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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE RUTH McCOLL AO
COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION KEPPEL

Reference: Operation E17/0144

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER, 2020

AT 2.00PM

Any person who publishes any part of this transcript in any way and to any person contrary to a Commission direction against publication commits an offence against section 112(2) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988.

This transcript has been prepared in accordance with conventions used in the Supreme Court.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Robertson.

MR ROBERTSON: Commissioner, I don't propose to ask any further questions of Mr Alha at this time. During the course of the adjournment you've been provided with a draft of a proposed section 35(2) direction. There have just been some discussions between those who assist you and Mr Whittaker, who acts for Mr Alha, about the mechanics of how that direction might work, and those are being progressed at the moment, and so I may ultimately ask for some minor amendments to the form of the direction you've made over lunch time. That's a matter that's being progressed in parallel and I propose to continue with the public enquiry while those are being dealt with in the background, as it were.

THE COMMISSIONER: So should I discharge Mr Alha or - - -?

MR ROBERTSON: You should discharge him for the purpose of today but shouldn't discharge him from the summons more generally, although you should ask whether there are any questions?

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, in fact, I should, yes, I was about to, I should ask Mr Harrowell, do you wish to ask Mr Alha any questions?

MR HARROWELL: No, thank you Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Whittaker, do you wish to ask him any questions?

MR WHITTAKER: No, Commissioner.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. Mr Alha, as you've heard, you can leave for today but you may be required to appear again before the public enquiry. You may step down now.

THE WITNESS: Thank you very much, thank you.

THE WITNESS STOOD DOWN

[2.07pm]

40 MR ROBERTSON: I call Jimmy Yang also known as Jimmy Liu.

THE COMMISSIONER: Please come forward and stand in the witness – Mr Liu, Mr Liu. Please come forward and stand in the witness box. Do you wish to take an oath or make an affirmation.

MR LIU: I'm all right.

THE COMMISSIONER: You have to do one or the other.

MR LIU: I can get the paper, you want me to make note?

THE COMMISSIONER: No, no, we're about to ask you to give evidence to this enquiry. Prior to you doing so, you have to swear in one way or the other that you will tell the truth. One way of doing so is to do so on the Bible, which is next to you, which is by way of an oath, and the other way to do so is to affirm that you will tell the truth. So I'm asking you which you wish to do. Do you wish to swear an oath on the Bible or do you wish to affirm?

10

MR LIU: Affirm.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well, could you stand up please and listen to the court officer.

THE COMMISSIONER: Please sit down. Do you prefer to be called Mr Liu or Mr Wang?---Mr Liu.

Very well, Mr Liu.---L-i-u.

10 I gather you have no legal representation today. Is that correct? You have not arranged a lawyer to assist you?---No, no.

Very well. I'm going to explain to you something about your rights and liabilities under the Independent Commission against Corruption Act. Can you listen to what I'm about to explain to you very carefully please.---Yes.

20 As a witness, you must answer questions truthfully and produce any item described in your summons or required by me to be produced. You may object to answering a question or to producing an item. The effect of any objection is that although you must still answer the question or produce the item, your answer or the item produced cannot be used against you in any civil proceedings or, subject to two exceptions, in any criminal or disciplinary proceedings. The first exception is that this protection does not prevent your evidence from being used against you in a prosecution for an offence under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, including an offence of giving false or misleading evidence for which the penalty can be imprisonment for up to five years. The second exception only applies to New South Wales public officials, and I don't understand you to be such a person.

30 I can make a declaration that all the answers given by you and all the items produced by you will be regarded as having been given or produced on objection. This means you do not have to object with respect to each answer or the production of each item. Do you wish me to make that declaration?---Yes.

40 Very well. Pursuant to section 38 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act, I declare that all answers given by this witness and all documents and things produced by him during the course of his evidence at this public inquiry are to be regarded as having been given or produced on objection, and there is no need for him to make objection in respect of any particular answer given or document or thing produced.

PURSUANT TO SECTION 38 OF THE INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION ACT, I DECLARE THAT ALL ANSWERS GIVEN BY THIS WITNESS AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND THINGS PRODUCED BY HIM DURING THE COURSE OF HIS EVIDENCE AT THIS PUBLIC INQUIRY ARE TO

BE REGARDED AS HAVING BEEN GIVEN OR PRODUCED ON OBJECTION, AND THERE IS NO NEED FOR HIM TO MAKE OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF ANY PARTICULAR ANSWER GIVEN OR DOCUMENT OR THING PRODUCED.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Robertson.

10 MR ROBERTSON: Can you state your full name, please, sir.---(No Audible Reply)

Can you state your name?

THE COMMISSIONER: No, stay seated.

MR ROBERTSON: You can stay seated.---Okay, okay. My name Jimmy, Jimmy Liu.

20 You're also known as Jimmy Yang. Is that right?---Yang, yes, yes, yeah.

You are the Managing Director of United World Enterprises Pty Ltd. Is that right?---Yes.

That's sometimes known as UWE. Is that right?---Yeah, sometimes, yes.

UWE is an exporter and brokerage service provider of agricultural products. Is that right?---Yeah.

30 And that includes products such as grains and meat and those kinds of things. Is that right?---Yeah.

UWE was founded in 1993. Is that right?---Yeah.

Has UWE ever had any operations in Wagga Wagga?---Yes.

What operations has it had in Wagga Wagga?---Oaten hay. Griffith, not, not Wagga Wagga, it is Griffith, Leeton.

40 So UWE Enterprises has a subsidiary called UWE Hay Pty Ltd. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

And that was regarding an oaten hay facility in Leeton. Is that right?---Yes.

The hay for the oaten hay facility, that came from the Griffith area. Is that right?---Yes.

None of the hay came from the Wagga Wagga area. Is that right?---They have around 200 k around, so not only limited to Griffith, is Wagga Wagga or another in the border New South Wales and Victoria as well.

And so can you just explain the areas where the hay would be obtained for the oaten hay operation in Leeton? So some in Griffith?---Some in Griffith.

Where else?---Some in Wagga and some, because this is depend farmer that offer, so not limited to area. So - - -

10

And so the UWE facility was like a processing facility. Is that right? ---Yeah, processing in the Leeton.

And it takes the hay from various farmers who have the hay that it's presenting. Is that right?---Yeah.

And turns it into oaten hay. Is that right?---Yes.

And that oaten hay was for export. Is that right?---Yes.

20

And including export to China?---China, Korea, Japan.

But not for domestic consumption?---No, not domestic.

More for export.---One hundred per cent export.

Is it right that for UWE Hay Pty Ltd that was a joint venture with a Chinese company?---Yes.

30 Is that Chinese company the Shanghai Dairy Group?---Yes.

Is the Shanghai Dairy Group part of the Bright Food group in China? ---Yes.

You were introduced to Mr Daryl Maguire by Mr Benjamin Chow. Is that right?---Yeah.

And that happened at a time where UWE were celebrating its 20-year anniversary. Is that right?---Yes.

40

That was happening in 2013. Is that right?---Yes.

I'm just going to show you a document on the screen so we can help identify some times. Page 1, please, of volume 17. Do you see there an email from Mr Chow to Electorate Office, Wagga Wagga, 25 May, 2013? ----(No Audible Reply)

A little bit down the page, do you see that there, Mr Liu?---Yeah.

And that's the Benjamin Chow that you were referring to before. Is that right?---Yeah.

And do you remember that Mr Maguire came to the twentieth anniversary dinner for UWE?---Yeah.

I tender the document on the screen, email from Electorate Office Wagga Wagga to Benjamin Chow, 24 April, 2013.

10

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 291.

#EXH-291 – EMAIL ELECTORATE OFFICE TO CHOW DATED 24 APRIL 2013

MR ROBERTSON: So you then met Mr Maguire at the twentieth year anniversary celebrations for UWE. Is that right?---Yeah.

20

And you built a friendship with Mr Maguire. Is that right?---Yeah, after that, yeah.

And you also sought to work with Mr Maguire in matters of business. Is that right?---Sorry (not transcribable)

You worked with Mr Maguire in business. It wasn't just about being friendship, it was about business as well with Mr Maguire. Is that right?---I lost that one.

30

You had a friendship with Mr Maguire. Is that right?---Yeah.

You worked together in business together as well. Is that right?---Not together. My business is my business so I never do business together with him. I just, he introduce me, you know.

Mr Maguire spoke to you for example about wine sales. Is that right?
---White, white house or - - -

40

No, wine. As in drink of wine.---Oh, wine.

Red wine, red wine or white wine.---He introduce me. He introduce me with a supplier. I, I ask him help.

So Mr Maguire was trying to introduce you to potential suppliers of product that you might sell overseas. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

So wine was an example. Is that right?---Yeah, wine, yes.

Meat products. Was that an example?---Meat, yes.

Barley. That was an example?---Yeah.

Any more that you can remember?---As far as I know we not, we not succeed because the barley we, we not get a deal. Because price level, we can't get it. He introduce me even with the wine supplier, but also I'm not sell, I can't sell to China because the price level. He introduce me, yes.

10

So Mr Maguire introduced you to some potential - - -?---Supplier.

- - - exporters of product. Is that right?---Yeah.

In areas like wine and barley and meat. Is that right?---Yes.

Was there any successful introductions at any point? Was there anyone that Mr Maguire said to you - - -?---No.

20

- - - here's someone in wine or meat and you were able to export it for that supplier?---He introduce me several guy is a farmer. I met them but did not get any success because the problem is the price level.

THE COMMISSIONER: Was the price too high?---Too high, yeah. Also he introduce me one manufacture is Wagga canola oil crush factory. Also I got a sample but is no make any, any success because of price level. Can't get it.

30

MR ROBERTSON: So there were a number of introductions from Mr Maguire to suppliers. Is that right?---Yeah.

But none of them were successful. Is that right?---Not successful.

If they were successful did you agree to pay an introduction fee or some other fee to Mr Maguire?---No.

But if it was successful would have you paid a fee to Mr Maguire?---No. No.

40

So why was Mr Maguire trying to introduce you to people as you understood it?---Because Mr Maguire always help people so that's why we make a friendship okay and since we started to hay business the same. He introduce the hay supplier, the farmer. I'm Chinese. I don't know the people but he introduce me, so then I can, you know, and also I introduce as a Chinese friend as well. You know, here's another business, I don't know.

So are you saying you introduced Mr Maguire to some people from China?
---China, yeah. Something, you know, and some Chinese friend he want to work something I don't know so just help each other.

Can you remember what kinds of people you introduced Mr Maguire to from China, were they business people or were they government people or what kind of people?---Not government people. Just like a friend, you know, doing different business. I, that's so long I can't remember. Sorry.

10 So it went both ways, Mr Maguire would introduce you to potential people who you might do business with. Is that right?---Yeah, yeah.

And you introduced Mr Maguire to people who he might do business with?
---Yes, yes.

And in terms of the oaten hay site in Leeton, did Mr Maguire assist in, he assisted in introducing you to suppliers of the hay. Is that right? Is that what you were saying?---Yeah, yeah.

20 So he may have found some potential farmers?---Because we, we started (not transcribable) we got trouble from local council, okay, so they very slow processing our application. In that time, I ask, you know the, my friend Benjamin Chow to help me talking to the local council, try to speed our project to be approved, because the money we get from overseas investor, we want to quicker to establish this facility, try to export to overseas.

And did Mr Maguire provide you with any assistance in relation to that issue, or was that just Mr Chow?---Mr Chow.

30 In relation to the site, your choice of site in Leeton, why did you choose to have the operations in Leeton rather than somewhere else?---We got a couple of option. One is Melbourne, okay, called Bendigo. One is, is Griffiths. Maguire knew the previous manager, he know the local people. That's why he introduce me. He say that area, the council already approve it, we're going to develop new industrial area, get a lot of advantage if we apply there. And the same time, the Shanghai Dairy Group came to visit different site. I took them go there, they happy. They said, "That's good, a railway on the crop, you know, not far, transport, yeah, we can save a lot of
40 money," that reason. Because I'm own the 49 per cent, and the Shanghai Group own 51. That is a big shareholder, because that's why they make decision, they put it there.

And so for UWE Hay Pty Ltd, it was Shanghai Dairy Group that owned 51 per cent, and you owned 49 per cent, is that right?---Yes. Yeah.

And were you saying it was one of your staff who suggested that Leeton would be the right place to build this facility?---Yes.

It wasn't Mr Maguire who suggested that?---No, no.

That staff member you identified, was that Mr Flanery?---Mr Sean Flanery.

Mr Sean Flanery.---Yes, yes, yes. He's the guy suggest.

Now, you held a conference, UWE held a conference in Shanghai in 2014, is that right?---Yep.

10

And you invited Mr Maguire along to that conference, is that right?---I invite Australian people, oh, I invited GTA, I invited probably over 10, 13 people from Australia to China.

Including Mr Maguire, is that right?---Yes. Yes.

20

Why did you invite Mr Maguire?---Because he know the, he know the Shanghai Dairy Group, and the people, and also I thinking this is (not transcribable) representative, you know, and Australia side, getting more stronger, because not only him. I invited the GTA chairman, I invited the Australian people who will be there. So - - -

So you wanted some Australian government representatives coming to your conference, is that right?---Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yes.

And so that's why you wanted Mr Maguire to attend?---Yes, yes.

And he did attend the conference in the end, is that right?---Yeah.

30

And can we just have a look at the photo, please, page 11 of document 45. Is this a photograph of the attendees of the UWE conference in Shanghai in 2014?---Yep.

And I think if we look carefully in the back row, fourth from the left, that looks to me like Mr Maguire, would you agree?---Mmm.

So you need to answer out aloud.---Sorry.

40

Do you agree it's Mr Maguire in the back row about fourth from the left on the screen?---Yeah, yeah, yep, yep, yes.

And I take it the handsome gentleman in the front row in the middle is you, is that right?---I'm the middle in the front.

In the middle in the front row, is that right?---Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Who's the gentleman two to the right of you, Mr Liu? Not the gentleman with the brown trousers, but the gentleman to his right.---Oh, that one? This is, is my advisor.

I see. Thank you.

MR ROBERTSON: Someone who works for you, is that right, or as an advisor?---No work for me, advisor for finance, he is come from the accountant at industrial area. So he help for finance, because in that time,
10 we got a couple project. For finance issue, we need him to give us a lot of advice for based in Australia law, how we're going to bring the money from oversea. So, he's our advisor.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR ROBERTSON: Do you remember the name of that gentleman?
---Called Graham Steer.

S-t-e-e-r is my note.
20

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 292.

#EXH-292 – UWE CONFERENCE PHOTO

MR ROBERTSON: Now in relation to this conference, do you remember who paid for Mr Maguire's expenses like airfares? Was that paid for by UWE or did Mr Maguire have to pay himself?---We pay whole group.
30

So for everyone attending the conference UWE paid for - - -?---UWE paid for all the ticket.

So paid for airfares for example?---Yes.

Did they pay for visas?---Visa, accommodation.

So airfares, visas, accommodation?---Yes.

40 Transfers?---Transport.

As in getting from the airport, transport from the airport to the conference?
---Yes, yes.

And what about meals and things like that, that was paid for by UWE as well?---Which bill?

Dinner, lunch?---Dinner and we have meeting dinner. Apart from that, they have their own group, maybe they drink, I don't know. So normally just one, two days, because not only for Shanghai, we took the, visit the factory as well.

Now, do you remember whether UWE just paid for all of those expenses immediately or did Mr Maguire pay for some of the expenses and you paid him back as a reimbursement?---We pay as a group upfront to the travel agent, we pay everything.

10

And did UWE pay any additional amount to Mr Maguire maybe as a fee for attending?---Nothing.

Or as a thank you for attending?---No, no pay anything to him.

So it was just a payment of expenses and no additional payment?
---Same, everybody same.

20 On top of that, and that was for everyone who attended the conference. Is that right?---Yes.

Do you remember ever writing a cheque or giving any cash to Mr Maguire for anything to do with UWE?---No, nothing.

Do you remember ever writing him a cheque, for example, giving Mr Maguire some money in a cheque that was signed by your company?---No, I not sign any cheque.

30 Can I just show you this document. Maybe it will help refresh your memory. Come up on the screen, volume 17, page 12. See there towards the top of the page a cheque to D Maguire? Do you see that there, Mr Liu?
---I think this is, what day is this, sir?

This is 6 November, 2014 is the date of the cheque. And if it helps, your conference was between 13 October and 16 October, 2014, so it's a few weeks after that. Can you see that is a cheque from United World Enterprises Pty Ltd, your company, can you see that written on the cheque?
---Yes, this is our company cheque, yes.

40 And the signature on the right-hand side, whose signature is that on the cheque at the top of the page?---Yeah.

Whose signature is that, Mr Liu?---It's my signature, yes.

So you agree, I take it, that you signed a cheque to Mr Maguire in the sum of \$1,400 on 6 November, 2014?---I can't remember.

Do you agree, Mr Liu?---I can't remember this one, sorry, I can't remember.

Well, why would you have been giving Mr Maguire \$1,400 in November 2014, a couple of weeks after your conference?---Sorry, I can't remember this one. Yes, this is our company cheque, is my signature, but what's for, I can't remember.

Well, did it have anything to do with the conference, noting that this was a couple of weeks after your conference finished?---Yes, the date, sorry I can't remember.

10

You're just not sure one way or the other. Is that right?---Yeah, I don't, I'm not, I don't know what's for, for which purpose this one.

I tender the copy of a cheque to Mr Maguire from United World Enterprises Pty Ltd, \$1,400, 6 November, 2014.

THE COMMISSIONER: It will be Exhibit 293.

20 **#EXH-293 - CHEQUE FROM UWE TO MAGUIRE DATED 6 NOVEMBER 2014**

MR ROBERTSON: That's page 12 of volume 17 of the public inquiry brief. Now, Mr Liu, Mr Maguire over the years has provided assistance to your company. Is that right, he's helped you out with the things, helped you with this?---Yes, a lot.

30 One of the things that he has helped with is helped arrange functions for UWE at Parliament House on Macquarie Street. Is that right?---Yes.

And so for example when you have had potential investors or others coming to New South Wales, Mr Maguire has hosted them for lunch, for example, in Parliament House. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

He has allowed or he's made arrangements for signing ceremonies between UWE and investors or other people associated with UWE. Is that right? ---Yes, yes.

40 Signing ceremonies that took place in Parliament House. Is that right? ---Yes.

And in terms of the cost for those kinds of functions, like the cost of the lunch or whatever, was that paid for Mr Maguire or was that paid for by UWE?---Yeah, we pay.

And so is it the case that you would make contact with Mr Maguire and say, “I want to have this particular delegation over for lunch, say, can you organise it?” And Mr Maguire’s office would organise it. Is that correct?
---No. Normally, normally it’s investor coming from overseas, China, they want to see not only your company, they want to see how your, you know, network was government body. You know, I took them to Austrade, took them to GTA, let them know how Australia, all the government body will support which is such like us to bring the people from overseas to investor.

10 And so you want to show the potential investors that you have good contacts within government.---Exactly.

And you can help demonstrate that by having for example a lunch or a signing ceremony in Parliament House in Macquarie Street. Is that right?
---Yes, this is more, looks like a more, most like people they believe you are really serious sort of businessman, they’re more happy to work with you.

And that’s quite important, isn’t it, from investors from China in particular.
---Yes.

20

They want to be sure that you have contacts not just with businesspeople, but contacts with government people as well. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

And Mr Maguire would assist you in showing to your potential investors that you have contacts within government. Is that right?---Not sure my, only my company, he seems to show the New South Wales Government how support like us the company, bring the people, bring the money for New South Wales. So that’s why make people more trust in talking, you know, and I think that’s the way, same China, when China I will introduce
30 Chinese Government people to people here, they all more trust. So same I think this is a (not transcribable). That’s it.

And it’s very good to be able to show the investors when they come to visit in New South Wales that I have enough contacts that I can invite you, I can offer you a lunch in Parliament House or maybe a signing ceremony in Parliament House.---Yes, yes.

That’s something that shows some good prestige for your company. Is that right?---Yeah, yes.

40

And can we just have a look at an example of that. If we go to volume 17, page 16, and I’m going to show you an email chain, Mr Liu, so we’re going to have to start from the bottom and move upwards. So we’ll start with the email from Sophie, Commercial Manager at United World Enterprise Pty Ltd. You can see there Sophie says, “Jimmy has two important customers who are also his good friends for years from China and would like to visit New South Wales Parliament and have lunch there if possible.” Do you see that there?---(No Audible Reply)

Do you see that on the screen, Mr Liu?---Yeah, yeah.

And so that's an example of the kinds of requests that you would make or your staff would make to Mr Maguire that set up a lunch for example for important customers and Mr Maguire would get his staff to arrange such a lunch. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

10 And we'll just move up a little bit so we can see Mr Maguire's response. He comes back to Sophie and says, "Yes, that's fine." We'll go up a little bit further and there's some arrangements as to the date, and Mr Maguire says, "Done." And then there's a few other arrangements in terms of timing. If we just move up a little bit further and then, "Jimmy will call you when they arrive on 4 May."---Mmm.

And so I'm just showing you an example, but you had quite a few occasions where there would be a communication like that with Mr Maguire's office. Is that right?---Yeah.

20 Sometimes it was for a lunch like we've seen here. Is that right?---Yeah.

But sometimes it was for something like a signing ceremony, having a signing ceremony in Parliament House. Is that right?---Signing ceremony only once I think, only one time.

Was that one with the Shanghai – and I won't be able to pronounce this correctly, but Haiquan Group?---Haiquan.

30 That's H-a-i-q-u-a-n.---Yeah, Haiquan, yeah, Haiquan, yeah. They aged care and also they do aged care.

And you had a signing ceremony with them with UWE and that group in Parliament House. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

And Mr Maguire made the arrangements for that signing ceremony?---Yes, yes.

40 Commissioner, I tender the email chain ending with an email from Ms Duan, D-u-a-n, to Mr Maguire, 19 April, 2016, 10.47am, pages 15 through to 18, volume 17 of the public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 294.

#EXH-294 – EMAIL DUAN TO MAGUIRE DATED 19 APRIL 2016

MR ROBERTSON: Now, Mr Liu, do you agree that eventually your relationship with Mr Maguire developed to such a point where you were considering that if he retired from politics, you might get him involved in one of your companies, perhaps as a consultant or perhaps as a director?
---Yeah, I once I thought this way, but there is nothing happen because, to be honest, I started to do agriculture business. I don't know people, okay, I don't know people. I don't know how we can talking with local farmer, so I needed such like a Daryl Maguire. He got the background from the farmer and also he know a lot of people, introduce me. So, of course for business point, I thinking this is benefit for company growing. So to be honest, this is a true picture, I want, not only for Daryl Maguire, even some people who know that area, I, normally I make friend, sometimes we're talking more as your direction once you retired, you know, just talking like friendship, not anything serious, just the started to work something.

10
It was a possibility that you were discussing with Daryl. You didn't make him an offer but you were discussing that as a possibility that he might decide to act as a consultant or may be as a director as one of companies?
---No, an advisor.

20
An advisor to your company.---An advisor something, yes.

Do you agree that in 2017 Shanghai Dairy Group indicated that it didn't want to be part of the joint venture anymore with UWE Hay? Do you remember that in early 2017, about February 2017, they were looking at exiting that joint venture, do I have that right?---Yes.

Is that right?---Yes.

30
And do you agree that you sought Mr Maguire's assistance in negotiating the exit of Shanghai Dairy Group and the replacement or potential replacement of them with an alternative investor, you asked for Mr Maguire's help in relation to that. Is that right?---In that time we really suffer, which is a Shanghai Dairy Group changed their mind due to they, big boss have some issue, and nobody even know that position, what's the guy he committed to us. Even we may have a direct, you know, and a meeting, they sign everything on to bring more money to, you know, develop a second stage is a (not transcribable). So in that time everything we already started, but the money not coming. For UWE, we'll keep the faith and the
40
reputation with the farmer was the people we committed. The time is very important in that time. That's the reason we asked Daryl Maguire, we ask Austrade and also Australia to Shanghai Embassy, all that I send a letter to them, ask them, talking to local Shanghai government what's happen, because we can't waiting for. One of the Daryl Maguire also sent a letter on behalf of us. Also, I met the Premier New South Wales because his one minister in that time visit the Shanghai. So Daryl Maguire introduce me talking to this minister, and that open the, you know, this situation so far,

and he went to Shanghai with a government delegation and talking to local council in Shanghai.

So are you saying that one of the things that happened was that there was a minister who was speaking on your behalf in China. Is that right?---Yes.

10 I think you referred to the Premier before but was it the Premier or was it a minister who was being spoken to at that time?---This minute, because I don't know this minister. Daryl Maguire introduce me to this building and that time is met with this minister.

And do you remember the name of the minister that you met with?---I can, I can check all the record. I know this case because in all my memory I ask the local government to help.

20 Can we go, please, to page 20 of volume 17. We might start on page 19 of volume 17 so we can see where the email chain progresses to. If you just have a look at the bottom of this page, Mr Liu, first. See there's an email from Mr Maguire 26 July, 2017 to the Secretary General with the subject heading "Mr Zhou, I need your assistance with a matter affecting a company in my area of Wagga Wagga." Do you see that there?---Mmm.

Let's just then turn the page.---Yeah, this, yeah.

30 Do you see there Mr Maguire is writing to Secretary General Zhou and says, "You may remember we met in Shanghai," et cetera. Can I just ask you to read to yourself the big paragraph. It starts with "I need your assistance to help a local Australian company". Just read that to yourself and let me know when you have.---I can talk?

Yes. Have you read that paragraph?---Yeah, I know this one.

So do you agree that that paragraph accurately described the issue that was happening as at the date of this email?---Yeah.

Which is about July, if we just go back to the previous page I've got the exact date, 26 July, 2017.---Yeah.

40 Is that right? And you were asking Mr Maguire for help in relation to that issue?---I ask, yes, yes.

And is it right that Mr Maguire was also trying to assist you finding potential other investors if Shanghai Dairy was going to exit? Did he help you trying to find other people to replace Shanghai Dairy?---No.

Are you sure he didn't try and introduce you to other potential investors?---I can't remember because what I, since this case happen I try my best to find another Chinese, you know, company in China (not transcribable) is here as

well and Daryl Maguire introduce is one, not the investor, is people who know they may be potential investor to me.

Let me just try and help you this way. What I'm going to play to you is a recording of a telephone call that we think that you had with Mr Maguire on 17 August, 2017. So the email I just showed you was 26 July, 2017 and this recording was taken a few weeks later 17 August, 2017. Just listen for the recording and the transcript, the typing out of what people were saying is going to come up on the screen next to you. Just have a listen to it and then I'll ask you some question.---Mmm.

It's session number 571 and we'll play an excerpt of that particular call.

AUDIO RECORDING PLAYED

[2.43pm]

MR ROBERTSON: So Mr Liu, there was a reference on that call to Niall Blair being the minister. Is that the minister that you were referring to before?---Yeah, I, I met his assistants, his two young gentlemen in his office.

So you've met his assistants, but you haven't met him yourself, is that right? ---No, not met personally. Met his assistant.

And you referred a little bit earlier today to a minister who you thought you had met. Was that Minister Blair, or are you saying you didn't meet the minister, but you met the minister's staff?---Personally I did not see him, I just see his assistants, two gentlemen.

And Mr Maguire arranged that meeting, is that right?---Introduced, yes, yes.

There was a reference as well to EJ. Is that EJ Ang, A-n-g?---I, I met that, this guy, but I am not sure exactly, because he is a old guy. I met him and also has a, had a lunch with him, Daryl Maguire.

And so he was someone that Mr Maguire - - -?---He got the people.

He was someone that Mr Maguire was trying to get the assistance of, to solve your problem with Shanghai Dairy Group. Is that right?---No, he, he know lot of people, and maybe some people putting the money to place in Shanghai Dairy. So we, we talk in that time, but no moving forward is, is nothing happen.

So Mr Maguire was trying to help you find a new investor, and one of the things that he did was speak to EJ. Is that right?---Yeah.

And EJ might have been able to find some investors?---Yeah.

But he didn't ultimately find any investors for you, is that right?---Yeah.

There was a reference at the start of the call to the "SDG case." I take it that's Shanghai Dairy Group?---The group, yes.

I tender telephone intercept extract 571, 17 August, 2017.

THE COMMISSIONER: That'll be Exhibit 295.

10

**#EXH-295 – TRANSCRIPT AND AUDIO OF INTERCEPTED
TELECOMMUNICATION SESSION 571 DATED 17 AUGUST 2017**

MR ROBERTSON: Now we'll go back, Mr Liu, to page 19 of volume 17, which is the document I showed you before on the screen, which I have not yet tendered, but I will – in fact, I might do that as it's coming up. So it's an email from Mr Liu from Mr Maguire, 26 July, 2017, 11.41am, pages 19 and
20 public inquiry brief, volume 17.

THE COMMISSIONER: Is that it? Yes. It refers to Mr Zhou, who is Mr Zhou?---Mr Zhou is the, is General Manager for Shanghai Dairy Group in China.

Thank you.

#EXH-296 – EMAIL LIU TO MAGUIRE DATED 26 JULY 2017

30

MR ROBERTSON: If you have a look, Mr Liu, at the very bottom of the screen, do you see Mr Maguire saying, "I need your assistance with a matter affecting a company in my area of Wagga Wagga." Do you see that there?
---Yeah.

Now, that's not right, is it, because your company, the company being referred to is the company in Leeton, in Griffith rather than in Wagga Wagga, do you agree?---Yeah.

40

You agree?---He, because he, even the, our Leeton factory opening ceremony and the Wagga Wagga Mayor, and another local government all attended, even the Stuart, Mr Stuart, and the minister joined this opening ceremony.

But your facility was not in Wagga Wagga, it - - -?---Not Wagga Wagga.

It was in Leeton, is that right?---Leeton. Yes.

Just pardon me for a moment. And you're referring to Stuart. Is that Stuart Ayres?---Stuart Ayres, yes, and the minister.

And is that the minister who you – have you met Stuart Ayres yourself?

---Yes, yes, yeah.

10 And was that the minister who you were referring to a little bit earlier today, that you thought you might have met?---Oh, this a different, this not Stuart that visited China. I just say Stuart is join our opening ceremony in Leeton. That's where I met her, I met him in personally. Took a photo. And another minister planning going to China. I, I did not, you know, and personally meet him, just - - -

Could that be Minister Blair, who's the minister, you met with his assistants?---Yes.

Could that be Minister Blair who was visiting China?---Yeah, I think so.

20 But you haven't met Minister Blair yourself?---No.

You've only met his staff. Is that right?---No, only assistants.

THE COMMISSIONER: I think Minister Blair was Primary Industries Minister, was he not?

30 MR ROBERTSON: That's right. He was Primary Industries, Regional Water, Trade and Industry at that point in time. Most frequently for present purposes being the Trade portfolio. Mr Maguire also assisted in trying to get Austrade to help you and your problem with UWE Hay. Is that right? ---Austrade, I personally know them very well and just only in China Embassy in Sydney, you know, he introduce the people as well.

Can we go please to page 26 of volume 17. And so there's some communications from Tony Zhang to Austrade. If we then just scan up a little bit further on the page you'll see that that then goes to Mr Maguire. ---Mmm.

40 And then if we then go a little bit further up the page at the very top of the page he's then forwarding it on to you. Do you see that there?---Yeah.

So are you effectively saying you had some communications with Austrade? ---With Austrade directly.

But Mr Maguire may have provided some - - -?---Was introduced, yes.

- - - assistance as well?---Yes.

I tender the email from Daryl Maguire to Jimmy Liu, 25 August, 2017, 5.32pm, pages 26 through to 28, volume 17, public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 296.

#EXH-297 – EMAIL MAGUIRE TO LIU DATED 25 AUGUST 2017

10 THE COMMISSIONER: I didn't really pick up what this email was about, Mr Robertson.

MR ROBERTSON: It appears to be attempting to – if we go a little bit further down the screen, Mr Zhang contacts Mr Coote, C-o-o-t-e - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Who's Mr Zhang, have we established that?

MR ROBERTSON: Not yet. Do you know who Mr Zhang is, Mr Liu?
---Sorry?

20

You see there's a reference to Mr Zhang on the screen?

MR HARROWELL: Commissioner, he was the New South Wales Commissioner in Shanghai.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

MR ROBERTSON: And if we scroll a little bit further, effectively scroll to the next page, we'll be able to see the title there, Commissioner for Trade
30 and Investment, New South Wales Shanghai Office. Do you see that there, Mr Liu?---I don't know this guy.

So you didn't have any direct communications with this particular individual?---No.

But you did have some communications with Austrade. Is that right?
---Yeah. Austrade in that time had one (not transcribable) the lady, I spoke to her regarding this case, ask her help, because also Austrade people send this guy to Shanghai Bright Group and not talking to further even. So they
40 ignore them.

You were trying to get some help in having someone at the China end trying to help you speak to Shanghai Dairy. Is that right?---Yes, is a big boss.

And Mr Maguire provided some help in that area as well. Is that right?
---Yes, mmm.

In fact I think Mr Maguire offered to fly to China and try and speak to the representatives of Shanghai Dairy Group. Is that right?---Yeah.

And so before that happened you sent a letter to Mr Maguire or your company sent a letter to Mr Maguire where you were setting out your concerns and asking for his assistance. Is that right?---Mmm.

10 And if we go to page 30, please, of volume 17. Page 30 of volume 17. And if we just go to the – sorry, page 29, I’m so sorry, that’s my fault. You see there a letter from Steven Foote, F-o-o-t-e, to Mr Maguire with a copy to Minister Ayres. Do you see that there, Mr Liu?---Yeah.

Of 17 August, 2017.---Yeah.

Now, that’s the letter that you had sent to Mr Maguire requesting assistance in relation to Shanghai Bright, sorry, in relation to Shanghai Dairy or Bright Food in relation to the issue that you had as UWE. Is that right?---Mmm, mmm, yeah.

20 Now, do you agree that Mr Maguire arranged a meeting with some officials within the Minister for Trade’s office, so this is Minister Blair’s office? You had a meeting with Minister Blair’s assistants. Is that right?---Yeah.

You remember attending such a meeting with Mr Maguire. Is that right? ---Yeah.

And so Mr Maguire was present, you were present, one of your staff members was present as well. Is that right?---Steven Fu.

30 I think Mr Foote was present?---Steven Fu there as well.

Anyone else who was present that you can remember?---No, only I think - - -

What about Graham Steer? I think Graham Steer might have been present as well. Is that right?---Oh, Graham Steer, yes, yes. Four people. Graham Steer, Steven Fu, me and, yeah.

40 And that was a meeting where you and Mr Maguire were attempting to get Minister Blair’s assistance with the Shanghai Dairy Group problem that you had as UWE. Is that right?---Yeah, yeah.

Do you remember – and what were you asking Minister Blair to do, was that asking Minister Blair to attend in China and seek to convince Shanghai Dairy Group to assist in a new investor being involved in UWE?---The story is, since the big boss have trouble, changing the position, new guy came to replace and old guy left. He committed to us investor second stage. So later nothing happened. As I just before mentioned, I have to face the farmer

here. Also they decided since the new guy, the position, they decided they sell their share, 51 per cent, to some people. So I said to them, "If you want to sell you just sell to us, or you need quick make a decision." Every time I talking to him just like before Mr Chee , he had no power to make any decision, he have to report his group which is a Bright Food. So Shanghai Dairy Group is a branch company. He can't make a decision, but the big boss has trouble, new guy, he don't want to touch it, he don't want any headache. That's the reason we want to local government which is New South Wales, Austrade, push them, make the decision, yes or no. That's it.

10

So you wanted Minister Blair to help in speaking to Bright Foods. Is that right?---Yes.

And I think Minister Blair was actually going to be in China for a trade trip soon after your meeting with his officials. Is that right?---Yeah.

And so you were trying to get him to help you with Bright Foods when he was over in China. Is that right?---Yes, yes.

20

I'm just going to play you another telephone call that might help you with what was going on around this area. It's number 652, 18 August, 2017, and it looks like this call happened on the same day that you had the meeting that you've just referred to with Minister Blair's assistants. Again it will come up in the audio and a transcript will come up on the screen. 652, 18 August, 2017.

AUDIO RECORDING PLAYED

[3.04pm]

30

MR ROBERTSON: Mr Liu, there was a reference, or a number of references, in that call to a person by the name of William. Who's William?---William, I remember this, William Luong.

And how did you come to know William Luong?---(not transcribable)

How did you come to know William?---Oh. This William probably in, I think he's, we join the Chinese community meeting Chinatown, some occasional celebrate the new year or something, I met him.

40

And so he's not something that Mr Maguire introduced you to. He was someone that you otherwise (not transcribable)?---Later I met, I haven't met him in the, in the, what you call, Parliamentary House, in the Daryl Maguire office.

So you later met with him in Parliament House with Mr Maguire, is that right?---Yeah, this is after. So - - -

But you had already met him before, is that right?---Yes, yes, yes.

And you were trying to reach a business arrangement with William regarding barley, is that right?---Yes, yes.

And you said towards the end of the call something like “everyone, everyone must make something”. Was the idea that the prices need to be right so that everyone who was involved in the deal would make an appropriate profit for themselves? Is that what you meant by “everyone makes something”?---Yeah, this is, is a common for business, you know. I talking to people. I said you introduce me, you get some commission. You know, from the business philosophy, this is a, is a, is honest thing you know, that’s what I can bring the more friend. You know, they can introduce me. Like, William, he’s not that area. He’s accountant. I know, you know, that’s why he got the, he never work. He ask me help. I said make business happen, everybody happy. That’s it.

And what, you said that applies to Mr Maguire as well? If Mr Maguire introduces you to someone and you make money, you would pay a fee to Mr Maguire, is that right?---No, he never mention that.

No, but you would have, you would have, consistent with what you just explained - - -?---I talk, I talking, yeah, I - - -

- - - you at least would have offered him a fee, is that right?---Yeah. Yeah.

Yes.---I offer them, yeah, but they never, he never ask me.

It was never successful, those introductions.---No. No business success.

But if it was successful, you would have at least offered Mr Maguire a fee, is that right?---Yeah.

Now, Mr Maguire ultimately wrote a letter to the Party Committee Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Bright Foods, wrote a letter regarding the issue with UWE, is that right?---Mmm. Yeah.

And I think he sent, I think Mr Maguire sent you a draft of that letter before he sent it off, is that right?---Yeah.

And so let’s just have a look at that. Page 34 of volume 17. And so you’ll see there an email from Mr Maguire to you, 29 August, 2017. 1.44pm. And if we then just turn to the next page, here’s a draft, that’s a draft that Mr Maguire prepared, is that right?---Yep.

You need to answer out aloud, rather than just nodding.---Mmm.

And you were happy for Mr Maguire to send a copy of this letter to the relevant person within Bright Foods, is that right?---Yep.

And if we then go to page 39. So there, the final letter that goes to Bright Food, copied to you, jimmy@uwecommodities. Then there's a reference to Charlie Cull. Can you remember who Charlie Cull was in the CC line? Do you remember who Mr Cull was?---I don't know Charlie Cull.

10 Is it possible that he was one of Minister Bligh's, sorry, Minister Blair's assistants?---Maybe, yeah.

You met with. But in any event, let's go to the next page. And so that's the letter that Mr Maguire sent, raising your issues regarding UWE Hay, with the Chairman of the Board of Bright Food, is that right?---Yep.

I tender first the - - -

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Before you do that, Mr Robertson, there's been a slight overlap in two of the tenders. I have a note I've marked two documents Exhibit 295.

MR ROBERTSON: I apologise. I'm sure that's entirely my fault and I apologise and - - -

30 THE COMMISSIONER: No, I'm sure it wasn't. I wrote them. I'm running the numbers. So I think it starts at volume 17, page 19 and 20. They're Exhibit 295. But then I also marked TI 571 Exhibit 295, so that should become Exhibit 296. Then volume 17, page 296, which was – page 26, rather, which I marked Exhibit 296, should become Exhibit 297, then I think we have caught up.

MR ROBERTSON: I apologise for not picking that up on the fly, as it were.

THE COMMISSIONER: So what were you – because I think we've got now four outstanding tenders. What are you starting with?

40 MR ROBERTSON: I'll tender the draft letter first and email. So I tender email from Mr Maguire to Mr Liu, 29 August, 2017, 1.44pm, attaching a draft letter, pages 34 to 35, volume 17, public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. So that will now be Exhibit 298.

#EXH-298 – EMAIL MAGUIRE TO LIU DATED 29 AUGUST 2017

MR ROBERTSON: And I then tender the final version, which is email from Meagan Tuck, T-u-c-k, to Mr Fang, 29 August, 2017, 5.06pm, pages 39 and 40, volume 17, public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 299.

#EXH-299 – EMAIL TUCK TO FANG DATED 29 AUGUST 2017

10

THE COMMISSIONER: But I think you still have volume 17, page 30 and TI 652 to tender.

MR ROBERTSON: Thank you, Commissioner. I tender email from Mr Liu to Mr Maguire, 25 August, 2017, 5.48pm, pages 30 to 31, volume 17, public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: Will be Exhibit 300.

20

#EXH-300 – EMAIL LIU TO MAGUIRE DATED 25 AUGUST 2017

MR ROBERTSON: And I tender telephone intercept 652 I think it was.

THE COMMISSIONER: 652. Of 18 August.

MR ROBERTSON: 652, 18 August, 2017 and accompanying transcript.

30

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 301.

#EXH-301 – TRANSCRIPT AND AUDIO OF INTERCEPTED TELECOMMUNICATION SESSION 652 DATED 18 AUGUST 2017

MR ROBERTSON: If we could have that letter back up on the screen, please. You'll see there, Mr Liu, that Mr Maguire, if you have a look at the underlined portion, he says, "I seek an appointment with you," which is a reference to the Chairman of the Board, "in Shanghai on 7 September, 2017." Do you see that there?---Yep.

40

And so Mr Maguire was offering to fly to Shanghai to try and help you with the UWE problem, is that right?---Yep.

Is it right, though, that Minister Blair and Minister Blair's office were a little bit concerned and a little bit nervous about Mr Maguire flying to China to help the UWE issue? Do you remember that being - - -?---Nothing happen.

- - - an issue of concern?---He just send a letter. People, people not answer anything.

When you say he sent a letter, you mean Mr Maguire or you mean - - -?
---Mr Maguire send this letter to the Chairman of Bright Food, and they not any answer. They, they don't want to talking.

10 And so you wanted someone to help, maybe Mr Maguire fly over, maybe Minister Blair try and help in getting a response from Bright Foods, is that right?---Yes, yes.

But do you remember that Minister Bligh's office – I withdraw that. Minister Blair's office was concerned about Mr Maguire flying over to deal with the Bright Foods issue? Can you remember that being discussed?
---No.

20 Well, let me try and help you this way. Can we go to a telephone intercept. This is 31 August, 2017. So it's a couple of days after the letter that I've just shown you. It's telephone intercept 1111, 31 August, 2017.

AUDIO RECORDING PLAYED

[3.19pm]

30 MR ROBERTSON: So Mr Liu, does that remind you that Minister Blair's office was a bit nervous about Mr Maguire going over to China to deal with or try and deal with the UWE Bright Foods issue? Do you remember that now?---I, I know the case, I can't remember the whole story, yeah. I know the case, yep.

But in any event, Mr Maguire didn't ultimately go to China for the UWE issue, is that right? He didn't meet with Bright Foods?---Yeah, he talking, yeah, he talking that way, yes.

No, but he didn't end up going to China?---Yeah, he did not go.

40 He was trying to get the minister, Minister Blair to assist in the issue that you were having.---Mmm. Yeah, yeah.

Is that right?---Yep.

But he was also trying to assist you, as we heard on the call - - -?---Mmm.

- - - with trying to find some other investors instead of the Shanghai Group, is that right? Instead of Bright Foods.---This is a, he know, this guy I remember in Melbourne, company. And they're not talking, that's why the Graham talking, you know, him directly. He - - -

It was not successful, but Mr Maguire was still trying to help you. Is that right?---Yeah.

Mr Maguire also assisted you in some correspondence regarding the Bright Foods issue? Drafting some emails, things like that, is that right?---He sent several email to Bright Food directly.

10 And he also had a look at some of the emails that you were thinking of sending or UWE was thinking of sending, and made comments on them. Is that right?---Mmm.

Can we go please to page 49 of volume 17, and while that's coming up I tender telephone intercept 1111, 31 August, 2017, and accompanying transcript.

THE COMMISSIONER: That will be Exhibit 302.

20 **#EXH-302 – TRANSCRIPT AND AUDIO OF INTERCEPTED TELECOMMUNICATION SESSION 1111 DATED 31 AUGUST 2017**

MR ROBERTSON: And so do you see there, Mr Liu, at the very top an email from Mr Maguire to you, 2 September, 2017?---(No Audible Reply)

Do you see that, Mr Liu?---(No Audible Reply)

30 Sorry, you need to answer out aloud.---(No Audible Reply)

And if you have a look a little bit further down you'll see that what you've done by the looks of it, you've forwarded it on to Mr Maguire. See it says, "Hi guys. Please help polish some words." See that there?---Mmm.

And so that was one thing that Mr Maguire gave you some assistance with. Is that right?---Yeah.

40 I tender email from Mr Maguire to Mr Liu, 2 September, 2017, 1.27pm, pages 40 through to 52, volume 17 of public inquiry brief.

THE COMMISSIONER: Exhibit 303. Sorry, Mr Robertson, Exhibit 303.

#EXH-303 – EMAIL MAGUIRE TO LIU DATED 4 SEPTEMBER 2020

MR ROBERTSON: Was there any other assistance Mr Maguire provided in relation to the UWE Hay issue that you and I have been discussing?---No. I think in that, that period really we very frustrate the situation we have, never, so that's one reason I ask Daryl Maguire the help in that period. So apart from that, no, we just do, we have our management everything.

Do you know who Dolly Fu is?---Dolly Fu is one lady, Shanghai lady. I know her.

10 And did Mr Maguire introduce you to Ms Fu or did you know her separately?---Oh, Daryl Maguire introduced me.

Have you ever met with Ms Fu in Parliament House with Mr Maguire, can you remember?---I forgot how I came, where I meet him in.

Did you know, why did Mr Maguire introduce you to Dolly Fu?
---Oh, this, he said, Daryl, Dolly Fu based in Shanghai. She got a lot of network. You doing some business maybe, you know, sometimes you can share both party to work together. That's it.

20

So does that means that she might have been able to help with the Bright Food issue or was that some other issue she might be able to help?---No, not only the Bright Food, also the normal business, just a trader. Maybe she got some people looking for agriculture.

So she might be able to find some customers for you - - -?---Yes, yes, yes.

- - - so that you can sell your product over to Shanghai. Is that right?

30 ---Yes, yes.

And did she have anything to do with the Bright Food issue - - -?---No, no.

- - - or was it just about potential customers for your product? But you remember Mr Maguire introducing you to Dolly Fu.---Yeah, just for purely trader, not Bright Food case.

And did that end up in any business or was that just another introduction that did not result in business, do you remember?---No, no.

40

Not successful?---No.

When is the last time you had any contact with Mr Maguire, a telephone call or an email or a message,, something like that?---Last time, last month, last month.

Did he contact you or did you contact him?---Just said hello, friend, you know. I forgot he, he text me, I text him, that's normal, you know.

So you contacted him about a month or so ago?---Yeah, yeah. Just last month I think in early last month or really I can't remember day but just recent time, a couple of months, you know, I talking to him.

And at that point you knew that there was an investigation happening in this Commission about Mr Maguire?---No, no, no, before.

10 That was before you found out, was it?---This is before. This is, I'm not talking anything since this letter I receive from your office.

The letter that says you need to come down and give evidence?---I'm not talking, I know how we're going to work, I don't want to talking, yeah.

Have you discussed anything about this investigation with Mr Maguire? ---No, never talking this case, very sensitive, I don't want talk.

Has Mr Maguire said anything to you about the investigation?---No.

20 Has Mr Maguire given you any advice or suggestion - - -?---No.

- - - as to what you should do with things like documents or telephone records, anything like that?---This is very sensitive. I'm a businessman. I don't want to have any headache or trouble. Such like this case, better just I don't want to touch it, I don't want to ask. He never mentioned as well.

Did Mr Maguire ask you whether you had come to this Commission to participate in a private hearing?---No.

30 And did Mr Maguire say to you whether he had participated in a private hearing before this Commission?---As I, as far as I remember, he never mention. So even I'm today come here, I got a letter from your office, I never mention to him.

And he didn't, he didn't say anything to you? He hasn't said anything to you about the investigation?---No. Always talking some, another things, another matter.

40 Pardon me for a moment. That's the examination.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Robertson. Mr Harrowell, did you have any questions?

MR HARROWELL: Just a couple of very short ones, if it please you, Commissioner. Mr Liu, UWE Hay was a, when it was created, was a major investment down in the Riverina region, wasn't it?---Yes.

And I think your evidence is that there was consideration of a number of sites where it might be located?---(No Audible Reply)

10 Before you decided on the location in Leeton - - -?---Yep.

- - - a number of other places were considered also, weren't they?---Yes, one is Bendigo, Victoria. Another one, another one is, I can't remember. But compared all the condition (not transcribable) receive it, Bendigo is not suits. One site too small. Also we have no export licence to China. So, finally, and our previous manager called Sean, he got a network with Griffith, which is Paul, this guy, he try get a (not transcribable) which they're going to develop, and this area would become an industrial area. So that's the reason we select it. Is not made decision. Shanghai Dairy Group
20 make the decision after visiting there.

Yes. And at the opening of UWE Hay in Leeton, that was attended by a large number of local government officials not just from Leeton, but I think you said from Wagga, correct?---Exactly. Wagga.

And there were several different politicians attended.---Yeah, I thinking the four, five different local council, even the Junee, Leeton, Wagga, Griffith. It's all local council. They're all attended.

30 And it's fair to say, Mr Liu, that that concept was seen not just in the town of Leeton but in that region as a very important opportunity for the farmers of the region.---Exactly. Local people attended and also farmer joined this opening ceremony. They feel amazing because used to, this is straw, you know, the grass, they can make money. So as I mentioned, it's not only for Griffith, for that area, which is over 200 k, the area people, they all get a benefit. So because why they can sell hay to, to us because we are the first one in for set up this factor there for export.

40 And it created a lot of new opportunities for farmers in the region.
---Exactly.

And - - -?---Yeah. Employee, 60 people for local.

Yes, and that was the big concern when Bright Foods pulled out, that there'd be loss of jobs in the area.---Yes.

Thank you. Just one other question, Mr Liu, and I think you've already been clear in your evidence. At any stage in your dealings with Mr Maguire, did he ever ask you for a personal benefit, a fee or a payment?
---He never ask me.

And I think you've already said this today, and you've never offered him one?---No.

10

That's not your practice.---No.

Thank you. I have no further questions.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Harrowell.

THE WITNESS: I can say last words. You know, I, I need local people, you know, like such like Daryl Maguire or some people that can help this company to establish, you know, develop more. So, anyway, so (not
20 transcribable) happen for me I'm also bad luck. This company close now. Oaten hay, UWE Hay close, no anymore. Very, really bad, sad. Very sad, this company.

MR HARROWELL: Thank you, Mr Liu. Thank you, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Harrowell. Anything arising, Mr Robertson?

MR ROBERTSON: Can I just clarify what you meant in response to the
30 question you were asked about your practice? I understood you to say a bit earlier that – and put aside Mr Maguire at the moment – if someone other than Mr Maguire would introduce you to an opportunity that you would make money out of, I understood you to say it was your practice that you might pay some fee to that person who gives you the introduction. Is that right or is that not right?---Yeah, I, depended, normally, only one Daryl Maguire is, like, he working for government. The rest of them, all this is private company. So, normally, like business to business, everybody help each other, get a business, you know, success. Of course they were looking after me, I was looking after him. So for Daryl Maguire, I never, he never
40 ask me, I never offer him.

So at least business to business, your practice would be to give some sort of a fee, business look after each other, is that right?---Yes.

But with Mr Maguire, you didn't offer Mr Maguire a fee in the same way, because he was a government official. Is that what you're saying?---No, yes, correct.

Thank you, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you, Mr Robertson, shall I excuse Mr Liu?

MR ROBERTSON: Yes, you should, Commissioner.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you for attending, Mr Liu. You are discharged from your summons to attend the public inquiry, and you may leave. You may step down from the witness box and leave the Commission. Thank you very much.---Thank you.

THE WITNESS EXCUSED

[3.36pm]

MR ROBERTSON: Commissioner, that completes the program of evidence today. Can I respectfully propose a 9.30am start tomorrow?
20

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

MR ROBERTSON: I anticipate being finished through the three witnesses now including Mr Cull by lunchtime tomorrow, but I can't give that assurance unless we start a little bit earlier.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. We'll do that. Anything else this afternoon?

30 MR ROBERTSON: No, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Very well. We'll adjourn until 9.30am tomorrow.

AT 3.36PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY

[3.36pm]