occurring.

I see. Did they say that it was in the Warners Bay area?---Yes, it - - -

And was that Ms Bakis saying that or was it Mr Petroulias or both of them?---Well, it's both of them.

Would you have a look, please - this is going to come up on the screen, Dr Lindrum - volume 8, page 13.---Yes. Is there a hard copy in here?

10 It is not in that folder, but we can make one available.?---No, that's okay. I'll just have a little bit of a - - -

We can probably enlarge that fractionally if you like, and in particular, I want to draw your attention to the description down in the bottom right-hand corner?---Oh, that's better. Thank you, thank you. Yes. Yes.

Was that the map that was shown to you?---Yes.

20 What else was Ms Bakis saying in terms of what was the potential, if anything, for this property and you?---The discussions were quite complex in the sense that I was led to believe that they had somehow managed to unite the indigenous people in order to bring a number of developments to fruition for the benefit of the people in different regions, not just in Newcastle. In terms of this property, I was asked what my views were in terms of its potential. And because I had spent six months living in Branxton, I knew this area quite well; and I also was aware of the John Hunter Hospital and its potential for growth; 30 and also the university campus, which is probably ripe for some redevelopment or expansion and; of course, they were building their new law faculty in Newcastle, so when I saw this parcel of land, I did see potential for its development if, in fact, the people were going to get it.

40 After Ms Bakis asked Mr Petroulias to go and get this map, this is what he brought back to the room, was it? Is that right?---Yes. I mean, it was very colourful, but, yes, it was a map.

But it was a larger laminated version, was it?---It was about an A3 size.

I see. And, what, this was placed down on the table for viewing and discussion, was it?---Yes, it was.

By all three of you?---Yes.

Was there any discussion about this, in fact, being land that had been the subject of an earlier transaction between the land council and third parties?---No, that was never mentioned to me.

Was there any discussion by either of them that this land had been the subject of some sort of land dealing that was on foot?---No.

10

Was there any discussion with you that documents had been signed in connection with at least some of the parcels of those lands shown in that map?---I mean, no, I wouldn't - why would I have spent time on it if I was aware of that?

This idea of, I'll withdraw that. You thought there was some proximity to the University of Newcastle was an attraction for the university, if this land could be developed; is that right?---No, I saw that there may be a role for the university in that they were already bringing their law faculty into Newcastle. Newcastle has a very high youth unemployment rate. The existing university campus, some of the walkways are very, very dark at night and some of the buildings are very rundown, and I thought that it would be an interesting discussion with the university, if the people in fact were going to acquire this parcel and their intention was to create long-term employment for indigenous people, then it would seem obvious to me to engage in dialogue with the university and also with the hospital.

30

Was that an idea - the idea of engaging with the university and the hospital - ideas that you brought to this meeting or was that something that either Mr Petroulias or Ms Bakis had raised?---No, they were ideas I brought to the meeting and the - in the back of my mind was that Stephen Pimbley had developed the Spark Homefarm which is, of course, an aged care, very innovative aged care concept, that that was worth discussing with the hospital and with the university. No, they were ideas that I had brought forward that the discussion needed to occur with those people.

40

And this was the substance of what you were conveying to both of them in this meeting?---Yes, I thought that this was a potential town centre and it needed to be properly master-planned and, therefore, you would do dialogue with those people.

You then had a further meeting, though, didn't you on the 13th of May 2016?---I did.

10 I'm sorry, I should have asked you, was there anything else that was relevantly discussed at this meeting on the 5th of May 2016?---They also said that there were other projects and, you know, Despina Bakis, from the first email, led me to believe that she acted for and on behalf of the people and that dialogue was to go through her and that they had, as I say, united the people, and that there were projects in Windang, and that they also talked - they did raise, I believe, at that meeting, I'm not 100 per cent sure, but I do believe they raised Katherine at that meeting, a water pipe. That was something I knew very little about but I did raise it with Nigel Bryan, because I knew Nigel, in fact, knew a lot about attempts to put in that kind of infrastructure. But they did raise with me that there were other projects and I, in fact, did raise with them that there were indigenous people, for example, in Coffs Harbour and there were lands with the university there and that maybe if, in fact, people had been united as such, and there were these projects, that we should be looking at the total picture rather than small bits and pieces.

20 Is that the substance of the discussion and dialogue that was had then at this meeting on the 5th of May?---I think there were - the other - the other things that were mentioned at that meeting were the fact that Mr Sinodinos was the trustee of some - and that wasn't the word used, but I took it to mean trustee, that was "sitting on", they were the two words used, something like \$8.6 billion, and that it was critical that the indigenous people were united because that money could not be used for their benefit if they were going to be arguing. And also that the courthouse, it was not very far from being signed off, and I hadn't seen the courthouse.

30 Do you mean in consequence of a land title claim or a native title claim?---Yes, that's what they led me to believe, that that was nearly signed off, but I said I hadn't seen it and they said, "We want you to look at Windang at the moment" - sorry, Warners Bay.

I see. And who mentioned, when you say Mr Sinodinos, do you mean Arthur Sinodinos?---I'm sorry, yes.

I see and he was sitting, what, he personally, or he in some capacity

was sitting on \$8.6 billion?---That's what I was told.

By who?---Well, they were both there. I think it was Nick Peterson who said it, but they were both there in the room.

All right. Is that, so far as you can recall, now, Dr Lindrum, the substance of what was discussed at this meeting on the 5th of May 2016?---Yes.

10

And was there some contact after that time with a view to setting up a further meeting which ultimately did occur on the 13th of May 2016 and was that arranged at this meeting?---No, I think that there was discussion that there would be this meeting and that they would come back to me with the date to confirm a date - the date of the meeting and I would, you know, put some broadbrush proposals forward on that.

20

Do you mean on Warners Bay?---On Warners Bay.

Ultimately, you did go to the further meeting on the 13th of May 2016?---Yes. Yes.

Was that also held at Knightsbridge North Lawyers?---Yes.

30

And when you were told that that was the date and location of the meeting, were you told in advance who was to be there?---I was told that the representatives of the Awabakal people would be there, and that would include the chair or the deputy chair, and that Despina Bakis would be there and Nick Peterson would be there and that there would be - there was - they were bringing a town planner and someone who had banking expertise, but that - I didn't know about Mr - dear me, the gentleman from Advantage Properties, Soulios, Peter Soulios.

40

In any event, you were only told that there would be representatives from the land council in addition to Ms Bakis, Mr Petroulias, a town planner and somebody with a finance background might be coming along, is that right, but no names?---I was given the name Richard Green. I was given the name - I knew Nick Peterson and Despina Bakis. I wasn't given the name of the town planner.

You didn't know - - -?---I think I asked if Debbie Dates was going to the meeting and I didn't get an answer to the question.

You went along, anyway, on the 13th of May 2016 to Knightsbridge North lawyer's office?---I did, yes.

Mr Peterson was there?---Yes.

Mr Green was there?---Yes.

Ms Dates was there?---Yes.

10

Who else was in attendance at that meeting?---Yes, there was a gentleman who - an indigenous gentleman from the Illawarra region.

Was his name Derek Hardman?---Look, I'm really sorry, but he - he wasn't in a good way and he wasn't introduced.

I see. Who else was there?---There was a lady by the name of Rose.

20

Did she identify where she was from?---She said she was a town planner and that she did some work for the New South Wales state government, but she didn't tender a business card nor a surname.

Who else in addition was there?---A gentleman called Hussein who was from, it looked like Middle-Eastern background.

30

Did he identify himself as being from Advantage or he didn't identify where he was from?---No, he didn't identify himself. He said that he had - his experience was working with the Chinese Construction Bank.

Did you know he was to be in attendance that day?---No, I did not.

Was also in attendance somebody called Peter Soulios?---Correct.

40

Did he identify himself as being from Advantage?---From Advantage Property, yes.

Was there anybody else at this meeting?---No. Despina Bakis did not come to the meeting.

Right. Were you a bit surprised that these additional

people had come along?---Yes.

What was your feeling when you were asked to speak about Warners Bay in the presence of all these additional people?---I was very uncomfortable.

Why is that?---I didn't know them. I didn't know who I was talking to. I don't like - I don't like presenting ideas to people that I don't know who they are.

10

Did you have the feeling or come to understand that they were, in effect, competition to you for these lands?---I formed the view very quickly that that might be the case, but it was - you know, if it were the case, it was too late, I'd put my ideas out there, so - - -

Anyway, you presented across to the group, this group of people, about really what your ideas were for this area; isn't that right?---Can I modify that a little bit?

20

Of course you can.---I think - I think what I really said to them was that this was going to be a major project. It was going to be enormously costly, and to have someone like me involved, it was going to be costly and they needed to be aware of that. They also needed to be aware that a lot of experts would be required to make it happen to get a master plan approved and then to proceed to a DA and they needed to be really aware of the cost factors. They didn't - - -

30

Pause there for the moment if you would. If you think back to the plan that I showed you, the Monteath & Powys plan at volume 8, page 13, that's a substantial holding of land there, is it not?---Yes. It's a green space, yes.

You described it as almost a town centre of itself, didn't you?---Yes.

Is that the context of you saying this is going to cost a lot of money? Is that the context of why you thought that and why you expressed it?---I mean, I guess, yes, because I tried to express it to them in this way: that if you were building, let's say, a 12-storey building on a 10,000 square metre parcel of land and it's going to have quality fittings and fixtures and whatever, it's going to cost about possibly \$113 million. The ground work, the master plan on that site and the DA process can cost anything from

40

\$1 to \$3 million, so if you've got a large green space here, like a Sovereign Hills or, you know, elements of Coffs Harbour, these are very large developments and they are costly and the people - and you need experts involved who know what they're doing, because they're more costly where you don't have experts involved. And I was very concerned and I need to say I was very concerned about Mr Soulios's - he wanted to - they were talking about bringing in fabricated housing and doing some sort of fabricated housing development along the golf course. And I'd seen firsthand some of the damage of that down in Bulli and so I expressed concern about that at the meeting.

All right. Now, Dr Lindrum, you've talked about a master plan and how much it would cost just then in your evidence?---Estimates.

Of course, an estimate of what it might cost?---Mmm.

Depending upon many variables?---Mmm.

But, at any stage during the course of the meetings that you had with Mr Petroulias, Ms Bakis, or any of those at this meeting on the 13th of May, was there any discussion that a master plan was going to be prepared by the University of New South Wales effectively for free?---Ms Bakis wasn't at the meeting, but - - -

I wanted to - - -?---I'm sorry.

I included her to cover any meeting?---Oh, sure. No, that was told me to me much later.

Who told you that was going to happen; namely, that there was going to be a master plan prepared by the University of New South Wales at nominal cost?---After this - - -

Could you just answer who said that first, please?---Nick Peterson.

I see. Was that at some meeting subsequent to this one?---Yes, in June, yes.

All right. Let's go back to this meeting now if we can, please, on the 13th of May. You presented your ideas in general terms and a breakdown of how you saw certain things to play out if certain elements fell the way of you and the land

council; is that right?---Yes.

And how long did this meeting go for approximately?---It went from about 3 until about 10 to 6.

10 Were you the person that did principally most of the talking - that is, Mr Soulios, Rose and Mr Faraj were saying very little - or what was the position?---No, Mr Soulios had quite a lot to say about his ideas for housing and Mr Hussein spoke in a way that could lead one to believe he had experience with raising money with the Chinese Construction Bank, but I suppose they were clearly there, or I formed the view they were clearly there to hear what I had to say and so, yes, until the meeting was closed and then Mr Green had quite a lot to say.

20 What was the substance of what Mr Green had to say?---I have to put it in my own words, please. So it's, to the best of my recollection, and in my own words, along the lines of, "It's time that we indigenous people got really, really rich. This is our time. Our time has come. We want our children to have what white children have", and it was what I would consider to be a rant.

30 I see was Ms Dates participating in these discussions at all?---No, she'd gone into the corridor with the gentleman from the Illawarra, and Nick Peterson appeared. I don't know whether he was agitated, but he had - he had something on his mind that he wanted to ask me, so he was attempting to herd me out of the boardroom, which he did.

40 What did he say when he took you out of the boardroom?---He said that, "You know, all this is going to happen and we're going to get all the money. And I've got a big bank draft in now and do you think it's okay?" And he pulled up his mobile phone and he showed me this bank draft on the Deutsche Bank. And I said to him, "Nick, look, would it be okay with you - I mean, that's a lot of money. Would it be okay with you if you sent me a copy of that, because I know someone who is experienced in the banking industry and I think maybe it needs to be checked out?" And he did send it to me, and I did send it on to Nigel Bryan and also I sent it on to Lee Evans MP with my feelings of concern.

All right. We'll come to those in a moment, Dr Lindrum, but if you have a look, please, at exhibit 96 and page 5, you'll see that you sent an email - - -?---I'm sorry, what

page was it?

Page 5.---Yes.

You'll see that you sent an email, what appears to be on the morning, so your time might be slightly out, confirming the thrust of what you discussed; is that right? It goes all the way to page 7, Dr Lindrum.---Yes. Yes, that's the email I sent.

10

And if you can see above that email, I'm sorry I'll withdraw that. Where did you and Why did you. I withdraw that. Why did you send the email as well to richard@indigenouslands.com?---Because he'd provided me with those details and he was party to the meeting.

I see. Now if you look above that, please, Dr Lindrum, you'll see that Mr - I think I've been calling him Petroulias, but Peterson - - -?---Yes.

20

- - - sends an email to you at 7.35pm asking for clarification about whether you're putting any capital into this potential development. Do you see that?---Yes.

And obviously your response is above that, is it not? The same page, page 5.---My response is above it?

Yes.---All I've got is "for your information".

30

I'm sorry, just beneath that, isn't there a - - -?---I see, yes.

Do you see that?---Yes.

And that's your response?---Yes.

And you in due course sent on to the CEO of the land council and to Mr Green - - -?---Yes.

- - - the email trail, as it were?---Yes.

40

Could you have a look please at page 8.---Yes.

And you can see there's a document called "The project proposal"?---Yes.

Did you prepare that?---Yes.

And did you send that before the meeting or did you provide it

at the meeting?---I provided it at the meeting.

I see. Did you have multiple copies to distribute?---Yes.

And you did distribute them, did you?---Yes.

10 Now would you have a look, please at- this will come up on the screen only, Dr Lindrum, so it's volume 16, page 27. And you can see there - I appreciate you've not seen these before, these are minutes of a board meeting I want you to assume doctor, of the land council on the 22nd of June 2016. And I want you just to have a look, please, if you would, at page 30. You can see there that there's reference to a proposal by you. Do you see that?---Yes. Yes, sorry.

Would you just read it to yourself, Dr Lindrum.---Yes.

20 We'll just move down a bit further on to page 31. I just want you to read to yourself, please, up to, "In return, she offers"?---Yes.

And, I'm sorry as well as the next paragraph, "It is not clear who is going to pay for this project "?---Yes.

30 The initial matters up to "It is not clear who is going to pay for this project", is that a fair summation of what went on at the meeting?---Well, no, it's definitely not a fair summation of what went on at the meeting because, first and foremost, at the earlier meeting with Despina Bakis and Nick Peterson, I was led to believe that there was more than ample capital available to the people to do their development. They did ask me if Lindrum, as such - "Lindrum" being a collective in that circumstance, a group of people, investors that I would put together - would be interested in the development rights. Yes, possibly, but too early to have really made any commitment at that level. The issue for me was I wasn't going to come in and out to these meetings, obviously, if there was no - if we weren't going in a proper commercial direction and we all knew where we stood, which was not the case. So, firstly, they had led me to believe that they had funds. At a later - - -

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When you say "they" do you mean Ms Bakis?---Yes. Despina Bakis and Nick Peterson both led me to believe that this was this fund of money and they had been successful in uniting the people and that Mr Sinodinos would be making

those funds available for various projects, including this one, and with a view to creating long-term job opportunities. That was the message that was delivered to me. The meeting on the 15th of June - - -

I'm not asking about that at the moment.---Okay.

10 I'm just asking, having read what is recorded as the minute of what occurred at the meeting on the 13th of May 2016, that you thought that was a fair summation of what transpired, and you pointed out one thing where you didn't think it was fair?---Well, no, because it - that sentence really shows a complete - to me, it shows a complete lack of understanding.

20 Would you identify the sentence you're referring to?---Well, "Once rezoned, Lindrum would consider acquiring the development rights", I suppose I certainly, if I had been writing up the minutes, would have put them in a more detailed way.

Sorry, could you just focus on - - -?Sorry?

No, I'm just asking whether you agree or disagree, and you've pointed out that sentence "Once rezoned, Lindrum would consider" was not a fair summation of what occurred or is not correct?---No.

30 Could you just identify what the issue that you see with it is?---Well, the issue is it makes it look quite simplistic and it's not a simple - it's not a simple matter.

40 Well did you, if the area was rezoned, express the view you would consider acquiring the development rights or not?---Yes, in the context that we'd consider it, putting the investment structure together, if we were able to do so and, yes, we would look at it, because it was an opportunity, just as you would look at any potential town centre.

I see.---So I think the sentence is simplistic. That's just the point I'm making.

All right. And The point that it next makes in the following paragraph, "It is not clear who is going to pay for this project", again, is that the same criticism, namely that the proposal at this stages is embryonic, obviously you don't know who

is going to pay for it because it hasn't been developed?---These are their minutes and - - -

I understand that. I'm just asking whether you agree with it?---Well, no, I'm not agreeing with it because they said that they were getting the money to do these developments.

10 Let's move on if we can, now. So was it see essentially the way this meeting was left that a business case or plan needed to be put together before this could be discussed or developed further?---Definitely.

20 Now would you have a look, please, just at the folder in front of you, or the material in front of you, exhibit 96, Dr Lindrum, and have a look, please, at page 12. You will see that, on the 22nd of May 2016, you sent a follow up email asking for some response to what had been discussed at the meeting. Do you see that?---Is that my email - is that document 12, page 12?

It is. So it is the email of 22 May 2016 at 9.47am?---Yes.

Now eventually, you came to have another meeting, did you not, with at least Mr Peterson; is that right?---I did have two meetings with Mr Peterson.

After the meeting of 13th?---After the 13th.

30 When was the first one, so far as you can recall?---It wasn't a planned meeting, so I'm terribly sorry, I can't give you an exact date. What happened - - -

Just pause there, for the moment, doctor, just so can I put this into some context. There was certainly a meeting that occurred on the 15th of June 2016 because you could see in the minutes - - -?---That's correct.

40 Was this other meeting that you referred to before or after that meeting?---It was before.

And are you able to say approximately when it was?---It may have been two weeks before.

And who attended that meeting?---It wasn't a planned meeting.

I'm just asking who attended it?---Nick Peterson and I.

Where was it held?---Where was it held?

Yes.---I'm trying to think of the suburb. I'm sorry, this is just - it wasn't a planned meeting. What occurred was that Nick Peterson phoned me and asked me if I was in Sydney, and I said I was and he said would there be a chance of having a coffee with him?

10 Did you agree, obviously, to do that?---I did agree to do it. I said I only had a very short window, but I could meet him for a coffee, and I think we met at Burwood, just close to Burwood station and we had a coffee in a coffee shop.

20 What was discussed then between you?---He said that what he wanted to get was a fund manager, that this money was going to, you know, be coming in and there needed to be somebody with a licence who was a fund manager. And I said, well, I didn't know - at first I thought, I couldn't think of anybody that might fit the bill and then Nigel Bryan came into my mind and I said, "Look, there might be somebody" and, with his permission, I would have a confidential chat to see if Nigel did have a licence and whether he would be interested in having a discussion with them.

30 What else was said at this meeting with you and Mr Petroulias then other than identifying Mr Bryan as a potential person to speak to?---That was it. It was very brief. I didn't have much time and he just said he wanted a fund manager and I said I would, with his permission, I would have a chat to Nigel Bryan.

But, Dr Lindrum, you did then go and have another meeting on the 15th of June 2016 involving at least Mr Peterson; isn't that right?---I asked Nick Peterson if a meeting could be set up with the decision makers of the Awabakal people on the 15th of June and he agreed to do that.

40 I see. Okay. When did you ask for this meeting to occur?---I spoke with Nigel Bryan - - -

Sorry?---About the fund licence.

All right. I'm just asking when at the moment. So we know you met on the 15th of June. I'm just trying to work out when it is?---After that meeting that I met, I spoke with Nigel Bryan and asked him if he had a fund licence, whether

it was possible to put a fund together. I explained to him in broadbrush terms on a confidential basis what the people were attempting to achieve. Nigel said that it would be good if there could be a meeting with the decision makers. I'd also asked Nigel Bryan - Nigel - Nick Peterson whether I could bring Dr John Troughton to that meeting, because Dr John Troughton is an agricultural scientist. And Dr John Troughton knew and understood very well what Stephen Pimbley was attempting to do with the Spark Homefarm, and how it would work very well at Warners Bay. I spoke with - Nick Peterson said that would be okay. I spoke with Dr Troughton and they both agreed that they would come and we asked for the decision makers to be present at that meeting.

So the date of 15 June has been selected?---Yes.

And its location was Knightsbridge North Lawyers' office?---In Castlereagh Street.

Did the three of you, Dr Troughton, Nigel Bryan and yourself attend?---Yes.

Nigel Bryan was a former banker but he's also a chartered accountant, is he not, or was?...Yes.

When you went to Knightsbridge North Lawyers offices, was Mr Peterson there?---Yes.

Was Ms Bakis present at this meeting or not?---She was in the office but she didn't come to the meeting.

Did you see her?---Yes. She passed us.

And so far as you could see - I'm sorry?---She passed.

I see. When you say that, she walked by all three of you, you mean?---Nick, instead of directing us towards the boardroom, Nick Peterson took us into the main body of the office, and Despina Bakis walked past and said, "Oh, hello, I'll be there in a minute" and walked past. And then he took us into a far section of the office where I'd never been before.

Were any decision makers from the land council there?---No, it was just Nick Peterson.

What did Mr Peterson say to the three of you when you were there?---He said that we needed to know that the Newcastle university had agreed to do a master plan on Warners Bay and that the people had entered into a joint venture - - -

When you say "the people", did he say who the people were?---No, he kept - he just always said, "the people" had entered into a joint venture agreement with Advantage.

10 Did that take you by surprise somewhat?---Yes, very much.

Why was that?---The three of us.

Why was that?---Because we were there to talk about their projects and why - what was the purpose of having - what was the purpose of having us there? If you've already signed and exchanged documents with people, what was the purpose?

20 What else did he say at this stage?---He said something about - I'm sorry, I don't understand it. He said something about he'd reached a deal with the New Zealand building societies, and he repeated the \$8.6 billion with Arthur Sinodinos, and he also said that they had instituted proceedings - the people had - the Awabakal people; he did use "the Awabakal people" for that, that they had instituted proceedings against the state land council because they were sitting on - and I'm sorry, but I think \$600 million was the figure and they didn't - they were poor managers and they'd instituted the proceedings because they knew that the land council would be forced to settle and the least amount they could get out of them would be
30 \$200 million but they were going to drag them to the steps of court and the three of us were horrified.

How long did this meeting go for?---Maybe just under an hour.

40 Did Ms Bakis ever come and join you during the course of this meeting?---No. We asked about it. He said she'd been caught up.

Was Nigel Bryan, in particular, probing Mr Petroulias a bit about what lay behind what he was saying?---Yes. Yes.

Did you come away from that meeting with a particular feeling as to what was going on?---I came away feeling very

uncomfortable.

And what do you mean by that?---Well, Nigel Bryan and Dr Troughton and I had a discussion over coffee afterwards, and we - we were very worried about someone instituting proceedings and, you know, talking about dragging people to court steps so they could get money out of them. I mean, it's very disturbing.

10 Did the meeting end, or was the meeting, for your part and for the two gentlemen you went with - did it finish in a cordial way?---No. Cordial? I think the three of us are all respectful people, so we didn't storm out, but I think it was very tense.

The meeting was?---I think the meeting was tense and I think the departure was tense.

20 After the meeting, did you receive an email from Knightsbridge North Lawyers about a number of matters?---Yes.

Would you have a look, please, at page 14 of exhibit 96. And you'll see - - -?---Yes.

Is that the email or the next communication you had either from Mr Petroulias or Ms Bakis following the meeting you had on the 15th of June 2016?---Yes.

30 I'll come to your response in a moment, but I just want to ask you some questions about what's contained within it. You'll see in the second paragraph, after the quote, that apparently, or it is alleged, that you made a call to the land council offices on 20th of June 2016 to make libellous allegations against Nick "in our office". I assume that means "of our office". Did you make contact with anybody at the land council?---At the prior - our prior discussion when I came previously - - -

40 Could you just focus - - -?---Well, I have to answer it this way.

I appreciate you do, but just answer it as directly as you can. You don't need to make reference to anything else, sorry, in terms of what was said, just - - -?Well, I do, because I didn't have access to any documents, you'll recall, in relation to this entire matter, so I was relying

totally on my memory when I came previously. On looking back at my documents, which I was able to recover off my computer, I did make a confidential phone call to indigenous community volunteers. I made that phone call after discussion with Nigel Bryan and Dr John Troughton because we were concerned and I wanted to hear what they had to say or what their recommendations were for us - what we should do, if anything.

10 I'm just asking you just at the moment just did you ring the land council, the Awabakal Land Council, on 20th of June 2016 because that's what it said in this letter, or you didn't?---I do not recall ringing the Awabakal Land Council. I do recall ringing the state land council.

I see.---And asking them if they could provide me with the executive of the Awabakal Land Council, the names.

20 Is it a fair position to take, then, that any suggestion that you called the land council on that day and made libellous allegations against Nick - who I presume is Nick Peterson - is untrue?---Yes.

All right. It also records, Dr Lindrum, that apparently Mr Green called you on the 21st of June to confirm those allegations. Did Mr Green ever call you on the 21st of June about any matter?---I have a vague recollection of Mr Green calling me.

30 All right.---And it is within the realms of possibility that the state land council spoke with the Awabakal Land Council and Mr Green rang me as a consequence. Mr Green, I really do not recall a coherent conversation with Mr Green. I certainly don't recall any criticisms of me in terms of any allegations that I did not make against Nick Peterson.

40 What seems to be said - I'll just try and distil it, Dr Lindrum for you - is that apparently during this conversation, Mr Green reminded you about people who do not obtain what they want, they tend to get very nasty and matters of that kind. Did you ever have a conversation at any stage, either on the phone, in person with Mr Green along those lines?---No.

Now you then, I take it you were a bit taken back by this letter, weren't you?---I was, indeed.

You provided a response, did you not?---I did.

If you have a look at page 13?--Yes.

Is that the email response that you sent to, amongst others, Knightsbridge North Lawyers?---Yes.

Did you ever receive a response to that?--No.

10

Now I want to take you as well, if I can, Dr Lindrum, just back to the minutes, just to have a look at what is recorded in them on the 15th. Sorry, it's volume 16, page 27. If you just scroll down to page 30, please, you can see where I've taken you already to the proposal by you in point 6. If you go to the next page, page 31, you can see from where the green highlight is that there's a recording there of what apparently occurred at this meeting on the 15th of June 2016. Do you see that?---Yes.

20

Would you be good enough, Dr Lindrum, just to read to yourself all the way to the second-last paragraph on that page.---Yes.

Now I want to take you to a couple of parts of this. It refers to a meeting. Would you describe what happened to be a meeting?---It was a meeting, but not a meeting in the normal course.

30

It is also suggested that you were asked to work in and share the project with Advantage. Was there any offer for you to work in with Advantage?---No.

40

You will also see in the following paragraph that apparently it is recorded that you stated that any purchase would be subject to a DA. Do you see that?---Sorry, can I just correct that last statement, in the sense that Nick Peterson, I think, was saying to Dr Troughton and Nigel Bryan and I that there was plenty of opportunity for everyone, so I suppose that might be read as an encouragement to get us to work with Advantage, but there was no direct approach to us to do that.

If you then come back to the next paragraph where it says that you stated that any purchase would be subject to a DA - do you see that?---Yes.

I mean, that presumably would be true, but were they prepared to sell their land?---But this doesn't make any sense.

All right. What's the difficulty with it?---The difficulty is that we were told that they'd already executed joint venture agreements.

10 Right.---So why would there be a discussion about the payment of any money or entering into any contracts if we'd already done it?

20 If you go down to the next paragraph, Dr Lindrum, you'll see as well, the first sentence, that there was the implication that funding of your salary would be by a loan against the Awabakal land. Was there any discussion along those lines, Dr Lindrum?---It's not good to make statements by implication. Absolutely not. As you will see from my notes throughout, I made it really very clear that I felt that perhaps what I do and the people that I work with might be too expensive and that there might be other ways to travel. I was led to believe that they had available funds, so absolutely not, there was never any discussion, implication or anything else about raising my possible income off Awabakal land.

30 You can see as well that there's a comment, "There is no immediate ability to reconcile Ms Lindrum's approach to any commercial reality or the community priorities." Do you have anything to add to that statement as well?---Well, only that why would there be? If they'd entered into joint venture agreements with somebody already, there would be no need to reconcile with anybody, any commercial reality.

40 In any event, the approach you took was fairly orthodox; namely, to prepare a master plan to source that investment and that people could assist in the development of lands. That's broadly what you were proposing, was it not?---Please remember that I'm being told that they have the money and they're asking me for my thoughts on how they should go about doing it, so I provided my thoughts.

You can see at the bottom, Dr Lindrum, that there's a reference there that on 21 June, Ms Towers reports that you were making libellous allegations, including ICAC threats. Do you see that?---Yes, I see it.

Have you ever spoken to Candy Towers at all?---I don't believe so, unless she was the lady in the room at that very first meeting, but they weren't ---

In April of 2016?---Sorry?

In April of 2016?---Yes. But those ladies weren't introduced to us. They were asked to leave.

10 But have you ever made any libellous allegations including ICAC threats to any person at the land council at all?---I don't - I don't do that. It's not the way I conduct myself or my business. You know, I was concerned about the cheque. I send it to Lee Evans. I had a discussion with Lee Evans MP about it because I was concerned.

20 I'll come to that now, Dr Lindrum, if you like. It is probably a convenient time to do it. You were troubled, I think you've said a couple of times now, about what had occurred and you with Nigel Bryan wrote a letter to it's Julian Leeser, MP, isn't that right?---I don't know Julian Leeser MP. He is known to Nigel Bryan.

I see. Could I just ask you to have a look, then, doctor, if you would, at page 15 of exhibit 96.---Is that page 15?

30 That was 15. If I said 15, I meant 16.?---Sorry, yes. Yes, I have seen this previously.

It appears that Mr Bryan had had a meeting with Mr Leeser on the 12th of July 2016?---So it appears. I wasn't there.

And this letter went subsequent to that approximately on the 26th of July 2016? Does that sound about right?---Yes.

40 If you have a look, please, at page 19 - you just have to turn it on its side - you'll see that there's a response that ultimately came back from the Commonwealth Minister for Indigenous Affairs on the 14th of November 2016. Do you recall receiving that, Dr Lindrum?---Yes.

You can see within the letter that it refers to the fact that investigations had actually been or were underway by the state minister, and there was a suggestion as well that you could contact the office of the registrar and the details were provided. Do you see that?---I see it.

Did you make any further complaint or did you make any further contact with the state minister following receipt of this letter?---I was asked by Nigel Bryan, after he had the meeting with Julian Leaser, to put a statement together which I did to the best of my recollection of all the facts that I could recall, and I provided that to Nigel Bryan to give to Julian Leaser. This letter here - where would this have been sent to me? It doesn't have - - -

10

The last letter on page 19?---Yes.

It appeared to be addressed to you, but if you see what it says is that it didn't have your contact details and could it be forwarded on to you?---Right. By whom?

Well, I think I did ask you whether you received it. Did you not receive this response at all?---I don't believe so, no.

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All right. What other steps did you take after you'd been in touch with Mr Julian Leaser MP to formalise your complaints, if you had any further ones to make?---Well, nothing. You see, I was asked, as I say, by Nigel after his meeting with Julian Leaser to provide a statement, which I did, and I didn't receive any other approach until I received a summons. I mean, it's very difficult, isn't it? One does see things in general business quite a lot. And one does try to do what one can about it and I did raise my concerns with Lee Evans. I did do the statement for Julian Leaser. If I'd received this letter I would have made contact. Nigel had my email. I'm sorry.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Just before we go on. There are problems about proceeding on much more.

MR CHEN: I'm almost finished, Commissioner.

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THE COMMISSIONER: It's just that the Commission here shuts down its facilities at about 4.30.

MR CHEN: I expect I'll be finished within a couple of minutes, Commissioner, if that's of any assistance.

THE COMMISSIONER: That's fine. Thank you.

MR CHEN: But you put your thoughts in the letter that

I took you to a moment ago, the letter that you were sent on about the 26th of July 2016. That set out, more or less, did it not, your thoughts, your recollections and the concerns that you had, at page 15?---No, this is - that is Nigel's letter.

You will see at the bottom, at the end of it on page 17, you can see that you're - - -?---Yes, but there was also an accompanying statement from me.

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I see.---Which isn't here.

No?---I can provide it.

If you would provide that to the Commission, we'll make sure that is made available.---Yes, certainly, I'll provide it.

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Just on a final matter, Dr Lindrum, I want you to assume that the notes of the land council of the 8th of July 2016 record that perhaps you may have made contact on or around that time seeking the individual board member names and details. Did you ever do that?---To the best of my recollection, that phone call requesting that information I made to the state land council. I think that was the advice that I got from indigenous community affairs. If I'm mistaken and I called the Awabakal Land Council and it is a long time ago, certainly that's the question I would have asked because that's the question that ICV asked me to ask.

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I see. But you don't have a clear recollection who you did make contact with?---I have a clear recollection of speaking to the state land council. I don't have a recollection of speaking to Awabakal as well. I may well have, but I honestly have no recollection of it.

Did you ever get a letter of "refusal" from the land council at all in relation to these dealings that you had with them?---No.

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Did you ever receive correspondence from them to "go away"?---No.

MR CHEN: Commissioner, that's the evidence of this witness.

Thank you, Dr Lindrum.---Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: Dr Lindrum, that completes your examination. Thank you again for your attendance here today.---It was a pleasure. Thank you.

THE COMMISSIONER: You are free to go and I will adjourn.

THE WITNESS EXCUSED [4.14pm]

10 AT 4.14PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY
[4.14pm]

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