

**NSW ICAC
EXHIBIT**

Memo

To: Clr Artin Etmekdjian, Mayor
From: John Neish, General Manager
Date: 7 August 2012

Please find attached a chronology of events leading up to my Section 11 notification to ICAC regarding an improper attempt to influence my ability to carry out my obligations as the General Manager of the City of Ryde which I believe to have been orchestrated by a local developer Mr John Goubran allegedly acting in collusion with Clr Petch and other Councillors.

This has been subject to several conversations between us as documented in the chronology of events since Wed 4th April 2012. I confirm my advice to you that this information was given to you as a protected interest disclosure in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994.

As we discussed, during the course of events outlined I was concerned of reprisals against me once I had refused to follow the directions of Mr Goubran who was allegedly acting on behalf of Clr Petch. Recent events relating to the termination of my contract confirm this fear to be well founded.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your professional support to date and the confidential way in which you have managed this situation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information or advice.

Regards


John Neish
General Manager

Chronology of Events with Regards to Notification of Protected Disclosure
Referral to ICAC and the proposed Dismissal of the General Manager

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Date	Occurrence
Wed 4 th April 2012 <i>Meeting with Mayor</i>	Mayor asked if Tony Abboud had met with me and that he was going to soon. He was unspecific about the content. I advised I was meeting him on the 23 rd .
Friday 13 th April 2012 <i>Meeting with Tony Abboud</i>	Meeting with Tony Abboud at which I advised that the proposition he put to me on behalf of John Goubran was improper and was worthy of a notification to ICAC
Wednesday 18 th April 2012 <i>Meeting with Mayor</i>	<p>I advised the Mayor that I had met with Tony Abboud and found the proposition put to me to be improper and in breach of the Local Government Act and possibly ICAC guidelines. I advised Tony Abboud to inform Mr Goubran as such and that until I received a Council resolution to the contrary I will implement what I have been asked to do by Council resolutions on the Civic Precinct. I wished the matter to be dealt with as a confidential disclosure since I wanted to send a Section 11 notification to ICAC and am concerned about reprisals.</p> <p>I advised that I would seek a written confirmation from Tony Abboud. The mayor stated that I had done the right thing and mused as to how John Goubran could suggest that he would ensure that Cllr Petch was going to be the next Mayor.</p>
Thursday 19 th April 2012 <i>Phone call To Tony Abboud</i>	I advised that having spoken with the Mayor it was appropriate for me to report this matter to ICAC and asked Tony to provide me a copy of his written notes or an email confirming his conversation with John Goubran. He agreed to do so but said it may take some time
Wednesday 9 th May 2012 <i>Meeting with the Mayor</i>	I advised the Mayor that we had received a Notice of Motion from six Councillors re the formation of a Civic Precinct Redevelopment Ctte. which echoed the proposal put to me by Mr Goubran. I mentioned that this was further proof that this matter was improper and I was still seeking information from Tony Abboud as part of my disclosure.
Wed 16 th May 2012 <i>Phone call to Tony Abboud</i>	Following an earlier discussion with the Mayor I again spoke to Tony Abboud seeking his statement. He apologised for not sending it citing ill health and travel commitments. He had started it and will send it when completed.

<p>Wednesday 26th June 2012</p> <p>Meeting With the Mayor</p>	<p>I advised the mayor that I still hadn't received a notification from Tony Abboud since he was unwell and busy with work.</p> <p>The Mayor stated the disclosure was important and that he would phone Tony to ask him to verify events in writing so that the matter could be properly investigated.</p>
<p>Friday 29th June 2012</p> <p>Phone call Tony Abboud</p>	<p>Tony did not answer but sent text confirming that he would send the information on the following week.</p>
<p>Wednesday 4th July 2012</p> <p>Meeting with Mayor</p>	<p>I advised that I was getting Tony Abboud's statement in writing before I could lodge the Public Information Disclosure and advise ICAC.</p> <p>The mayor agreed that this should happen</p>
<p>Friday 6th July 2012</p> <p>Email from Tony Abboud</p>	<p>Tony Abboud sent an email outlining his version of events which I was used as evidence for a public interest disclosure and section 11 notification to ICAC</p>
<p>9th July 2012</p>	<p>A request for an extraordinary meeting of Council for the purposes of dismissing the General Manager lodged by Councillors Petch and Tagg.</p>
<p>Wednesday 11th July 2012</p>	<p>Section 11 notification sent to ICAC</p>
<p>Monday 23rd July 2012</p>	<p>Council meeting held the notice of Motion to dismiss the General Manager was carried and a rescission motion lodged to be considered on the 14th August 2012.</p>

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