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PUBLIC  
HEARING

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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER M. HALL QC  
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION PARAGON

Reference: Operation E18/0736

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE, 2021

AT 10.00AM

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. Good morning, Mr Downing.

MR DOWNING: Morning, Commissioner. Thank you, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Ready to - - -

MR DOWNING: The next witness will be Barrak Hadid.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Mr Hadid, come forward, please. Now, Mr  
Hadid, to give evidence you need to take an oath or an affirmation. Which  
do you want to do, an oath?

MR HADID: I'll take an oath, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Pardon?

MR HADID: An oath, Commissioner.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: An oath. So, an oath on the Bible or the - - -

MR HADID: Oh, the Koran.

THE COMMISSIONER: Koran. Well, you might just gesture toward the  
Koran. It's covered.

MR HADID: That's all right, mate. Yep.

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, Mr Hadid, would you state your full name?---Barrak Hadid.

And you are legally represented here today?---Yes, I am.

10 MS MAYO: Commissioner, Nicole Mayo and I seek leave to appear for Mr Hadid today. Mr Mitry advised the Commission officials yesterday that he would be ready to appear today. However, he has informed me that he is otherwise predisposed and he will only be able to appear tomorrow.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I grant you leave to appear on behalf of Mr Hadid. Thank you. Yes.

MS MAYO: Apologies, Commissioner. I just have a few submissions to make - - -

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Just speak into the microphone, please.

MS MAYO: I just have a few submissions to make before Mr Hadid commences his evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

30 MS MAYO: Due to some unfortunate circumstances that Mr Hadid experienced on the weekend, which he will outline to the Commission shortly, he objects to his part of the investigation being held in public and to object to any publication of his evidence.

THE COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry, he objects to what?

MS MAYO: The publication of his evidence and his part of the investigation being held in public.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, it's not his objection, it's his application, I understand, that you want to make on his behalf. Is that right?

40 MS MAYO: Yes, Commissioner.

THE COMMISSIONER: Well, for that purpose I would need to deal with this in a private hearing. I assume there's a proper basis for this application and therefore I will deal with it immediately. So, I'll have to ask those others present in the hearing room, other than Commission officers and Counsel Assisting, to leave the hearing room. Please don't go far away. I don't anticipate it will be lengthy. And then we will resume in open

session. Thank you. I just want to ask my associate, just before we start - -  
-

MR DOWNING: Commissioner, I understand also we just need to briefly allow time for the transcript to be changed over for the purposes of the private hearing.

THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, I see. Oh, well, perhaps I need to adjourn, do I?

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MR DOWNING: Perhaps just for five minutes so that that can occur.

THE COMMISSIONER: Five minutes, yes, okay.

MR DOWNING: Thank you, Commissioner.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Hadid, if you would step down for a moment. Just wait in the back of the courtroom. I'm going to adjourn for a short time so that the transcript can be switched over and then I will resume. So just take a seat in the back of the, towards the back of the hearing room. Yes, thank you. Yes, I'll adjourn for a short time.

**AT 10.19AM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY**  
**[10.19am]**