

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE: NSW PREMIER GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN ADDRESS OF RELATIONSHIP WITH DARYL MAGUIRE, NINE 5 NEWS AUSTRALIA.

BEREJIKLIAN: That person and without question I stuffed up in my personal life and I accept that. It's very difficult for someone in my position to have a private and personal life and I'm very upset at what has transpired. But I want to make this assurance to the people of New South Wales I have always put the public first. I have always made sure the public interest is first and foremost paramount in every single thing that I do. The integrity of the or - the role I have, the office that I hold is the greatest privilege of my life. And whilst I have made this mistake in my personal life, I intend to serve the people of New South Wales to the best of my ability. That's what I've always done. I've sacrificed my life to public office and I'm proud of that. The position I hold is a privileged one. It is an honour to serve the people of the state. And I look forward to maintaining my focus to keep everybody safe, to keep jobs going during a very difficult time for the state. But I want to state at the outset that had I known then what I know now clearly I would not have made those personal decisions that I did. I trusted someone that I'd known for a long time and I feel really – really let down. I trusted him for a long time. We were colleagues for fifteen years and I'm not gonna take away from the fact that I made a mistake in my personal life, but I have to say that there is huge separation between a personal life and public office. And I can't stress enough that every day that I've been in this job I have held myself accountable to the highest standards and I've held my colleagues to the highest standards and I say to all the colleagues, all the public servants, all the people that I've worked with they know me, they know who I am. Many of you standing here know me and know who I am and I will continue to put the people of this state first and foremost in all of my activities. I'm now going to let my deputy say a few words and Minister Hazzard wants to give a quick update and then of course I'll take all your questions for as long as you'd like me to take your questions.

PERROTTET: Well thank you Premier. Can I say it's great to be here with the Premier today to offer my support to her, it's been a very difficult day, but she is somebody of the upmost integrity, honesty and as somebody who has stood by her side as the Deputy Leader and Treasurer of this state never have I seen someone work so hard, a person of high integrity and honesty. And somebody who puts the people of New South Wales first and foremost. And she's somebody that has not taken a days leave over

the course of this last year. A year which has been incredibly difficult for
5 the people of our state. I mean I know whether it's been through the
bush fires, the flood, the drought and this pandemic that we could have
no leader better than Gladys Berejiklian to take our state through this
10 difficult time. I know every single day as she is somebody who is
selfless and she is somebody who is focused on one thing and one thing
only and that is the betterment of our people. And yes it has been a
15 difficult day for her and a difficult day for the Government, but can I say
as the Deputy Leader of the party that she is somebody of the utmost
integrity, honestly, it has been an absolute pleasure to be by her side
during what has been such a very difficult period of time. And I know
that most importantly her focus, continued focused and her tireless work
20 ethic ensures that our state is in – is in the best place possible. And we
know throughout this entire pandemic the shining light of this country
when it comes to which state is driving our nation through this once in a
one hundred economic crisis, it has been the state of New South Wales.
And that is no accident. That is no accident at all. That is – that has been
25 because of the fearless leadership that Gladys Berejiklian has taken our
state through this very – very difficult time. This is a crisis that is far
from over. This is one that will need the leadership, the most strongest
leadership possible to keep our state moving, to keep as many people in
work, to keep as many people safe as possible and I'd like to say as the
Deputy and as somebody who works incredibly closely with Gladys
30 Berejiklian, who has worked closely over the last three years there is no
one in this state more selfless and more focused on keeping our people
safe, on keeping businesses in business and keeping people in jobs.
She's a person of highest integrity, honesty and so dedicated to the
betterment of the people of New South Wales and it's a great to be here
as her Deputy today, of the Liberal Party. I support her in what has been
a very difficult day.

HAZZARD:

I have a public health order to make. Before I do that I just want to say
35 in regard to the events of today I've known the Premier for more than
twenty years and I have to say she is a outstanding person. She is a
person of great integrity, she is by far the best Premier in this country.
And each one of us should know that when she goes to work each day
she is only focused on one thing and that is making sure that the citizens
40 of New South Wales are well cared for. I have lived and worked more
than twenty hours a day in some cases with the Premier in the last – in
the last eight to nine months during this COVID crisis. And she has been
an outstanding leader. Why we are in the position we are today is
because of the incredible work she has done with each of the other
45 government agencies and particularly the senior health officials who all
hold her in very high regard. Just want to emphasise that I don't think
we would have been in such a good place today if Gladys' Berejiklian
had not been our Premier. Also of course through the fires and through

the floods she's been amazing. So, I just to say one hundred percent backing our Premier.

Now as to the public health alert each one of us would know today that COVID hasn't stopped. Fortunately, the state has had a good result today with just one case of locally acquired, locally transmitted COVID-19. There are five travellers who are in hotel quarantine up to 8PM last night. So that is certainly (UNINTELLIGIBLE) very appreciative of the fact that we continue to have the hotel quarantine arrangement because that's certainly keeping us all safe. Can I say the public health alert this afternoon we're detailing some other concerns we have. And I'd like the community to be very aware of this because there may be a lot of people who have been through this particular facility. Two new cases of COVID 19 have been linked to a medical clinic in Lakemba. Both cases unfortunately are – are general practitioners in that practice. They worked at the A to Z Medical Clinic at 96 Haldon Street - Street, Lakemba. The two new cases are linked to a previously reported case in a patient who attended Lakemba Radiology. Now New South Wales Health is in the process of contacting everyone considered to be a close contact of these cases. And I stress obviously (UNINTELLIGIBLE) GP's in the practice we expect there'll be quite a number of people who may have been in close contact with them. These close contacts should be tested immediately and isolate for full 14 days from exposure regardless of any results of any tests. And casual context – casual contacts of these two GP's, these cases, must monitor for symptoms and then get tested and isolate immediately if they develop any symptoms. And then after testing they should remain in isolation until a negative result is achieved. I'd also just like to point out that New South Wales Health will be contacting anyone directly to provide tailored advice depending on their exposure, particularly on Thursday the 1st of October from 2:30 to 3:30, Friday the 9th of October from 3 to 4:30 and Saturday 10th of October all day. That circular will put out shortly, again thank you for making sure these public health notices get out to the broader community.

[Reporters speaking at once – unintelligible]

REPORTER 1: Premier, have you considered resigning?

REPORTER 2: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

BEREJIKLIAN: I've made my position clear today in the evidence that I gave and it's fair to say that a number of people were approached in Government. A number of public servants were approached, and the good news is that everybody held their ground and did what was right in the interest of the public. Everybody held their ground, and this person was not able to

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REPORT 3:

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acquire anything, or his friends or his associates. And I want to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank all of the public servants, all of my colleagues who at every opportunity made sure they did the right thing. Made sure that this person did not get any personal benefit and that is what at the heart of the issue here. He had a go, quite a few many times, but nothing transpired. And I want to say strongly to the people of this state there is one way – one way to come to the Government, to get things done and that's through the front door, through proper process and I'm pleased to say the processes held up because nobody was able to gain a benefit from go – trying to get around the process. From trying to influence, from trying to cajole that did not occur and that is what I want to thank all of the public servants, all of the colleagues, everybody who was approached ensured that at every opportunity proper processes of this Government were held to account and that is what is important.

Premier, you repeatedly say that you kept the personal and the professional separate, but in those phone taps that we all heard, we heard you say to Mr Maguire – we heard you ask Mr Maguire has Sarah from my office called you about that? We also heard you say oh they think it's in your electorate I didn't say anything. How can we really trust that you kept that separate when clearly you were having those professional conversations with him?

BEREJIKLIAN:

But I would have had those conversations with other colleagues as well to see if my – if they had been in touch with my office or if they've dealt with my office. There is nothing I did which did not put the people of New South Wales first. People may have tried to influence me, people may have tried to get around proper process, but they failed. They failed to get to me around proper process and that is what is important. I hold the integrity of this Government to the highest standard and what is comforting in what I regard as a personal nightmare, and I will call it a personal nightmare. You cannot appreciate for someone who's very private, for someone who is very by the book, for someone who put her trust in someone she thought she could trust I'd known him for 15 years. I can't tell you what it's done to me personally. It's – it's been devastating, and I've had to bear this on top of everything else. But I want everybody to know that notwithstanding the personal pressures I was under, the personal challenges that I've had, that at every opportunity I've worked hard – my guts out for the people of this state because I'll put the people first. Public service is a sacrifice and whether it's my Deputy who has a number of children and I know he sac – what he sacrifices to do his job. And similarly, the Health Minister. I know what his sacrifice to do his job and public service is a sacrifice. And I just want the public to know that never ever have I done anything, but to completely serve the public. Never ever have I done anything, but what is the highest standard of integrity and where I have failed is in my

personal life and I accept that. I take full responsibility for that. I take full responsibility for that. In fact, this – this was a relationship I did not share with anybody, not my family, not my closest friends. It was not a relationship that I regarded of – of sufficient status, but yet I will say that I – that I – am - well I don't want to take away the responsibility for my actions and say I'm human, but I am. I'm human and I stuffed up in my personal life. And for someone who is extremely private and extremely cautious and very conservative in the way she leads her life, it's been very difficult to have to have that out on full display. And I also want to make this point and I feel very strongly about this. I know that many women and girls are very proud of the role that I play and the job that I do. And I want to say everybody there's nothing wrong with being a strong, independent, financial independent woman. And I don't want assumptions made that women can't be independent, can't be financially independent, can't make decisions for themselves, are unduly influenced by others. That's not what strong women do. That is what strong women are. And I just want to say to all the girls and women out there that please know that it's okay to be in public office, it's okay to make the sacrifices, but it's also okay to accept that we're far from perfect and certainly I'm far from perfect, but what I can say is that at every opportunity I serve the people with every ounce of my body, with every bounce – ounce of my being, that I hold the office that I hold with enormous privilege and I will continue to do that.

25 [Reporters speaking at once – unintelligible]

REPORTER 4: Have you considered – have you considered resigning?

BEREJIKLIAN: No I haven't because I haven't done anything wrong. If I had done something wrong, I would be the first one to do that. If I had done something wrong, I would be the first one to consider my position, but I haven't.

[Reporters speaking at once – unintelligible]

35 REPORTER 5: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) breach - do you think you could be in breach of the ministerial code Premier by not declaring the pecuniary interest of someone with whom you're (INAUDIBLE) – ?

40 BEREJIKLIAN: No because –

REPORTER 5: (INAUDIBLE)

BEREJIKLIAN: - no because the – the ICAC was very careful in the definition they used in terms of close personal relationship. They were very careful and I've not been accused on any wrongdoing.

- REPORTER 5: Premier why didn't you end the relationship with Daryl Maguire back in 2018 when the first corruption enquiry took place?
- 5 BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah that is a very good question and can I say that initially he was very angry with me, I was extremely angry with him, I sacked him. I asked for his resignation, then I not only convinced him to leave parliament, but accosted others to help me convince him to leave parliament. But I also have to say from a compassionate position this is a person who again I – put yourself in my position I've known him for 15 years, he lost his career, his friends, he lost everything and he was in a very dark place and I didn't feel that I could stop being his friend during that time. Rightly or wrongly, on compassionate grounds, but this – but put yourself in a situation imagine if one of your best friends had done something horrible on compassionate grounds would you care about their welfare if they're in a dark place, they've lost everything and that's – I just felt that I could not stop being his friend, rightly or wrongly, but of course can I say this had I known then what I know now, I mean I don't want to prejudice the hearing that's going on at the moment, but can I say in a general statement had I known then what I know now of course I would have had nothing to do with him. But I did not know the extent of what – what he was alleged to have done.
- [Reporters speaking at once – unintelligible]
- 25 REPORTER 6: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJIKLIAN: I'm sorry?
- 30 REPORTER 6: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJIKLIAN: No can I be very care – can I be very clear here. Parliamentary secretaries and members of Parliament are allowed to have business interests. They're allowed to conduct business activity, so long as they disclose them. And I assumed, as I do with every colleague, that if you are engaging in any transaction, in any deal that disclose that appropriately and parliamentary secretaries in particular, even ministers are allowed to have business interest so long as they declare any conflicts and provide all the disclosures. So, there is nothing actually wrong with someone undertaking a business interest. What is wrong and this is the key point, what is wrong is using your public office to do that, or failing to disclose the interests that you've accumulated and –
- 40 REPORTER 7: If you trusted that he disclosed all those interests why did you say to him those times I don't need to know about that, I don't need to know that?

BEREJKLIAN: Well I've – I've – I – I refer you to the evidence that I gave today and they were his interests. I didn't have any interest in them. I didn't care too much about his interest because it was his responsibility to disclose them as is the responsibility of every member of Parliament. And when you've known, and this is my failing, when you've known someone for a long time and you put your trust in them, you assume they're doing right thing and that's what I assumed. I assumed he was doing the right thing. I had my trust in him and obviously I know now that that trust was misplaced, and I accept that human failing on my part and I accept it wholeheartedly. I accept it wholeheartedly and I know, because many people have already contacted me to say that they've been through experiences where they trusted somebody and they've been let down. But I don't want to take from the – the personal responsibility I – I bear for that because I did trust him, my trust was misplaced, and I deeply regret that. It is a very difficult time for me in my life to accept that, but I have to. And when you go through a personal crisis you dust yourself off, learn from it and move forward. And I also want to state unequivocally that I've always been cognisant of the separation of my personal life from my public duty and public responsibility and that remains the case. And – and I hope the public knows and I certainly feel the public appreciates that I don't always get it right in terms of executing my public responsibilities, but I certainly work my guts out and I certainly ensure that at every stage the highest level of integrity's applied to the way in which I do my job.

[Reporters speaking at once – unintelligible]

REPORTER 8: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) raised with you -

BEREJKLIAN: I'm sorry?

REPORTER 8: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) raised with you the chief of staff or the planning minister (UNINTELLIGIBLE) what Daryl Maguire was doing, the way he was conducting himself was inappropriate (INAUDIBLE) raise those concerns (INAUDIBLE) escalated to you, what did you do and if nothing why?

BEREJKLIAN: Can I say that question wasn't put to me today, but I asked my staff – yeah, no – no I understand, but I asked my staff to advise me whether we've had any note or any document which expressed those concerns from that minister's office and we've – my office said that they did not receive anything. So that was not brought to my attention. And I specifically – and – and if I was asked today, I would have answered that question in that way, but I specifically asked my office because I wanted to know the same thing Liz. I wanted to know why I wasn't told, and I asked my office, my office checked all the records and there is no record

REPORTER 9: Premier (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

BEREJKLIAN: I'm sorry?

15 REPORTER 9: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) Daryl Maguire (UNINTELLIGIBLE) your position (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

20 BEREJKLIAN: No, well that's not my position that's actually the position of the disclosure requirements. That's not my position, I didn't make up those rules the – the – the interest disclosure, the parliamentary disclosure, the ministerial code of conduct, in fact the ministerial code of conduct was updated in 2014 under Premier Baird and the pecuniary interest register has been around for a long time. So they're not my rules they're the rules of the Parliament and they're the rules of the ministerial code of conduct.

REPORTER 10: Premier

REPORTER 11: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

BEREJKLIAN: No, I d – I – but – but you're making assumptions that I didn't know. You're making assumptions that he – that there was a connection there, in fact, just be careful because ICAC is actually making those investigation, it's for them to look at that, but – but that – that's yet to be determined.

REPORTER 12: We heard (UNINTELLIGIBLE) evidence at the ICAC that Daryl Maguire put it to you that he said that – he was set to make money from his deal at Badgerys Creek at the time. We also heard evidence (UNINTELLIGIBLE) ICAC regarding Maguire and he's talking to your office about (UNINTELLIGIBLE) why wasn't your – why – why didn't you do something about (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

BEREJKLIAN: Oh the second part of your question is not actually accurate, but in relation to – and in relation to the first part I – I was asked that question today and – and again – and answered it appropriately in that – in that I

was not aware of any specifics and if there was any interest it should have been disclosed at the appropriate time and in fact the integrity body is still investigating whether any interest actually materialised and that's for them to decide.

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REPORTER 12: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) he was set to make a lot of money with this land deal at Badgerys Creek (UNINTELLIGIBLE) -

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BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah.

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REPORTER 12: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) because he was bad at finance (UNINTELLIGIBLE) - ?

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BEREJIKLIAN: No – no – no, it was – yeah I – I think most of my colleagues acknowledge that pie in the sky and – and big talking was – was part of who he was, so –

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REPORTER 12: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) Does that excuse pass the mustard?

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BEREJIKLIAN: No, well it doesn't – it doesn't. But what – what does – what does – what does pass the test is the fact that I had no – no knowledge, no details and I assumed that all of my colleagues – and all of my colleagues have to disclose their interest at the right time. All of my colleagues - it depends on the interest sometimes you have to have ongoing disclosure, sometimes you have to do it on the pecuniary register depending on the office you hold you have to make those disclosures. And at that time, as I said, because I trusted him – because I trusted him I had no reason – no reason at the time to imagine that he was doing anything wrong because I trusted him and I assumed that if there was any interest to be declared that he did that. That if there was any interest to register that he did that and that's yet to be determined.

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REPORTER 13: Premier –

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REPORTER 14: You've spoken about – sorry you've spoken about being a role model for girls and women, what about Mr Maguire's wife was he still married when you started the close personal relationship (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

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BEREJIKLIAN: Look that's a matter for him, but my understanding was that he was separated.

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REPORTER 15: Premier (UNINTELLIGIBLE) say (UNINTELLIGIBLE) to Daryl Maguire (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

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BEREJIKLIAN: No I was already on leave at the time.

- REPORTER 15: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: Yep.
- 5 REPORTER 15: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: I'd already – I was already on leave.
- 10 REPORTER 15: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: Gosh no. No because I was – I was unaware of those issues prior to the 13th of July.
- 15 REPORTER 16: When should have you, in hindsight, should you have declared your relationship with him or made it public to more people, because do you accept that, you know, as a Premier or a minister having a secret relationship with someone who does have dealings with Government potentially opens you to, you know, opportunities of bribery, opportunities (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?
- 20 BEREJKLIAN: Well it wasn't – the relationship was of suffical – sufficient status for me to talk to anybody about it. I didn't even talk to my family about it because it wasn't of a sufficient status, but I've been very open today with the ICAC. I actually made sure that they were aware in terms of what I felt about it, but it didn't have sufficient status for me to share with anybody let alone the – I did not feel that it had sufficient status for me and I wasn't sure about his future to be honest. And these are very difficult things to talk about, but if I did I would've – I would've obviously made – made those matters known, but I – I did not regard it as sufficient status at that stage to be able to – to make that public or in fact tell people closest around me.
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- REPORTER 17: When do (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 35 REPORTER 18: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) do you agree with the – do you agree with -?
- BEREJKLIAN: I'm – I answered that question this morning, yep.
- 40 REPORTER 18: Premier you agreed with the assertion of Counsel Assisting that it would have been preferable for you to go public and continue with your close personal relationship with Maguire after he left politics at what point do you (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?
- 45 BEREJKLIAN: No well I – I made – I made clear that I was – I've made clear just before that I was concerned with his welfare. I'd known him for 15 years and – and rightly or wrongly whilst – whilst I knew what he'd done was very

bad in fact not only did I ask him to resign from the Parliamentary Liberal Party, not only did I ask him to sit on the cross bench, but I also engaged the support of others to convince him to resign from Parliament.

5 REPORTER 18: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

BEREJKLIAN: Yep.

REPORTER 18: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) eighteen –

10 BEREJKLIAN: I'm sorry I can't hear what you're saying.

REPORTER 18: Before 2018 –

15 BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.

REPORTER 18: Do you agree that it was – it would have been preferable to you to continue your relationship and go public with your relationship when Mr Maguire left (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

20 BEREJKLIAN: Well that was – well they were – they were hypothetical matters, I didn't know where things were going. As I said it – it wasn't of sufficient status for me to be able to make that call. These are intensely personal matters and I think all of – all of us would know in our private lives and I'm – I'm, you know, for – for those of you haven't had to go through what I've been through you're very fortunate because in my position it's very difficult to have a private life and a personal life and it's very difficult to make sure that you not only put your trust in the right people and – and that's the other dec – thing that I feel very disappointed in myself I am normally a good judge of character, I'm normally very good at judging people and I feel that I really let myself down on this occasion. And I feel very bad about it. And it's something I'll, you know, I'll carry for – for a long time. And – and I will, you know, trust now is – is a big issue for me because I – I thought that I could trust him, I knew him for a long time. And again, for someone who's very private these are very difficult things to talk about. But I'm doing it because I want to be very open and – and let people know that I – that I'm more than human, I made a big mistake in my personal life, I always kept my personal life separate from my public responsibility. And that my first and foremost priority is to the people of this great state and it will continue to be.

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45 REPORTER 19: What was it that made you think that Daryl Maguire needed to be sacked from Parliament (UNINTELLIGIBLE) no longer fit to be a MP, but was still fit to be in a close personal realtionship?

- BEREJKLIAN: Well I – well that's where you separate the personal from the public office. When my public position was in question about what to do with this MP I did not hesitate. I sacked him from the Parliamentary party, I forced him onto the back bench, I engaged – and then eventually I engaged the help of others because he wouldn't resign from Parliament, for him to resign from Parliament. That was my public responsibility. But in my personal life, I don't know about you guys, but when you've known someone for some – for a long time and they've really stuffed up, they've lost everything, they're in a very dark place and I don't want to – as – as bad as his actions were, I don't want to divulge his personal circumstances, but I didn't feel that I could not support him as a friend during that very difficult time in his life. And I know that it may not have been on the personal record, but his son in law died the day I sacked, and I carried a bit of guilt about those circumstances and I didn't feel that after he'd lost everything again, perhaps some of you would make a different decision, but think about people you've known in your life for 15 years who – who you know, you'd been close to for a long time and when he was in that very dark place I didn't feel that I could just step being his friend – his close friend.
- REPORTER 20: Premier you –
- BEREJKLIAN: I'm sorry.
- REPORTER 21: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: It wasn't a sufficient status then to be able to progress it because – and – as difficult as this is for me, I – I do not know to this date the truthfulness about how he felt about me and they're matters before the ICAC, so.
- REPORTER 22: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: No well I – well we'll know. No. I – I questioned everything on July 13, 2018.
- REPORTER 23: You said – you said earlier that Premier Berejiklian the ICAC was very careful in not to classify the relationship –
- BEREJKLIAN: Yep.
- REPORTER 23: - because there are different –
- BEREJKLIAN: There are –
- REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

- BEREJKILIAN: Yep – yep.
- REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 5 BEREJKILIAN: Yep.
- REPORTER 23: - which states that a family member is someone (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 10 BEREJKILIAN: Yep.
- REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKILIAN: That's why they used the language that they did.
- 15 REPORTER 23: So he wasn't someone (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKILIAN: No –
- REPORTER 23: - intimate personal relationship (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?
- 20 BEREJKILIAN: No – no.
- REPORTER 23: And can I ask you (UNINTELLIGIBLE) a number of your colleagues in (UNINTELLIGIBLE) it's been raised that you have been quite strict on members of the Liberal Party having undisclosed relationships with other members of the Liberal Party staff (UNINTELLIGIBLE) and members (UNINTELLIGIBLE) staff (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?
- 25 BEREJKILIAN: He wasn't a staff member –
- 30 REPORTER 23: But members having a relationship –
- BEREJKILIAN: Yeah.
- 35 REPORTER 23: - with other members –
- BEREJKILIAN: Right.
- REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) put (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 40 BEREJKILIAN: I've –
- REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE) relationship (UNINTELLIGIBLE)

- BEREJKLIAN: I've never – I've never questioned that. I've never questioned adult – two consenting adults that don't work in the same office is a matter for them.
- 5 REPORTER 23: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: Yeah there's nothing wrong with that. You look at the Federal Parliament, look how many members have ended up married. Look how many federal members are in relationships or state members for that matter. I think there's a problem if it's a – if it's a member of your staff, but if it's two consenting adults who happen to be members of Parliament, I don't know since when that was dis – I mean that's – there's lot of examples of members of Parliament who've actually gone on to have long term futures together.
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- 15 REPORTER 24: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: I'm sorry can you just speak up a little bit.
- 20 REPORTER 24: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- BEREJKLIAN: Oh look they're intensely personal questions, but as I said in my view the relationship didn't have sufficient status for me to define it in those terms. He wasn't – it was just – it was a close personal relationship, but it did not have sufficient status for me to be able to call him any of those things. And I've tried to be as frank as possible with everybody whose asked me those questions.
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- REPORTER 25: Sorry (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 30 BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.
- REPORTER 25: (UNINTELLIGIBLE)
- 35 BEREJKLIAN: Well no to me – to me a close relationship, a close personal relationship is – is – is a closeness you have with somebody, but obviously the dynamics changed substantially and I was there to support to him as a – as a close friend.
- 40 REPORTER 26: You also said today Premier that you were made aware of the fact (UNINTELLIGIBLE) close personal relationship had come to an end. How was he made aware of that? Did you actually tell him or did he (INAUDIBLE) – ?

BEREJIKLIAN: Look they're – they're – they're matters that I've disclosed to the ICAC and they're satisfied with my response. But they're – but I don't want to prejudice ongoing investigations.

5 REPORTER 27: The Labor Party is going to move a motion of no confidence in you as Premier tomorrow hope to remain in that role, are you confident that you'll (UNINTELLIGIBLE)?

10 BEREJIKLIAN: Oh look I – I suspected they would do that. And that is their prerogative, but I'm confident that I've got the support of my colleagues.

REPORTER 27: And Barry O'Farrell resigned (INAUDIBLE) -

15 PRESNETER: Well that is the hardest press conference Gladys Berejiklian will ever give and in that press conf – she admits I her words she stuffed up, I trusted him, that is the disgraced MP Daryl Maguire, and I feel let down by him she said she's been through a personal nightmare, but then added I have not done anything wrong.

20 **END OF PRESS CONFERENCE**

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18 Oct 2020, by Annette Sharp

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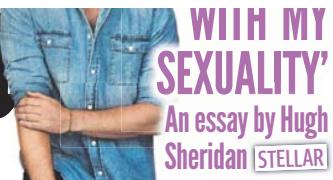
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BRIEF 1NSW-ICAC

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telegraph

\$3 SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 18, 2020



GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN

THE INTERVIEW

‘I loved him ... but I’ll never speak to him again’



AFTER a brutal week of ICAC hearings and 'humiliating' revelations of a secret love affair with disgraced MP Daryl Maguire, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian opens up about the shame of being caught up in a corruption scandal. In her first interview, Ms Berejiklian says she was in love, thought they would marry and now has all-but given up on romance. She continues to maintain she did nothing wrong.

ANNETTE SHARP EXCLUSIVE PAGES 6-7

‘I’VE GIVEN UP ON LOVE’

EXCLUSIVE FIRST INTERVIEW

As Gladys Berejiklian insists she did nothing wrong in the Maguire Affair, she reveals she's embarrassed to admit she fell in love, writes Annette Sharp



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Ashattered Gladys Berejiklian has admitted she loved the man she had to sack “brutally” from government in 2018, disgraced Wagga Wagga MP Daryl Maguire, and she had hoped to one day marry him. Speaking exclusively to The Sunday Telegraph yesterday, the NSW Premier said she is paying a painful price for loving and trusting Mr Maguire, who had embarrassed her and left her feeling “silly” after she was dragged before ICAC’s corruption inquiry last week.

After shedding bitter tears “in private” during the week, a reserved Premier said she will never speak to Maguire again, such is the personal and professional injury he has done her after she learned, via the inquiry, the extent to which he hawked her name around town to business associates and used government resources in his dodgy sideline enterprises.

“I’m never going to speak to him again,” she said, sounding rattled by the events of recent days. “My life’s changed forever.”

The romantically inexperienced politician’s private life was laid bare before ICAC’s inquiry, something that has left her “embarrassed and humiliated” – a new low for a woman with an impeccable reputation. “I can formally say to people I’ve given up on love,”

she said. “I’m just going to say I have always put my job first, rightly or wrongly, and that will now continue indefinitely.”

Describing the events of the past week as “horrific”, Ms Berejiklian said she spent the week feeling like she was having an out-of-body experience after being called as a witness before ICAC.

“I’m still trying to process it. I feel like it’s someone else living this ... It’s like I’m the

main protagonist in a movie. It’s like I’m the feature and the film is going to end and my life is going to go back to normal but it will never be normal again.”

For a private woman who has never married and never spoken in public about her love life, being put through the wringer by ICAC in an open session that seemed to unnecessarily plumb the depths of her private life and was much dissected by the media, was a mortifying experience.

Until last week, she had not even told her own family about her years-long affair with Maguire.

She confirmed yesterday she still hasn’t discussed it in any detail with her

Armenian migrant parents, Krikor and Arsha, who

during her younger years actively attempted to “matchmake” their professionally absorbed daughter.

Sworn to secrecy before giving her testimony last week, the Premier informed her sisters, Mary and Rita, that something was in the wind at the start of the week before asking them to take care of their octogenarian parents.

“I told my sisters that I

was going to have a rough week but I didn’t give them details. I said you’re going to

hear something shocking on Monday and I’ll talk to you afterwards because I really wasn’t able to go into any detail about anything, for obvious (legal) reasons,” she said. “I told them to be ready, and I told them to make sure they looked after mum and dad in case I didn’t have time to, because it was going to be pretty brutal.”

Mary and Rita, who have seen their eldest sibling weather many storms during her political life, took the warning a “bit lightly”, Ms Berejiklian said.

“I tried to hint at what would be really embarrassing for me but I didn’t want to go into detail (and said) I would talk to them afterwards and then I haven’t really had a chance...”

In her first interview, the Premier confirmed she was still emotionally raw from her week in ICAC’s spotlight.

The circumspect language used by Ms Berejiklian to describe her relationship with Maguire during the inquiry only served to provoke greater media intrigue in the affair, one she’s still reluctant to define.

When the words “boyfriend” and “partner” are suggested,

she winces. “It was hard to define because it wasn’t of a sufficient status,” she says ambiguously. “It wasn’t a traditional type of relationship.”

What it was, in the simplest of terms, was a friendship begun at parliament 20 years ago that, according to her, became something more in around 2015 when the pair became intimate.

But, with Maquire living in the Wagga Wagga electorate and Ms Berejiklian based in Sydney, the couple saw each other infrequently: “Sometimes if parliament was sitting but very infrequently,” she said.

When asked if she fell in love with Maguire, with whom she admits she only had public service work in common, the Premier stiffened: “I did. That’s all I’ll say. I’m embarrassed now, but I did.”

In her mid-forties, when the affair began, she admits she hoped the relationship might lead to marriage.

“I thought it could, yes,” she replied.

“We were friends for a long time. We were in parliament together for a

long time. I was elected in 2003. He was elected in 1999. He was a colleague ... we became close friends and were friends for a long time. Over time (we) got closer.”

But not close enough for her to introduce Maguire to her Armenian-Australian family: “I wouldn’t have wanted to introduce him unless it was definitely going to go anywhere.”

She said she fell for Maguire, ironically, because she trusted him. “The irony is because I trusted him ... because I’d known him for a long time (and) trusted him,”

she said. “Around the traps he was a generally likeable person, down to earth. Not everybody liked him but then in politics not everybody does.”

She batted away further questions about the pairing saying she finds it too

“embarrassing and humiliating” to talk about but said she only learned his nickname was “Dodgy”



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Daryl" recently.

"Being a single woman with a high public profile, you're not going to have a conventional relationship are you? I was very young when I got into parliament, it was never going to be easy ... (and) this was never going to be a conventional relationship because of my job. I have been (married to the job) and I don't mind that, it's the truth. As corny as it is, it's not really the job

... it's the public service. Serving the public is what I love to do." Close observers noted her responses to Maguire — "Nope ... mmmmm" — as recorded by ICAC in phone taps and played during the inquiry, sounded less like a loved-up

sweetheart and more like a bored housewife. "Yeah, I was completely bored," she said wearily. "It's because I wasn't listening (to him). My staff said: 'Glad, that's what you do to us when you don't want to listen to what we're saying'. One of them goes, "We even heard you turning pages through that conversation."

She said she dumped Maguire in 2018 after sacking him over the corruption allegations — "I sacked him on the spot. It was pretty brutal" — though they remained in contact until earlier this year because, she said, he was "friendless". Asked if she believes Maguire was any good at the deals he was running, she is blunt:

"Clearly not. Everything he tried amounted to nothing."

The Premier's misfortune has still struck a chord with voters, who interrupt constantly during our one-hour interview, one woman even shouting sympathetically: "It's okay Gladys, every man I've ever been involved has been a dud!" Her electoral office is filled with flowers and her mailbox overflowing with letters of support, yet the emotional impact of having her love life heavily and grubbily dissected by the media has left her raw — as anyone might be when a love affair fails. Has Maguire apologised to her? "He'll never have the chance because I'll never speak to him again," she said.

“ An apology? He'll never have the chance because I'll never speak to him again.



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Gladys
Berejiklian
opens up
about feeling
silly over her
affair with
Daryl
Maguire.
interview.
Picture: Sam
Ruttyn.

Inset: Gladys
and Daryl
Maguire.



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Gladys Berejiklian chats with
Annette Sharp yesterday and
(below) is greeted by a fan.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN AND BEN FORDHAM (2GB) ON 19 OCTOBER 2020

5

FORDHAM: Premier, welcome to 2GB breakfast.

BEREJIKLIAN: Hi Ben, how are you?

FORDHAM: I'm doing well. Before we get into the heavy stuff, and there is gonna be lots of that this morning -

10 BEREJIKLIAN: Mmm.

FORDHAM: - when I mention to a few people that you were coming on air they all replied with 'how is she?'. So that's my first question -

BEREJIKLIAN: Thank you.

FORDHAM: - how are you?

15 BEREJIKLIAN: Um, under the circumstances I'm going okay and I'm just grateful to members of the public and my colleagues who've stood by me and it's really kept me going.

FORDHAM: You're happy to go through the detail this morning because you can see that this may be a bit of a line in the sand moment, you know.

20 BEREJIKLIAN: Well I hope so.

FORDHAM: I know you've discussed it at ICAC -

BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah.

FORDHAM: - you've discussed it in the -

BEREJIKLIAN: Yep.

25 FORDHAM: - newspaper but 2GB listeners are keen to hear the details -

BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah and -

FORDHAM: - for themselves.

BEREJIKLIAN: - and Ben I appreciate - last week was a very difficult week but I tried to be as open - for someone who's very private, it's been a very difficult

experience but I've tried to be as open as possible, answer all the questions as fully as possible um, and, and to know, to let people know ah, that um, I was always able to distinguish between my personal life and my public life and that remains the case.

5 FORDHAM: If you've got a message for the Premier, you can dial in right now. 1-3-1-8-7-3. Premier, the close, personal relationship with Daryl Maguire, is it at the heart of this thing, is it fair to say that you were a bit of a novice in the

—

BEREJKLIAN: (Laughs).

10 FORDHAM: - dating game?

BEREJKLIAN: Oh it's fair to say that I would probably on average have less experience than the average person but um, again that's an excruciating thing to talk about, but um, I've always been really focused on my job, my work, my family and I haven't really had time for a lot else to be honest.

15 FORDHAM: You've said you believed he was separated from his ex-wife when you two started.

BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.

FORDHAM: But he wasn't always truthful, so how sure can you be about that?

BEREJKLIAN: Oh look I, I took him at his word but um, but also you look back and you think um, you know when you trust someone and you've known them for so many years you, you believe what they say, yeah.

FORDHAM: Apart from the friendship he provided, what else did you find appealing in him?

BEREJKLIAN: Well I think um, this is the irony when you know, when you've known someone for over a decade um, you know in my line of work I'm very careful about – this is the irony about who I trust – I'm very careful about who I let into my circle and, because I'd known him for a decade, that was ironically appealing because I knew – I thought I knew him and my colleagues I think – I think a lot of my colleagues have been shocked as well 'cause a lot of us knew him over a long period of time and none of us picked up on the extent of what he was up to and, and that's um, that's I think, I think not just shocked me but shocked a lot of people.

- FORDHAM: Why didn't you tell anybody about it? Not even your closest friends and family?
- BEREJKLIAN: Because it wasn't a normal relationship Ben, it wasn't a normal, it wasn't, it wasn't, he wasn't my boyfriend, he wasn't anything of, of note. I, you know, I certainly hoped it would be but it wasn't sufficiently substantial for me to say any – and because I'm not the type of person that um, has been in a, had been in a long term relationship I, I wasn't, I didn't want to introduce anyone to, to my close network unless I knew it was the real deal and I didn't feel it was at the time.
- 10 FORDHAM: Okay you say he wasn't your boyfriend, but you've said you were in love with him.
- BEREJKLIAN: Yeah but how many times are you in love with lots of people and, and it doesn't end up in something more formal, so um, I certainly was.
- 15 FORDHAM: So on one hand he was not your boyfriend, on another hand you were in love with him.
- BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.
- FORDHAM: You didn't feel it was sufficient enough to bring him into your circle, can you see that there's a little bit of clarification required about what the –
- BEREJKLIAN: Look sure -
- 20 FORDHAM: - status of the relationship was?
- BEREJKLIAN: - I guess, I guess – look it was a um, it was – I think close and personal is, is the best way to describe it. We were friends for a long time, we were close for a long time but then obviously um, after a certain point it became more than just um, just what friends, friends do, yep.
- 25 FORDHAM: There seems to be some confusion at Daryl Maguire's end about when the relationship started, 2013, 2014 or 2015, and I guess these things can develop over time but how advanced were the wedding discussions –
- BEREJKLIAN: [Sighs].
- FORDHAM: - 'cause you'd spoken about getting married?
- 30 BEREJKLIAN: Look he, look um at, at the end of the day um, you know Ben this is the thing that I go over in my mind and I'm trying not to over-think it, but you can feel one thing in a relationship but now I'm doubting what he thought

and what he felt and that's excruciating for me to talk about because I'm the Premier and often you don't have to go into the level of detail but I appreciate the public interest and um, I hope that answers the question.

FORDHAM: The question you would've heard several times is why didn't she know?
5 Gladys is super switched on so –

BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.

FORDHAM: - why didn't she realise there was something not quite right about Daryl Maguire?

BEREJKLIAN: Well can I say that um, yes I sh – you know I didn't, I didn't pick up on
10 any of that stuff that's since come out but neither did a lot of my colleagues and, you know, this is someone who, this is what people like that do. They work in and around us for 15 years, um we thought we could trust him, we thought he was someone of honesty and integrity. Rightly or wrongly MPs are allowed to do deals, they're allowed to make money so long as they disclose it in the proper way so there was nothing for me –
15 when you start from a position of trust, when you've known – imagine putting yourself in that situation. You've known someone for 10 years and you think they're good, they're good at their job, they, they go around you know being nice and, and people have trust in them and that's the position from which you start. So everything you hear and everything you see,
20 including my colleagues, is from that perspective, it's from that position of trust.

FORDHAM: The other big question you would've heard is why did you keep up this special relationship with this guy for two long years after sacking him over corruption allegations?

BEREJKLIAN: Well it wasn't really – it was extremely sporadic and what happened Ben was after I sacked him he was angry with me and said you know, nothing's proven, how dare you sack me and I said well that's my job, you're sacked. Um, so for a long time it was – we didn't really converse except to say that um, from – forget the public position – from a compassionate, human perspective, I thought I've known this guy for 15 years, he's telling me he's not done anything, he'd lost ev – all his friends any whatever else and he was in a dark place, and from a compassionate perspective, I didn't think I could just not continue to be his friend.

35 FORDHAM: Un, until a few months ago was he still under the impression that you two were together?

- BEREJKLIAN: Um, I think he was – yeah he would've been under the impression that something could've happened yes.
- FORDHAM: When he stood down over corruption claims in 2018, why didn't you let ICAC know that you'd been in a relationship with him?
- 5 BEREJKLIAN: Well I, I um, it's fair to say that I always um, made sure that I would, was assisting, would assist them in any way possible but I hadn't – I didn't know anything to be able to tell. I didn't know anything to be able to –
- FORDHAM: But would it not be relevant to ICAC so say hey listen, this bloke who's been done for corruption, I'm the Premier, I should just let you know before –
- 10 BEREJKLIAN: But –
- FORDHAM: - you find out on your own, I've been in a relationship –
- BEREJKLIAN: - but Ben I also had confidence and do have confidence in the process. They would've come, they would've known all that and they would've come to me if they needed anything. So I – and, and which they did obviously at an appropriate time.
- 15 FORDHAM: On reflection it would've been better that you went to them, to go to them and say listen just for the record, I don't know anything about his business dealings or anything else he was up to, but I just want to let you know as the Premier that I've been in a relationship with this guy.
- 20 BEREJKLIAN: But I also had confidence in the process and when you, when you personally know someone and you're personally close to them, um, it doesn't necessarily mean you know anything and it also doesn't necessarily mean like fro, from what I knew, that was a different investigation what he was involved with wasn't about him. It was about Canterbury Council so that's all that was known. It was a, a, it was, it was about Canterbury Council and he was a witness in that investigation so I didn't even think that it was relevant for me at all. It was a different investigation; it wasn't about him, it was about something else.
- 25 FORDHAM: Nobody every sounds great on a phone tap and the bit that you said that raised the most eyebrows was when Daryl Maguire was telling you about a property deal and his commission might eliminate half of his debt, you replied 'that's good' and then you paused for a split second before adding 'I don't need to know about that bit'. Daryl Maguire agreed saying 'no you don't, you do not'. So what did all that mean? Why were you willing
- 30
35

to listen to his endless drivel on so many other things but on that one you said 'I don't need to know about that bit'?

BEREJKILIAN: Well Ben um, the conversation I think is at least three or four years ago and I probably – first of all I can't assure that I was actually listening to the conversation and not focused on something else. You know you've got a million things going through your mind, you have thousands of conversations and secondly, um, I would've thought it was fanciful or, or I dismissed it because I thought well that's his business and it's got nothing to do with me. Um, a million things could happen but I can assure you one thing, I, did not cross my mind that there was anything untoward. It did not cross my mind, and after thousands and thousands of conversations, um, you know again I can't even assure you that I was listening properly or that I twigged to anything, of course I didn't.

FORDHAM: It's, it's a big comment to make though isn't it? 'I don't need to know about that bit' when you were happy to listen to all this other drivel.

BEREJKILIAN: Well –

FORDHAM: Is there a chance that because he was talking about clearing debts from his past relationship –

BEREJKILIAN: Yeah.

FORDHAM: - that you're thinking well hang on a moment –

BEREJKILIAN: Absolutely.

FORDHAM: - that doesn't involve me or –

BEREJKILIAN: Absol –

FORDHAM: - I don't – but you tell me?

BEREJKILIAN: That could, Ben that could absolutely have been, absolutely have been um, ah, what was going through my mind, but knowing myself, I probably, I probably wasn't paying attention and listening properly.

FORDHAM: Could it be that you were thinking this is information that could put me in a dangerous spot –

BEREJKILIAN: No.

FORDHAM: - and I don't want to hear it?

- BEREJKLIAN: No because I always assumed that every MP, not just him, but a lot of friends tell you about things they might do or colleagues tell you what they're up to, but you assume that everybody discloses things at the appropriate time. You assume that everybody's doing the right thing and because I'd known this guy for however many years, I assumed he would do the right thing.
- FORDHAM: After the break we're gonna go through Daryl Maguire's business dealings in a bit more detail with Gladys Berejiklian, the New South Wales' Premier is live.
- 10 Twenty-five past seven, my guest in the studio, New South Wales Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. Premier thank you very much for being with us this morning. I'll share some feedback coming in. Tess says 'She's the best Premier in New South Wales in decades, no better alternative. She has my vote'. Um, Mia says 'A fantastic leader, a great lady, New South Wales is lucky to be in great shape'. Steve says 'Sadly after Friday's revelations her days are numbered. It doesn't matter how good she is at her job and it doesn't matter what she's done so far'. You, you haven't contemplated pulling the pin at any point in the last week?
- 15 BEREJKLIAN: I have not Ben because ah, there is clear separation and distinction between my personal life and my public life and I haven't done anything wrong. Um, have I stuffed up in my personal life? Absolutely. Am I devastated by what's happened? Absolutely. Am I embarrassed and do I accept that people will, will cast judgement? Of course, but um, my job is my job and I'll keep doing it.
- 20 FORDHAM: John has phoned in, John good morning to you, you're talking with the Premier.
- JOHN: Good morning Ben and Gladys. Gladys um, my wife was reading the paper on the, on it yesterday and ah, she had a bit of a tear in her eye and I said what's wrong and she said, she looked me straight in the eye and said 'Men'. Um, Gladys don't pull the pin, you've got our 110% support, um and Ben, you should know as well as I do, that when we start talking about work to our wives they just say get a life, you know.
- 25 FORDHAM: [Laughs].
- JOHN: If it's not about the kids or shopping –
- 30 FORDHAM: Alright John –

- JOHN: - if it's not about the kids or shopping -
- FORDHAM: - I'll leave it there. There's also –
- BEREJKLIAN: Thank you John.
- FORDHAM: - a strong feeling isn't there – it occurred to me over the weekend that when, when people are courting one another, they don't exactly tell the worst aspects of their lives to the person they're trying to schmooze do they?
- 5
- BEREJKLIAN: Um, John thank you for your message. I – well put it this way, everybody knew that I, knows that I'm a stickler. There would be no benefit in anybody tell, telling me their up to no good because I would've done something about it.
- 10
- FORDHAM: Okay I want to start this little exchange with some yes or no answers, and we can elaborate if we need to, but let's try and start the answers with a yes or a no. Before dating Daryl Maguire, had anyone ever warned you about him?
- 15
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- FORDHAM: When you were dating Daryl Maguire, did you ever witness him being unethical?
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- 20 FORDHAM: Did he ever conduct himself in a way that made you question his character?
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- FORDHAM: Did you know that he was selling access to MPs?
- BEREJKLIAN: No, absolutely not.
- 25 FORDHAM: Did he ever tell you about his business a, arrangements with visas and people coming into Australia?
- BEREJKLIAN: No and that was a shocking, shocking revelation, no.
- FORDHAM: Premier did you do any favours for Daryl Maguire -
- BEREJKLIAN: Absolutely not.

- FORDHAM: - when he was an MP?
- BEREJKILIAN: No way, no way. He was treated as every other MP was.
- FORDHAM: Did he ever want you to?
- BEREJKILIAN: No, not that I know of, mmm.
- 5 FORDHAM: So he never asked for any special favours as –
- BEREJKILIAN: Not, not –
- FORDHAM: - the Member for Wagga Wagga?
- BEREJKILIAN: Well not more or less than any other MP and Ben, I have to, I have to be straight here, every MP lobbies you for things in their electorate and he was no different.
- 10 FORDHAM: Should you have severed all ties with him when you sacked him in 2018?
- BEREJKILIAN: Well professionally I did, I sacked him. Within an hour of him leaving the witness box I'd sacked him, um but on a human level after 15 years – I mean we didn't talk you know, for a long time things were very obviously strained, but on a human level I couldn't just abandon someone I'd known for 15 years because think about your closest friends. If you think you've made a mistake will you, will you drop them for 15 years?
- 15 FORDHAM: I've got a question from Claire coming in, Claire go right ahead.
- CLAIRE: Hi Ben, Hi Premier.
- 20 BEREJKILIAN: Hi Claire.
- CLAIRE: Um, I just wanted to first of all say what a wonderful job you've done for our, our State and you have my vote, my respect and it's clearly you have a lot of people's vote and a lot of people's respect. But I just um, also wanted to give you a little bit of support. Clearly you're not the only woman that's ever made that mistake and I made a very similar one um, I won't go into the details, but when I found out the truth of the situation and the relationship, my heart was broken. How did you feel when you found out? I just want to cry for you, my heart breaks for you that's happening. A broken heart isn't something to be swept under the carpet.
- 25 FORDHAM: So how did you feel Premier when you found out the truth?

- BEREJKLIAN: Claire thank, Claire thank you for sharing. Um, the first thing I found out was absolute shock and disgust and then it was, just been, shocking is probably the biggest word and then I haven't really thought too much about all the other emotions yet because, as you know, when you go through something um, traumatic in your personal life, you have responsibilities and my first one has always been to my job and if you're a parent you've got to look after the children. So you have to really compartmentalise what you're going through and um, and for me um, my focus has always been the State, it's always been the people, it's a privilege to serve and I, to be honest, I haven't really processed all that other stuff yet.
- FORDHAM: I've got news coming up in 15 seconds but have there been tears?
- BEREJKLIAN: Privately, absolutely. [Laughs].
- FORDHAM: Just privately?
- BEREJKLIAN: Yeah.
- FORDHAM: Stiff upper lip.
- BEREJKLIAN: Don't make me Ben. [Laughs]. Keep going.
- FORDHAM: We've got the news coming up at 7:30 and then if you don't mind, I've just got a few more questions and possibly a few more calls. If you want to say hello to Gladys Berejiklian she's live in the 2GB studios, you can give her a call right now, 1-3-1-8-7-3. Amy Meaghan is coming up with the 7:30 news.
- My guest in the studio this morning, New South Wales Premier, Gladys Berejiklian. Premier thank you so much for -
- BEREJKLIAN: Pleasure Ben.
- FORDHAM: - for an extended chat this morning. If we can just ah, just go through a couple more questions and then I'll get to some calls and let you get out of here. You do have to run the State –
- BEREJKLIAN: I do have to run the State.
- FORDHAM: - of New South Wales don't you?
- BEREJKLIAN: [Laughs].

- FORDHAM: I was a bit shocked to learn and I think a lot of people were that politicians are allowed to earn money outside of Parliament as long as they declare it and as long as they're not a Minister. So as far as you know, was there anything wrong with the many property deals that Daryl Maguire was trying to earn commissions on?
- 5
- BEREJKLIAN: Well if I thought there was anything wrong I would've done something about it Ben, um and that's the key thing. Rightly or wrongly MPs are allowed to do deals and make money so long as they're disclosed in the right way and it also depends on their responsibilities and whether they're a Minister or not. So that's why it was nothing ah that I noticed or, or took a lot of interest in because that was his business.
- 10
- FORDHAM: Do you acknowledge that there needs to be tighter restrictions there?
- BEREJKLIAN: Look I'd be more than happy to do that and the restrictions have been tightening as time goes on but I've always said I'm more than happy to look at um, anything further we can do to tighten that so that the public feels confident that MPs are doing the right thing all the time.
- 15
- FORDHAM: On a deal at Badgerys Creek, where he was trying to earn a commission, did Daryl Maguire ever tell you that he was handing over your personal email address to the developer Louise Waterhouse?
- 20 BEREJKLIAN: No he did not.
- FORDHAM: When he said to you expect an email from Louise, why didn't you therefore stop him in his tracks and say why is a property developer emailing me?
- BEREJKLIAN: Well I didn't, I didn't connect the two, I didn't connect the two things um, Ben and please know that as Premier every day in my job people always say to me I spoke to someone, they're gonna send you this or they're gonna do that, but you don't – you take it with a grain of salt. You're just polite but it doesn't mean you do anything about it and I certainly didn't.
- 25
- FORDHAM: Daryl Maguire was trying to suggest to her, Louise Waterhouse, that you'd give it a 'tickle from the top' to help out.
- 30
- BEREJKLIAN: Well as ah, as has been determined, [sighs] I did nothing. Not only that I, there was nothing from my office, no response from me, absolute zilch, got nowhere.
- FORDHAM: There was no change to whatever she was trying to change –

- BEREJKLIAN: No way, absolutely not. The government didn't change its policy and –
- FORDHAM: No meetings?
- BEREJKLIAN: - there was no meeting – in terms of me no meeting, no response to the email, no action, zilch.
- 5 FORDHAM: Okay in 2017 there was a drop in at your office. It involved Daryl Maguire and property developer Joe Alha. Did Daryl Maguire tell you about that –
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- FORDHAM: - that drop in before it happened?
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- 10 FORDHAM: No forewarning?
- BEREJKLIAN: I don't even remember it, no.
- FORDHAM: Did they discuss anything to do with planning issues –
- BEREJKLIAN: No.
- FORDHAM: - at that drop in?
- 15 BEREJKLIAN: No.
- FORDHAM: Daryl Maguire was going into bat for a company called UWE, which was based outside of his electorate and he wanted to join an official trade trip to China to represent UWE's interest. Now that was ultimately blocked by you and by others, but in one of the conversations when he was talking up the option of going along to China, you say 'They seem to think it's in your electorate, I didn't say anything'. The 'they' are people in your office so, when you say 'they', people in your office seem to think it's in your electorate, I didn't say anything, why was that? Why did you –
- 20 BEREJKLIAN: Ben I can't, I can't obviously remember um, what would've happened all those years ago, but what I would imply I'm assuming is that you have to go through my office. It's none of my business and my office will give you the answer so.
- FORDHAM: But if you knew this business was not in his electorate and if others seemed to think that it was –

- BEREJKLIAN: It was, it was jobs in the Riverina, which is kind of in the area so it was the, the loss of country jobs in the Riverina which affects the community.
- FORDHAM: Is it okay for MPs to go into bat for businesses outside their electorate?
- BEREJKLIAN: Well in their region I, I may have assumed that it would've had implication, a wider implication so that you know, it wasn't highly unusual and that's why I said go through my office and my office did the right thing and knocked it back, which is the right thing to do.
- FORDHAM: You, you wouldn't be in the habit of keeping things from your staff though, would you?
- BEREJKLIAN: Absolutely not, but this was, but this was an event which um, I, I think in a previous conversation they played it actually, I actually say in that conversation 'don't talk to me about this, go through my office', which is what he did.
- FORDHAM: Did you make Daryl Maguire a Parliamentary Secretary earning him \$30,000 pay rise a month after becoming Premier in 2017?
- BEREJKLIAN: Well Ben as you know the two previous Premiers before me, Premier O'Farrell and Premier Baird actually appointed him to those roles. I just kept it going, I didn't do anything differently.
- FORDHAM: So he didn't get a promotion in any way?
- BEREJKLIAN: No, no way.
- FORDHAM: He already had that Parliamentary -
- BEREJKLIAN: He already had that job, yep, yep.
- FORDHAM: Okay Phil's called in. Phil good morning, you're talking to Gladys Berejiklian.
- PHIL: Is that our Gladys?
- FORDHAM: Yes it –
- BEREJKLIAN: It is.
- FORDHAM: is.
- PHIL: Good woman.

- BEREJKLIAN: Hi Phil.
- PHIL: Yeah we call you our Gladys because you are ours. You're the best Premier, you're a good lady. Stay strong –
- BEREJKLIAN: Thanks Phil.
- 5 PHIL: - and we'll get through this.
- BEREJKLIAN: Thank you Phil.
- PHIL: We've got your back out here.
- BEREJKLIAN: I appreciate it Phil, thank you so much. Where are you from Phil?
- PHIL: Heathcote down the Sutherland, Sutherland Shire, in the Shire Gladys.
10 [Laughs].
- BEREJKLIAN: Beautiful, thank you Phil. If you see me one day come and give me a hug.
- FORDHAM: Are we allowed to hug these days?
- BEREJKLIAN: After Covid of course.
- FORDHAM: After Covid of course. Bernice has called in from Northbridge, hello Bernice.
15
- BERNICE: Hello darling, I just want to let you know dry your tears, hold your head up high. We're 100% behind you sweetheart.
- BEREJKLIAN: Thank you Bernice, I really appreciate it.
- FORDHAM: Andrew, good morning. Go right ahead, Gladys is listening.
- 20 ANDREW: Good morning Ben, good morning Premier, how are you?
- BEREJKLIAN: Okay Andrew, how are you?
- ANDREW: Good, good. Look thank you so much for everything you've done for our State. You're, you're an amazing Premier and I think you know no one would really want to do your job, it's one of the most difficult jobs I could image and um, you're entitled to a private life, you're absolutely entitled to a private life. But I just wanted to say quickly Ben, if she did go, that means there would be a vacancy there for a Premier and I hear there's another Premier somewhere else in another state who's probably looking for a job –
25

- FORDHAM: [Laughs].
- ANDREW: - and we don't want that Premier. So the people of New South Wales want to be very careful. Gladys you've done an amazing job, thank you so much, take care.
- 5 BEREJIKLIAN: Thank you.
- FORDHAM: Good on you, thank you. What's the feedback been like as you make your way around the place?
- BEREJIKLIAN: I've been um overwhelmed by it Ben. It's shocked me in a good way and um, I just feel so grateful and um, so supported and I just want the people of this great State to know that I will never, ever let you down and I'm here for you and um, we'll get through all the challenges together.
- 10 FORDHAM: Some of those polls are quite extraordinary when you consider they're all coming back with a result saying don't go anywhere, don't buckle, hang in there. But what's interesting to point out is that those polls involve all voters, not just Liberal Party voters.
- 15 BEREJIKLIAN: Mmm.
- FORDHAM: You wouldn't have received a response like that going to a general election right?
- BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah and I think what that tells me is um, I'm very lucky because people I think understand me and who I am and they know that I would never do anything wrong and they also know that I'm here for them and for the State of New South Wales and I, you can't, you know that is very humbling and I can't ask for more than that.
- 20 FORDHAM: You've had a reputation of being a goody two shoes, but off the back of this stuff up in your words, have you got ground to make up with some people?
- BEREJIKLIAN: Oh no doubt, no doubt people won't be happy with what's happened. I'm not happy with what's happened, but it doesn't change who I am, it doesn't change what I stand for and it doesn't change um, how hard I work for New South Wales.
- 25 FORDHAM: Have you spoken to Mum and Dad about it yet?
- BEREJIKLIAN: Not in detail. They're been extremely supportive and um, you know those conversations in great detail will happen over the course of time, but as I

said I've got responsibilities, I'm proud of those responsibilities and I intend to fulfil them to the nth degree.

FORDHAM: Well look I, I'm not hiding my own view because that's what I'm here to do.

5 BEREJIKLIAN: Yeah.

FORDHAM: I think we would be mad to sacrifice the best Premier we've had in so long over something like this.

BEREJIKLIAN: Thanks Ben.

FORDHAM: So in my view hang in there –

10 BEREJIKLIAN: I will, don't worry.

FORDHAM: - stay strong –

BEREJIKLIAN: I will, thank you.

FORDHAM: - and hopefully the next time we chat we'll be talking about other matters.

BEREJIKLIAN: Correct, thank you so much, appreciate it.

15 FORDHAM: Thank you.

BEREJIKLIAN: But thank you to your listeners as well, they've been amazing.

FORDHAM: Gladys Berejiklian, the New South Wales Premier, now it's back to work.

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BRIEF 1NSW-ICAC

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**WHAT'S
LOVE GOT
TO DO
WITH IT**



**THE VERY PRIVATE
PREMIER IN RADIO
WAVES BLITZ P10-11**



She loves him, loves him not

PREMIER AGAIN CHANGES HER TUNE AND DOWNPLAYS HER FIVE-YEAR ROMANCE, JAMES O'DOHERTY WRITES

GLADYS Berejiklian has suggested her relationship with ex-MP Daryl Maguire was not sufficient to raise conflict of interest concerns because the pair "led completely separate lives", hours after saying she loved Maguire and hoped he could be her boyfriend.

The ongoing scrutiny over the Premier's involvement with Maguire threatens to put more pressure on the government to support a fresh push this week to make funding for the corruption watchdog independent of government.

The Premier devoted Monday morning to a radio blitz in which she opened up about her personal life and relationship with Maguire, currently under investigation by the corruption watchdog.

"He wasn't my boyfriend, he wasn't anything of note (but) you know, I certainly hoped it would be," Ms Berejiklian told 2GB Radio.

On KIIS FM, she was

confronted with host Kyle Sandilands' claim that he was "having sex with seven people" when he was working in Perth.

"That's a record I can't break," Ms Berejiklian replied.

It came after she revealed to The Sunday Telegraph that she loved Maguire and hoped the relationship could lead to marriage.

The comments were in contrast to the Premier's earlier statements, where she said she was a "very private person" and kept the relationship secret, in part because she thought it might not work out.

Asked yesterday whether she maintained the pair were not in an "intimate personal relationship", Ms Berejiklian said: "Irrespective of how I felt, we led completely separate lives."

Ministers face additional requirements to disclose matters that could benefit

someone with whom they are in an "intimate personal relationship" under the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Ms Berejiklian said what constitutes an "intimate personal relationship" is "on the record", but the ICAC has confirmed there is no standard definition.

"The term 'intimate personal relationship' is not defined in either the Code or the ICAC Act," a spokeswoman said. "What may constitute an 'intimate personal relationship' in any particular case will depend upon the individual factual circumstances pertaining at the relevant time."

Labor yesterday called for a clear definition of what is an "intimate personal relationship" under the Ministerial Code of conduct.

Opposition Leader Jodi McKay took aim at the Premier for failing to disclose her

connection to Maguire during cabinet discussions over the Western Sydney Airport.

"She had a duty to disclose that she was in a personal relationship with someone who was in fact trying to negotiate a business deal from themselves," Ms McKay said.

Meanwhile, Shooters, Fishers and Farmers leader Robert Borsak will today give notice of a Bill to require the ICAC's funding to be "allocated separately from other agencies" and "provide for further administrative independence of the commission".

Ms Berejiklian would not say whether the government would support that legislation. She said a decision would be made after the Auditor-General hands down



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a report on the matter today.

Asked yesterday why she did not tell ICAC she had been in a relationship with Maguire in 2018 after he resigned over corruption claims, Ms Berejiklian told 2GB: "I didn't know anything to be able to tell."

The Premier said she sacked Maguire after he was embroiled in a corruption scandal in 2018 because "there were issues in relation to that inquiry that was going on, and I felt that was the best thing to do".

She told FM radio that she fired Maguire even though he "wasn't actually proven guilty" of misconduct in 2018.

She said that at the time, Maguire told her he did "nothing wrong".

"That inquiry has still not led to a conclusion, but I did what I thought was the best thing for the public at that time," she said.

Ms Berejiklian also defended politicians being able to make money on the side of their political careers. "Rightly or wrongly, MPs are allowed to do deals, they're allowed to make money, so long as they disclose it in the proper way," she said to 2GB.

She also appeared to confirm she was romantically involved with Maguire at some point after he was forced to quit. Asked whether the relationship was a romantic one after 2018, she said: "Look, obviously for a long time it was not. But then, obviously, we maintained a close relationship."

THE PREMIER ON ... HER PRIVATE LIFE

ICAC EVIDENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Gladys Berejiklian said she "perhaps" would have taken the relationship public if Daryl Maguire resigned from politics. "I'm a very private person," she said.

PRESS CONFERENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
"This was a relationship I did not share with anybody, not my family, not my closest friends. It was not a relationship that I regarded of sufficient status."

PRESS CONFERENCE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
"I appreciate the questions you will need to ask, and I've answered them in full detail over the course of a number of days. But you also have to respect my position as Premier. Let me do my job."

2GB RADIO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
"For someone who's very private, it's been a very difficult experience, but I've tried to be as open as possible, answer all the questions as fully as possible."

KIIS FM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
"I am a private person. It has been excruciating having to talk about it. I think it's, you know, made me feel more human than I've ever felt and more vulnerable than I've ever felt. When KIIS FM host Kyle Sandilands said he thought Ms Berejiklian was a lesbian, she laughed and said: "I haven't and didn't but not that there's anything wrong with that."

When he said "I was having sex with seven people at a radio station in Perth," Ms Berejiklian replied: "Well, that's a record I can't break".

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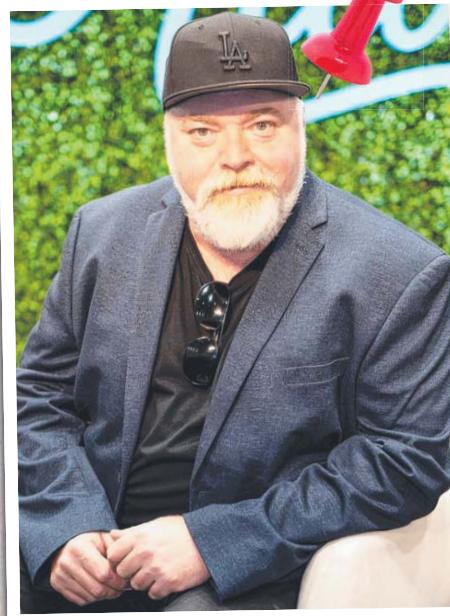
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GLAD, LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT



Gladys Berejiklian on 2GB; Kyle Sandilands (left) and Daryl Maguire.

... HER MEMORY LAPSES

ICAC EVIDENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Ms Berejiklian said she had "no direct recollection" about telling Maguire she didn't "need to know" about his business dealings. She said she had "absolutely no recollection" of receiving an email from Louise Raedler Waterhouse. She said she "wouldn't have remembered anything specifically" about Maguire's debts.

KIIS FM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
"I can't even remember what I said to someone yesterday let alone three or four years ago."

... HOW SHE FELT ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP

ICAC EVIDENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
"I'm a very private person and I didn't feel the relationship had sufficient substance for it to be made public."

ICAC EVIDENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
Ms Berejiklian said she "would not have been upset" if Maguire retired and the pair could have had a public relationship.

PRESS CONFERENCE, MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
"It was a close personal relationship, but it did not have sufficient status for me to be able to call him any of those things," when asked if he was her "boyfriend" and whether she was "in love" with the former MP.

2GB RADIO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
"He wasn't my boyfriend. He wasn't anything of note. You know, I certainly hoped it would be. I didn't want to introduce anyone to my close network unless I knew it was the real deal and I didn't feel it was at the time." She said she "certainly was" in love with Maguire, but said: "How many times are you in love with lots of people and it doesn't end up into something more formal?"