

**INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION**

**STATEMENT IN THE MATTER OF: Operation Dasha.**


**PLACE: ICAC**

**NAME: Simon Manoski**

**DATE: 23 February 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 38 years of age.
  3. I was employed at the Canterbury Bankstown Council ("CBC") from December 2015 to September 2016 as Project Manager (Strategic Projects). In this role I provided Strategic planning and policy advice, project managed major rezoning and development proposals involving property transactions and built strategic relationships with State Government.

Signature 

Witness 

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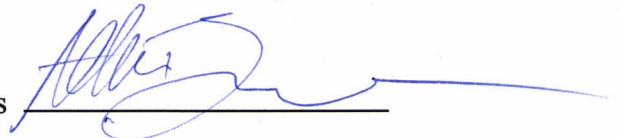
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4. On 29 September 2016, I was appointed to the role of Executive Director at CBC.  
In my current role I lead the communication, community and stakeholder engagement and events areas as well as supporting the office of the Administrator and General Manager.
5. Prior to being employed at CBC I was employed at the Department of Planning & Environment ("DoPE") between June 2014 and December 2015 as a General Manager. I was responsible for the Sydney Metropolitan East and West Regions. I worked with the private sector, councils and Government agencies to deliver on State Strategic Plans and policy directions.
6. I also held the role of Director within the Officer of the Director General from 2013 to 2014.
7. In 2001 I obtained a Bachelor of Town Planning from the University of NSW.
8. In 2007 I also obtained a Masters of Environmental and Local Government Law from Macquarie University.
9. In November 2014, I applied for a position of Director of City Planning, and liaised through Judith Carpenter an independent recruitment specialist, commissioned by the former Canterbury Council.

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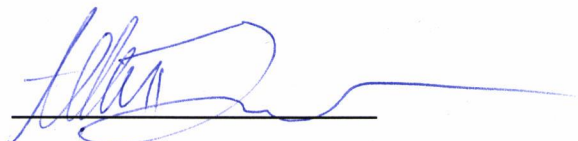
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10. I attended a formal interview regarding that position.
11. Present at the interview was Councillor Hawatt, Azzi, Mayor Robson, General Manager Montague and independent panel member Judith Carpenter.
12. The interview was unconventional in that councillors attended the interview and I understand that councillors don't have a role in recruiting staff aside from the General Manager.
13. I also found some of the questions and comments made by councillors to be unusual in that I was asked whether I would follow the direction from the General Manager. I am aware that any decisions I made would be bounded by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act and that any recommendation I made to the General Manager or Council would need to be defensible, justifiable and reflective of my professional judgment.
14. I would have expected that the questions posed to me at the interview would have been reflective of the advertised position concerning strategic growth matters, change management and matters relating to the Local Government Act. However, this was not the case.
15. Sometime after the interview I had a conversation with Judith Carpenter who advised that I was not successful for that position.

Signature



Witness



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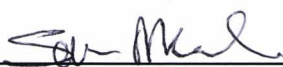
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16. After this I went on holidays to Fiji. I recall receiving a voice mail message from Judith Carpenter. As a result of the message I became aware that I was infact the preferred candidate for the position I applied for. I also received a voice message from Jim Montague about this time. He requested that I return his call concerning the position of Director of Planning. I attempted to call Jim Montague a number of times, however, I was unsuccessful.

17. I had a conversation with Judith Carpenter about this matter about this time. I recall her being very unhappy with the panel and frustrated. I did receive a phone call from Jim Montague sometime after telling me that Spiro Stavis had been appointed to the position. I don't recall the substance of the conversation.

Signature



Witness

