

So for all intents and purposes when we're speaking about G8way International as an entity in the outward-facing world, we're talking about G8way International, the proprietary limited company?---Proprietary limited, yes.

Thank you for that clarification. So in terms of the company were you responsible for the registration of that company?---Yes, I was, yeah.

Sensitive

22/11/2018
E17/0144

ELLIOTT
(ELLIS)

446PT

And what steps did you take to do that?---Through my accountant.

And who are the registered officers of that company?---That would be the accountant's address.

And who is the director of that company?---I am the director of that company.

10 And was there a secretary?---Me, presumably.

And were there any shareholders?---Me.

Was anybody else's name mentioned on the ASIC registration at all in relation to that company?---No, no.

Who else was involved in the company?---Me.

20 It was only you?---Only me.

Did anybody else have an interest in the business conducted by the company?---No.

And when I say interest, I'm going to be speaking more broadly.
---Yeah.

Who else was interested in the affairs of the company? It doesn't have to be a registered interest in ASIC.

30 Was there anybody else who had an ongoing involvement in securing business opportunities for the company?---I know the direction you're heading into and, and - - -

THE COMMISSIONER: Just answer the questions, please.---Oh, I'm sorry.

40 Don't worry about where we might be going.---No. Mr Maguire, who was a long-term friend, was certainly to, to help me with the company by directing people, for example, who were looking to, in the case of the gun club, purchase furniture, when they'd spoken to Mr Maguire were directed to me.

MS ELLIS: And did Mr Maguire do anything else in relation to the company?---I'm not quite sure what - - -

Well, you've given us an example of some assistance that Mr Maguire was able to provide to you in terms of directing people, specifically gun club people to the company.---Mmm.

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Was there any other assistance that he provided to you or to your company in relation to securing business opportunities?---Well, he certainly assisted me with some connections over on the China side of things, and again I would get a phone call from – Mr Maguire would direct people who were looking to perhaps source some products or trying to get some wines or trying to get some meat in, presumably through his own connections, and then, and I'd speak with them.

10 And you're saying that Mr Maguire didn't have any interest in the company per se?---No, he had no interest in the company.

And what do you mean by that, he didn't have a registered interest in the company?---He had no registered nor financial interest in the company.

And did that mean he didn't contribute any money into the company?---No.

And he didn't expect to receive any money from the company?---No. That's an opinion, but no.

20 And what do you mean by that's an opinion?---Well, it's hard for me to presume whether Mr Maguire expected a financial interest, but in my opinion, no, he didn't.

THE COMMISSIONER: Why do you say it's difficult?---(No Audible Reply)

What's the difficulty?---Well, I'm sorry, can I just ask perhaps that that question to be repeated, if you wouldn't mind, please?

30 MS ELLIS: Yes, sure. So I asked whether Mr Maguire didn't expect to receive any money from the company and you said, "Well, that's an opinion, but in my opinion, no, he didn't."---No. Well, that's making a judgement on whether he expected to receive something, I would have thought, and in my opinion, no, he wouldn't have expected to receive anything.

All we can ask you here, Mr Elliott, is what your understanding is based on your experience, conversations and your involvement - - -?---Sure.

40 - - - in relation to the matters that we're going to ask you about today. ---So the answer's no.

So from all of the conversations you may have had with Mr Maguire, from all of the contact you may have had with Mr Maguire, your understanding was that he did not expect to receive any financial benefit in relation to G8way International?---No, that's my understanding.

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Why was he helping you?---We've been long-term friends and associates for 20-plus years.

Was that the only reason?---I believe so.

10 Did anybody else provide you with assistance in relation to G8way International business?---We were trying to develop or I was trying to develop a core of, of people in different areas so yes, I had people, some wine distributors who were able to assist, some people in China who were able to assist.

THE COMMISSIONER: You used the word 'we' when you commenced that answer. Was that a reference to Mr Maguire?---No. It, it wasn't. I corrected it, sorry, 'I'. I quite often refer to the business as 'we', so my apologies. 'I'.

MS ELLIS: Why do you refer to the business as 'we'?---I, I do the same with my strata business. I just say "We at Riverina Strata."

20 Does anybody else work in your Riverina Strata office?---I've got a regular casual and a secondary casual.

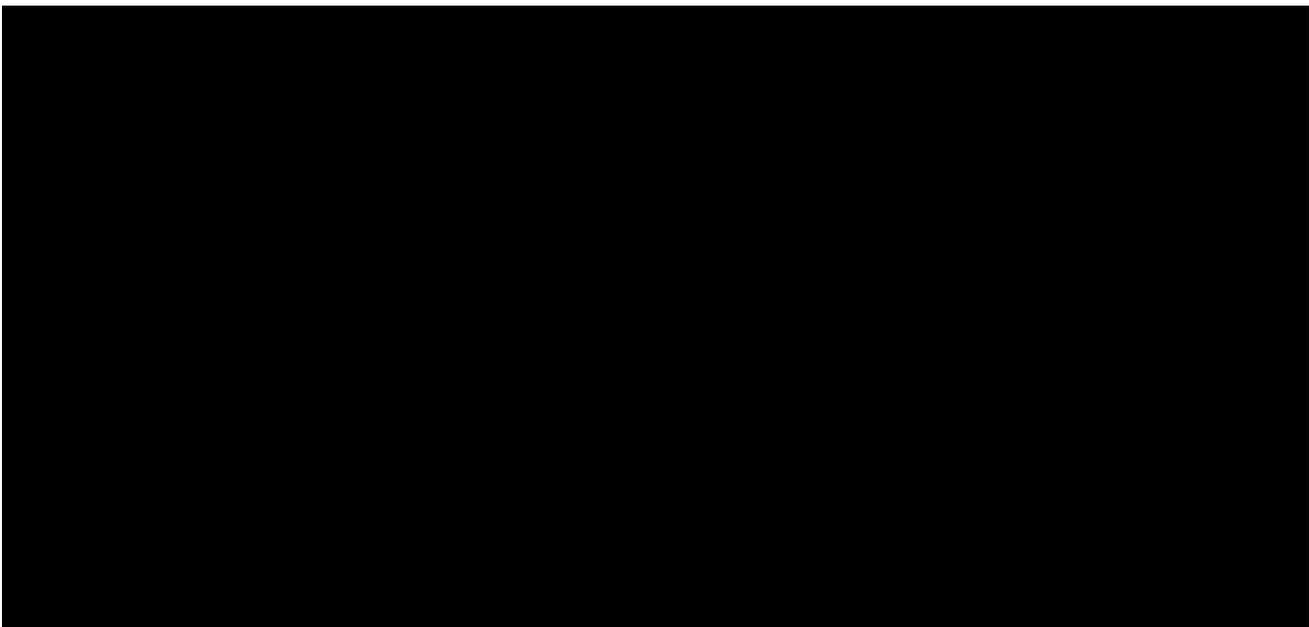
So you do have other people that work for the business?---Yes.

And did anybody else work for the G8way business?---No.

So, it really is just you?---Yes, yeah.

30 Did anybody provide administrative assistance to the G8way business?
---No.

How did you manage the work associated with it?---There wasn't all that much, unfortunately.



You said Mr Maguire had a business card for the organisation.---Yes, he did, yeah.

20 And do you know why he had a business card?---Oh, I don't. I don't know whether he was an official role or an honorary capacity or whether his role as an MP was considered to be a door-opener, if you will.

Did you find that Mr Maguire's role as an MP was a door-opener in China?
---Oh, certainly.

30 And how did that work?---If I can explain without sounding silly or, or flippant. We went to a particular meeting one day and a person of some importance was there, and then when it was determined that Mr Maguire was a member of parliament that person was soon bumped and somebody a bit further up the chain was brought in, and then when it was found out that he was the whip, somebody else, so it was almost a circus in the end. A fellow in a tracksuit came steaming in towards the end who was the mayor or deputy mayor of a particular area. That was in Shenyang I think. So there's no doubt that as soon as somebody was determined as a, as a member of parliament, that, that opened doors or increased the importance on the other side.

40 Did it assist in making connections with people who might be able to help with your business?---I would imagine so, certainly.

And when you say you imagine, did you have the experience that it did?
---Well, we didn't have very much success so the experience would be yes, but there wasn't a great deal of success.

Whether or not you measure it by success, presumably you had some experiences along the way which you felt - - -?---Where the connection was certainly beneficial, yes.

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22/11/2018
E17/0144

ELLIOTT
(ELLIS)

503PT

And that's the connection with Mr Maguire as a member of parliament?
---Yes, it would have been.

