

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: OP Dasha**

PLACE: ICAC

NAME: Nick Katris

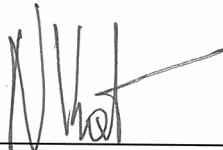
OCCUPATION: Architect

DATE: ^{July} 4 June 2017

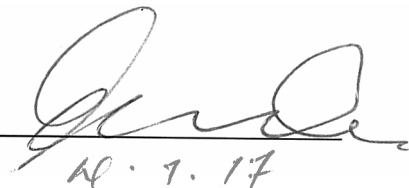
States: -

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1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in Court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
 2. I am 65 years of age.
 3. I am a registered Architect of 39 years and I am a director and an owner of Katris Architects.Pty Ltd
 4. I hold a Bachelor of Science Architecture and a Bachelor of Architecture with Honours from the University of NSW. I also hold a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Sydney University. I am a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Australia Institute of Architects. My company is also a member of the Association of Consulting Architects.

Signature



Witness



20. 7. 17

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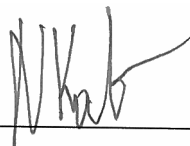
5. I also served as a Councillor on Kogarah City Council from 1995 till Kogarah City Council was amalgamated with Hurstville Council , to form Georges River Council on the 12 /05/2016

6. In the course of my work I was introduced to Spiro Stavis (“Stavis”) in about 2010 when he owned and operated SPD Town Planners. SPD Town Planners were recommended for some consultancy work on some of our clients projects which required the preparation of Town Planners submissions. I found SPD Town Planners work to be reasonable and I found that Stavis had comprehensive knowledge on matters that related to development.

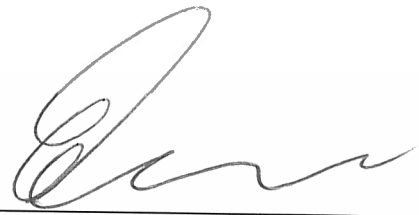
7. In about 2012, I was informed that, due to financial reasons, SPD Town Planners ceased to operate and Stavis had become employed at Strathfield Council as a town planner. Following this, he was employed as a town planner at Botany Bay Council.

8. I did not have an ongoing personal or social relationship with Stavis and very seldom came into contact with him after his company folded up although I would occasionally see him at Council related meetings in his role as a Consultant Town Planner

Signature

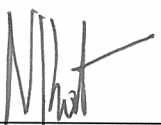


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9. In 2014, I received a telephone call from Stavis, informing me that he intended to apply for the position of Director City Planning at Canterbury City Council. During this call he expressed concerns that he was unfamiliar with the structure of DA's, Strategic Planning or Council's visions and asked if I knew anybody that could assist him to gain further knowledge to apply for the job.
10. I was not aware at that time that council were seeking to have the position filled although I was aware at or about that time, the former Director of City Planner Marcello Occhiuzzi had resigned.
11. Stavis also asked me for a reference, however, I did not provide one because it is not common practise for me to provide a written reference unless I can fully vouch for that person and their performance.
12. Although I did not know anyone that could assist him directly in applying for a job, I did know of George Vasil ("Vasil"). I had known Vasil for approximately 4 years as the owner for Ray White Real Estate at Earlwood. During that period my Company was commissioned to a project for members of his family and he has referred some clients to us.

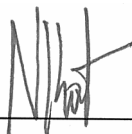
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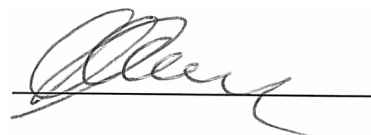
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13. He is heavily involved in the development business in the local Canterbury area and he is very well known locally as he has had a long history in the area and he maintains a thorough knowledge on strategic planning and development assessment matters as well as other general matters that related to Canterbury City Council
14. I am aware that the previous, Councillor Michael Hawatt, ("Hawatt") was well known to Vasil. I have sighted Hawatt within Vasil's office on a few occasions. I, however have no personal or social relationship with Hawatt.
15. I phoned Vasil and indicated to him that Stavis was looking for some assistance in gaining knowledge on strategic planning and development assessment matters as well as other general matters that related to Canterbury City Council as he was intending on applying for the role of Director City Planning. I provided the contact details of Vasil to Stavis and to the best of my knowledge, they met. The content of this meeting is not known to me nor the outcome.
16. I recall at a later stage that Stavis was employed at Canterbury Council; but his appointment had been halted. I was not privy to any information leading up to that appointment. It was about this time that some media articles concerning the General Manager Jim Montague ("Montague") were published.

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17. They related to the alleged questionable behaviour of Montague and his mishandling of the recent employment of the Councils Director of Planning – Stavis
18. I became aware that some Councillors, including Hawatt, were involved in the attempt to remove Montague from Council from media articles, which was general public knowledge.
19. I did not have a personal or social relationship with Montague. I had a collegial local Government interaction over many years. I did receive a phone call although I do not recall when Montague rang but I thought the phone call unusual, when he rang me to question me on Stavis' professional ability. I had not personally recommended Stavis, but I thought, that Montague was seeking my professional view of his ability. I do not recall having any further discussions with Montague on this matter.
20. I do recall that I received a phone call, (but I cannot recall when that was), from Vasil, questioning whether a Council can offer employment and then retract it (based on my knowledge on local Government Matters). I indicated that Council could and a conversation surrounding that issue did occur.

Signature



Witness

