

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

PLACE: ICAC
NAME: Brian Robson
DATE: 24 May 2017

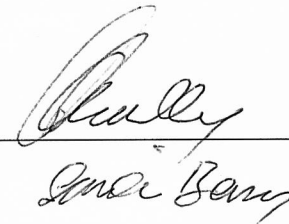
States: -

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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 66 years of age.
 3. I was the former Mayor of the City of Canterbury Council from 1999 to 2016.
 4. During the evening of Tuesday 6th January 2015, I received a phone call from former Premier Morris Iemma ("Iemma"). I have known Iemma since 1991 when he was elected to the seat of Hurstville.
 5. I had phoned Iemma on the afternoon of the 25th December to tell him of the Notice of Motion delivered by Cr Pierre Azzi (Azzi) and Cr Michael Hawatt (Hawatt) calling for the termination of GM Jim Montague's (Montague) contract.

Signature



Witness



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6. During the period 29th December 2014 and 30th December 2014 I had visited Iemma at his home to discuss the previous few day's events including the meeting between Montague, Azzi and Hawatt at the Canterbury-Bankstown Leagues Club as had been explained to me by Montague at Council on the 29th December 2014.
7. Iemma's advice was to report the matter to the ICAC and I informed him that Montague and I had already had attempted to do so as well as attempting to report the matter to the Office of Local Government.
8. Iemma phoned me on the evening of the 6th January 2015.
9. He said word to the effect "I just received phone call from Azzi. He went on to say "Azzi has told me about the meeting with Montague and Hawatt."
10. He seemed amazed that Azzi would phone him to discuss such a matter.
11. Iemma continued to say, "Azzi admitted to me that he and Hawatt had made an offer to Montague to go early and to hire Spiro Stavis as Director of Planning."
12. I clearly recollect that Iemma said "Azzi is a fuckwit" during our conversation and he said, "I told Azzi that this was corrupt behaviour."
13. I told Iemma I agreed with his description of Azzi.
14. The conversation continued for a short time after and then the call was terminated.

Signature



Witness

