
TRANSCRIPT OF MORNING PROCEEDINGS

WARNING - CONTAINS LAWFULLY INTERCEPTED INFORMATION AND
INTERCEPTION WARRANT INFORMATION.

These documents contain information as defined within ss 6E and
s 6EA of the Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act
1979 (Cth) (TIA Act). It is an offence to communicate to
another person, make use of, or make a record of this
information except as permitted by the TIA Act. Recipients
should be aware of the provisions of the TIA Act.

INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

MELBOURNE

WEDNESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2019

(7th day of examinations)

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE ROBERT REDLICH QC

Counsel Assisting: Mr Michael Tovey QC
Ms Amber Harris

OPERATION SANDON INVESTIGATION

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS PURSUANT TO PART 6 OF THE INDEPENDENT
BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION ACT 2011

*Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of transcripts.
Any inaccuracies will be corrected as soon as possible.*

1 COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr Tovey.

2 MR TOVEY: I apologise that there was a late start this
3 morning, Mr Commissioner. There had to be some matters
4 resolved in respect of the next witness to be called
5 before we were in a position to proceed with the hearing.

6 COMMISSIONER: Yes. Before we proceed with the next witness,
7 I've had two requests made yesterday that either legal
8 representatives of witnesses to be called or have already
9 been called or persons of interest that might be called,
10 that their legal representatives have access to the
11 transcript of the proceedings and the exhibits which have
12 been tendered. I propose to permit access to the
13 transcripts, subject to the legal representatives giving
14 the usual undertaking with respect to such material.

15 Just to explain so that there is no
16 misunderstanding, when the Commission orders that
17 witnesses not be present during the giving of evidence by
18 other witnesses, that's the usual order that's made in
19 trial proceedings in our trial courts in this State. The
20 purpose of that order is to ensure that the witness does
21 not - the witnesses to be called have not had access to
22 the detail of the evidence that's been given in the public
23 hearing.

24 So when legal representatives give an undertaking
25 which we call the usual undertaking, that will mean that,
26 although the legal representatives obtain access to the
27 evidence that's been given, it's provided to them for
28 their internal purposes; that is, for the purpose of their
29 representation of the witness or witnesses who they

1 represent, and they may not discuss the content of the
2 evidence that's been given with their client or with any
3 other person who is or may be a witness to be called.

4 So I take it that if legal representatives give
5 the usual undertaking it's with that general understanding
6 about the undertaking. Mr Woinarski, you wish to have
7 access to the transcript?

8 MR WOINARSKI: We do, and we give that undertaking.

9 COMMISSIONER: Yes, thank you. And - - -

10 MR CASEMENT: I think we have sent a letter to that effect
11 already, but we do seek access to the transcript.

12 COMMISSIONER: On behalf of Mr Woodman?

13 MR CASEMENT: On behalf of Ms Wreford, and - - -

14 COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry, I didn't see you there, Mr Juebner.
15 And I'll grant you that access also, Mr Juebner.

16 MR JUEBNER: On the same basis we give that undertaking too.

17 COMMISSIONER: Very good. Thank you. Just before I forget,
18 Mr Woinarski, and for those other - I see you're here,
19 Mr Bongiorno. You request access to the transcript?

20 MR BONGIORNO: That's correct, sir, yes.

21 COMMISSIONER: On the usual undertaking?

22 MR BONGIORNO: Yes, that's correct.

23 COMMISSIONER: That will be granted.

24 MR BONGIORNO: Thank you, sir.

25 MR WOINARSKI: I just wanted to make it clear, Mr Commissioner,
26 as to whether you want the undertaking personally from my
27 junior and those who are instructing me or whether you
28 will accept it from me.

29 COMMISSIONER: That's taken for granted, Mr Woinarski. Yes,

1 Ms Fox.

2 MS FOX: Mr Commissioner, I appear as junior counsel for
3 Ms Schutz, and I seek also access and give the usual
4 undertaking.

5 COMMISSIONER: That access will be granted under that
6 undertaking, yes. For any other legal representatives who
7 are not presently here, they can obtain access by
8 providing Ms Kowalski, the solicitor assisting the
9 Commission, with a letter to that effect in which they
10 indicate they will give that undertaking. Is there any
11 other preliminary matter? Are we ready to proceed with
12 Ms Wreford?

13 MR TOVEY: We are ready to proceed. The next witness is
14 Ms Lorraine Wreford.

15 COMMISSIONER: Ms Wreford, would you come forward and go into
16 the witness box, please. Have a seat. As the IBAC
17 Commissioner, I'm conducting these hearings as a public
18 examination, and unless I otherwise order these
19 examinations will be open to the public. The examination
20 means, Ms Wreford, that we proceed by way of an
21 inquisitorial hearing, which means the Commission is not
22 bound by the rules of evidence and that the proceedings
23 can be regulated in the way that the Commission considers
24 appropriate.

25 Now, I understand you are represented by Mr Glenn
26 Casement of counsel, and I give him leave to appear on
27 your behalf, and at the conclusion of your evidence, if he
28 wishes to do so at that point of time, he may examine you.
29 He may also determine, as counsel for the previous witness

1 has, that he may wish to defer that re-examination until
2 all the evidence has been called. If there are people who
3 wish to cross-examine you, I will entertain applications
4 to that effect at the conclusion of Counsel Assisting's
5 cross-examination.

6 <LORRAINE JOAN WREFORD, affirmed and examined:

7 COMMISSIONER: I'm required to advise you of the nature of the
8 matters in respect of which you will be asked questions by
9 Counsel Assisting and perhaps by myself. They are to give
10 evidence before the Commission in relation to, one, your
11 knowledge of the City of Casey Council in relation to
12 consideration of development applications and other
13 planning matters within the City of Casey; second, the
14 transparency of planning and property development
15 decisions - decision making within Victoria generally,
16 including but not limited to local government; third,
17 whether public officers involved in planning and property
18 development decision making have been improperly
19 influenced through donations, gifts or other hospitality;
20 fourthly, the circumstances surrounding any actual and
21 potential financial benefits obtained by any public
22 officer, their families or their associates resulting from
23 or otherwise in connection with planning and property
24 development decision making within Victoria; and, finally,
25 the systems and controls in place within public bodies and
26 in particular the City of Casey Council concerning
27 planning with particular focus on the existence and
28 adequacy of systems and controls for ensuring the
29 integrity of the planning process, including by detecting

1 instances of public officers providing benefits or
2 obtaining benefits to themselves, their family, friends or
3 associates.

4 Now, Ms Wreford, during the course of your
5 examination if at any stage you are not clear about
6 questions you need only so indicate. We normally adjourn
7 midway through the morning but, given the time, we will
8 proceed until 1 o'clock. During the breaks you are
9 entitled to leave the hearing area, the building if you
10 wish, but you must return and be available to give
11 evidence at the time that we stipulate for resumption; do
12 you follow?

13 Now, at the time you were served with a summons
14 to attend today did you receive a document entitled
15 "Rights and obligations"?---I believe so.

16 Yes. Now, prior to the examination has your barrister
17 explained that document to you?---They have. He has,
18 sorry.

19 And are you satisfied you understand those rights and
20 obligations?---Yes, I am.

21 You don't require me to go over them again with you? Very
22 good. Yes, Mr Tovey.

23 MR TOVEY: The examination will now commence, Mr Commissioner.

24 I seek authority to examine this witness.

25 COMMISSIONER: You have that general authority for the
26 remainder of the public hearings, Mr Tovey.

27 MR TOVEY: Thank you, sir. (To witness.) Now, what's your full
28 name, please?---Lorraine Joan Wreford.

29 And did you attend here today in response to a summons served

1 on you?---I did.

2 And was that summons numbered SE3194?---I believe so.

3 And with that summons did you receive a document titled

4 "Section 121(3)(c) - Statements of rights and

5 obligations"?---I did.

6 And with that summons did you receive a covering letter dated

7 10 October 2019?---I did.

8 You have copies of those documents, I think, being handed to

9 you and you recognise - - -?---Correct.

10 COMMISSIONER: They'll be exhibit 62, Mr Tovey.

11 #EXHIBIT 62 - Summons and document titled "Section 121(3)(c) -

12 Statements of rights and obligations"

13 MR TOVEY: Now, other than with your legal representative, have

14 you discussed the existence of a summons or a subject

15 matter of the investigation with any person before coming

16 here today?---Yes.

17 And with whom?---With my family, with my partner. I have

18 discussed it with Mr Woodman.

19 And what were the - - -?---And, sorry, and my franchisor.

20 Sorry, your franchisors?---Yes. Work related, yes.

21 COMMISSIONER: Sorry, who were they? Who are your

22 franchisors?---Resolve Finance.

23 MR TOVEY: So when did you have discussions with Mr Woodman

24 about it?---I had a number of discussions over - since

25 I had the summons. Exact dates I'm not sure about.

26 Were you aware that - so are those the only people that you

27 have spoken to about what might be - about evidence being

28 given about this matter before IBAC?---Councillor Aziz

29 contacted me after he was given a summons but before I was

1 given a summons. So he discussed his summons with me.
2 And was that the only discussion you had with Councillor Aziz
3 about matters relating to this inquiry?---Probably not.
4 Sorry, I don't think so. I think he contacted me a number
5 of times.
6 In what circumstances? He rang you?---He did, but what
7 happened - - -
8 Sorry, just take this a step at a time. Other than him ringing
9 you did you have any contact with him?---Before I got the
10 summons I did.
11 And what about after you got the summons?---I don't think so.
12 I can't remember when he left the country. I have phone
13 conversations but I don't - I don't think after I got the
14 summons, I think he was out of the country.
15 Were you aware Mr Aziz gave evidence?---Yes. And can I - on
16 the day he gave evidence he contacted me in the morning
17 after he received the summons. He phoned me and told me
18 that he had a summons and that he was going to give
19 evidence. During the day that he was given a summons
20 I got - I can't remember if it was one or two phone calls
21 from his wife, who begged me to meet with him after he
22 gave his summons.
23 COMMISSIONER: After he gave his summons or his
24 evidence?---After - his evidence, sorry, after he gave his
25 evidence. I said I would meet with him if he desperately
26 needed to and I met with him at a cafe, at which time he
27 turned up - I think after being here, he came straight to
28 a cafe, he had his summons documents in his hand, he sat
29 down and he said to me, "We've got to get our story

1 straight."

2 MR TOVEY: Yes, and so how did that - - -?---Pardon?

3 So just tell us then how that conversation continued?---That

4 conversation continued in that he said to me that I needed

5 to go and tell Mr Woodman that the amount that his loan

6 was for was 370,000 and no other amount, and I said

7 to - I said to him, "Well, are you saying that you lied to

8 IBAC," and he said, "Yes, and we've got to keep our story

9 straight," and I said, "Well, I'm not" - "(a) I'm not

10 lying to IBAC, and my understanding was there's

11 documentary evidence that that wasn't the amount," and he

12 got a bit upset with me and he said, "No, no, we've got to

13 keep our story straight," and then he got up and left, and

14 left me with his summons documents, and that was our

15 conversation.

16 COMMISSIONER: So, if I followed correctly, he was encouraging

17 you to conspire with him - - -?---A hundred per cent.

18 Just let me finish. He was encouraging you to conspire with

19 him to commit perjury?---Correct, and in fact I said those

20 words to him about perjury, and I said, "Well, look,

21 that's not going to happen."

22 Yes.

23 MR TOVEY: And what did you do after that? Did you meet with

24 anybody else?---At some stage I met with Mr Woodman, and

25 I - - -

26 Was that the same day or?---I don't believe so.

27 All right. So was it immediately after Mr Aziz had given

28 evidence that you met with him?---I met with Mr Aziz the

29 same day he gave evidence, correct.

1 Did you meet with Mr Woodman on that day?---I don't believe so.
2 When did you meet with him?---I don't know, and I'm not trying
3 to be evasive. I just don't recall which days I met with
4 him.
5 Did you have a meeting with him at the Stockroom Cafe?---Which
6 is? Which one's that, sorry?
7 On 8 October did you have a meeting with him at a cafe where
8 you discussed what Mr Aziz had told you?---I definitely
9 had a discussion with Mr Woodman about what Mr Aziz had
10 told me.
11 And what was that discussion? This was a discussion at a cafe
12 on 8 October of 2019. Did you have a discussion with
13 Mr Woodman about what Mr Aziz had told you at a
14 cafe?---I believe so.
15 And what was that discussion about?---Well, I just repeated to
16 Mr Woodman what Mr Aziz had requested, and I said that I'm
17 not going to lie to IBAC or - and Mr Woodman agreed that
18 he wouldn't either.
19 Did you have notes of the conversation - of your conversation
20 with Mr Aziz at that time?---Sorry, what do you mean?
21 At the time you were speaking with Mr Woodman did you have
22 notes of your prior conversation - - -?---No.
23 With Mr Aziz?---I don't believe - no, I didn't take notes. Or
24 did I? I actually don't recall.
25 COMMISSIONER: That's fine, Ms Wreford?---If I took any notes
26 they would be very brief. But I can't remember taking
27 notes.
28 Ms Wreford, just so I make clear to you, I think you will
29 understand from your rights and obligations that whilst

1 you are required to answer all questions so long as you
2 tell the truth your evidence is not admissible against you
3 in any other place?---Sure.

4 But if of course you give evidence which is untruthful you may
5 be prosecuted for perjury?---Sure.

6 But in that context if you don't remember something you should
7 say so and make clear why you are unable to answer the
8 question?---Okay. Just to clarify. So many things were
9 happening in a short space of time I can't remember all
10 the conversations and what was going on.

11 Yes.

12 MR TOVEY: Did you seek to destroy any record you had of your
13 conversation with Mr Aziz?---I don't believe so.

14 Is that something that you might have forgotten, do you think?

15 COMMISSIONER: Do you understand what counsel is putting to
16 you?---Yes.

17 It's being suggested you might have made some notes of your
18 conversation and that you have subsequently destroyed
19 them?---I could have, but I can't recall, and if I did
20 I would have - I can't - I can't recall.

21 MR TOVEY: If you had deliberately destroyed notes of that
22 meeting is there any reason why you would want to do
23 that?---No reason.

24 Is there any legitimate reason why you might want to destroy
25 notes of that meeting with Mr Aziz?---No reason. No
26 reason because I was not going to lie for him to anybody.

27 All right. If you had decided to destroy notes of that meeting
28 it's not something that you could forget, is
29 it?---I don't - I honestly don't know and - but I will say

1 this, that since this has all started I've become
2 incredibly paranoid and also understand that when you
3 write something down or you text something it can be
4 misconstrued. So I have definitely become a little
5 bit - when you see something written, I think, "Well, this
6 can be taken in a number of ways." So I wouldn't
7 deliberately - - -
8 So you have told me that - - -?---Sorry, I wouldn't
9 deliberately destroy something that was evidence, but
10 I may destroy something if I think it could be
11 misconstrued.
12 You told me that there was no legitimate reason that you could
13 think of why you might want to destroy notes of your
14 conversation with Mr Aziz. That's what you told me only a
15 couple of minutes ago; right?---Except that I've become
16 paranoid since this all started.
17 So if you destroyed them it must have been, by logical
18 conclusion, because you perceived yourself to be doing
19 something improper; is that right?---I disagree.
20 Did you destroy them?---I can't remember taking notes. So I'm
21 not sure what we're talking about.
22 Did you tell Mr Woodman that you had notes and you were going
23 to destroy them?---I could have done. I'm not sure.
24 How could you - - -?---It's - I don't know - - -
25 How could that be something you'd forget? If you've gone to a
26 meeting with a man and you've told him, "I have notes of
27 the meeting with Aziz and I'm planning to destroy them" -
28 - -?---Okay.
29 How could you forget that? You're just dissembling, are you

1 not?---Sorry.

2 Are you dissembling? Do you understand the word "dissembling"?

3 You're not being - - -

4 COMMISSIONER: He's asking you whether you are giving truthful

5 evidence?---I am absolutely giving truthful evidence. So

6 if I did say that and destroyed something, that would only

7 be because I believe it could be misconstrued.

8 MR TOVEY: All right?---And I absolutely have become paranoid

9 since this happened.

10 COMMISSIONER: Just to be clear then, since you became aware

11 that IBAC is investigating planning issues of Casey

12 Council - - -?---Yes.

13 Do you have a recollection of ever destroying documents that

14 you recognised might have any relevance to the IBAC

15 investigation?---No.

16 So - - -?---If I destroyed something I don't think it had any

17 relevance to what's happening because I've always planned

18 to give open and honest disclosure of what I know.

19 So your explanation that you would not want to have documents

20 in your possession that you've created that might give

21 rise to misunderstanding - - -?---Correct.

22 That's entirely theoretical. You have no memory of ever

23 destroying a document that you recognise to be relevant to

24 IBAC?---Correct.

25 MR TOVEY: Did you discuss with Mr Woodman what your story

26 would be about the \$600,000 in cash that Mr Aziz provided

27 to Mr Woodman?---I think we had a number of discussions

28 about it, yes.

29 And did you discuss that in terms of it being a story you had

1 to work on?---I don't believe so. I think we discussed it
2 as - my - is in my recollection about how that all came
3 about in the first place.

4 COMMISSIONER: Could I just clarify, when's the last occasion
5 you spoke to Mr Woodman?---It was before he gave evidence.
6 It was before 18 November, was it?---Correct.
7 Yes.

8 MR TOVEY: Did you speak to Mr Woodman about what you would say
9 about the Spicer Thoroughbreds arrangement?---I think we
10 discussed my recollection of what - how it occurred, and
11 I suspect - - -

12 When you discussed that did you have any documents with
13 you?---I may have, yes.

14 What do you mean you may have? Either you did or you
15 didn't?---Well, I did bring some documents at one stage.
16 Why didn't you say that?---Why didn't I say that?

17 When you discussed Spicer Thoroughbreds with Mr Woodman you had
18 documents you now recall. Why did you not say that when
19 I first asked you rather than say "I may have"?

20 COMMISSIONER: Okay. So there's a lesson there,
21 Ms Wreford?---Thank you.

22 You need to be very careful about your answers?---I am trying.
23 Yes, I'm trying to remember - so much has happened in a
24 short space of time, and remembering the dates and
25 conversations when so much has happened is very difficult.
26 I'm doing my best.

27 MR TOVEY: Did you discuss with Mr Woodman what he needed to
28 say about the relationship between himself and
29 Mr Aziz?---I'm not sure if I discussed it in - what he

1 needed to say, but certainly my understanding of the
2 relationship.

3 When did you meet Mr Woodman?---Sorry?

4 When did you first meet Mr Woodman?---I believe I met him in
5 2004. I got elected to Casey Council late 2003 when
6 I was - I won a by-election. I met Mr Woodman along with
7 many other developers in the City of Casey. So I'm pretty
8 sure it would have been that first - you know, in that
9 first 12 months. So I assume it's 2004.

10 Did you - were you still on council in 2010, early 2010, before
11 the election?---Correct.

12 One of the matters that came up before the council in - - -

13 COMMISSIONER: Would you mind, Mr Tovey, just clarify how long
14 were you on the council for?---Eight years.

15 And during that time did you become mayor?---I did.

16 What year was that?---2009 to 2010.

17 And you finished when?---At election 2010, the State election.

18 Thank you?---In November, sorry, 2010.

19 I'm sorry, Mr Tovey.

20 MR TOVEY: You became mayor, did you not, on 30 November
21 2009?---I believe so.

22 And the State election was 27 November 2010?---Correct.

23 And you were elected mayor of Mordialloc - sorry, you were
24 elected to the seat of Mordialloc?---Correct.

25 And at that stage had there been any donation made to your
26 campaign by Mr Woodman or companies associated with - -
27 -?---Sorry, in 2010, are you talking about?

28 Before you were elected in 2010?---I had fundraisers before

29 I was elected in 2010 and Mr Woodman along with many other

1 people donated to my campaign. At no stage did I ever see
2 any money or have anything to do with it. That was all my
3 fundraising committee.

4 Did Mr Woodman donate \$10,000 to your campaign?---He may have.

5 I'm not 100 per cent sure on the amounts because I didn't
6 take any - I can't recall having anything to do with
7 the fundraising other than inviting people to functions
8 and asking them whether they would donate.

9 So one of the matters that came before council before you went
10 off to life in State politics was the consideration of the
11 Brompton Lodge estate being included in the urban growth
12 boundary?---Yes.

13 Is that a matter on which you voted?---I believe so. Well,
14 what - sorry, what month did it come up?

15 August?---Yes, I would have.

16 Is that a matter which you had any discussions with Mr Woodman
17 or those representing him about?---I don't recall having
18 discussions about it, and I know that that Brompton estate
19 had been before council for many years before then. So
20 I don't recall any specific discussions. There may have
21 been. I don't know.

22 Do you have any recollection now of voting on that rezoning
23 issue?---Potentially I think I would have.

24 I am just asking whether you have a recollection?---No, I don't
25 have a recollection, but I don't recall declaring a
26 conflict of interest and at that point in time I'm not
27 sure if Mr Woodman had donated to my campaign then or
28 later.

29 Okay. So then you went off to the area of State

1 politics?---Correct.

2 And for how long were you in State parliament?---Four years.

3 And did you hold any ministerial or secretarial role while you
4 were there?---No, I didn't.

5 So was it the fact that you - did you stand again in
6 2014?---I did.

7 And did you lose?---I did.

8 All right. What did you do after that?---After State politics
9 was - it was like falling off a cliff, quite frankly, when
10 you lose your job when you are hoping not to. When I had
11 been in public life and representing community for, you
12 know, a total of 12 years in different roles it was really
13 difficult, and one of the first - I took a break and had a
14 holiday for a start, and then had to face the music and
15 realised that I couldn't afford to manage my mortgage
16 because - for - you know, I didn't have a job. So I had
17 to put my house on the market, my house in Parkdale at the
18 time. I started applying for jobs and found out,
19 unfortunately for me, that being a backbencher in
20 government is not - it doesn't look good on your resume .
21 People are not really interested in having a backbencher
22 work for them in any capacity, and I found it incredibly
23 difficult to find employment.

24 COMMISSIONER: Is that a general experience that you learned
25 from your colleagues that it is hard for
26 backbenchers?---It is a general experience, absolutely.
27 There was an article in the paper not that long ago
28 talking about depression in former politicians for that
29 very reason.

1 While we are on the issue of transition from local council to
2 State parliament, that's not an uncommon transition for
3 councillors to move from council to State
4 parliament?---It's not uncommon, that's right.

5 And so needless to say, if a councillor had been guilty of
6 misconduct and compromised their position whilst a
7 councillor and then moved into State parliament, that
8 raised the risk of that person being compromised in their
9 new position?---I guess potentially.

10 MR TOVEY: So, in any event, at that stage did you have - were
11 you married, did you have a partner?---No, I was a single
12 mum with four sons.

13 All right. At some stage did you meet Bernard Lee?---Correct.

14 When was that?---That was late 2013, I believe. Yes.

15 And did you later marry or set up as partners?---Partners.

16 And when was that?---That was in 2015 we moved in together
17 after I sold my house in Parkdale.

18 And what was he doing at that stage?---He - I think he was
19 working with Spicer Thoroughbreds.

20 Doing what?---Business manager.

21 In any event, having left parliament did you come to make
22 contact again with Mr Woodman?---Yes, I believe he
23 contacted me.

24 And when was that?---That was in 2015. I think it was
25 early - pretty early in 2015.

26 And at that stage were you offered some role with him?---I was.
27 I was - he offered me a role as, I don't know,
28 consultant/lobbyist to work on behalf of him and his
29 associated companies, talking to I guess local council,

1 State and Federal parliamentarians on behalf of, like
2 I said, Watsons and associated companies. One of the
3 conditions that he made was that I wasn't to work for any
4 other developer.

5 So a company called Hatrim Nominees - - -?---Yes.

6 Was set up?---No, no, that's been set up a long time.

7 Okay. And was that your company?---That was originally

8 Bernard's company, which I joined as a director.

9 And was your arrangement with Mr Woodman an arrangement through

10 that company or with you personally?---It was me

11 personally, but everything was billed out through the

12 company.

13 And you were paid - were you paid according to results or were

14 you paid according to - - -?---No, I was on a retainer.

15 And how much was that retainer?---It was - back then it was

16 \$2,500 a month plus GST.

17 And did that increase over a period?---It did.

18 And what was it most recently?---\$5,000 a month plus GST.

19 COMMISSIONER: Could you just clarify, between 2010 when you

20 left the council and took up your position in State

21 parliament and ceased in 2014 did you have any contact

22 with Mr Woodman?---Sorry, during my time in - - -

23 During that 2010 to 2014?---Yes, I did.

24 How often?---Not very often, but if I had a fundraiser I would

25 invite him. He may or may not attend. But I invited a

26 lot of people.

27 Yes. So what would the purpose of fundraisers be during the

28 period you were a member?---So when you are a member of

29 parliament you are expected by your party to raise funds

1 for the next election, and the expectation on myself as a
2 backbencher was that I was to raise around \$140,000 over a
3 four-year period.

4 So is that a common expectation - - -?---Correct.

5 On members? You were there as a Liberal?---Correct.

6 And is that common to both parties or just the Liberal
7 Party?---I think it's both parties, but I can't give
8 evidence on what they do with the Labor Party.

9 Yes. And so Mr Woodman contributed to those campaigns?---He
10 did contribute, but so did a lot of other people.

11 Yes.

12 MR TOVEY: In November of 2018 was it the fact that your
13 partner, Mr Lee, was no longer in a position where he had
14 access to the accounts or to the banking of the Spicer
15 Thoroughbreds enterprise, to your knowledge?---At the end
16 of 2018 they had - Brad Spicer and Bernard Lee had a big
17 falling out over money, correct.

18 As a result of that did he have to repay something in excess of
19 160,000?---He thought he did. However, I think that
20 matter is still going to be - it's very complex.

21 I don't want to know the details of it but - - -?---Well,

22 I think you - yes, okay.

23 Has anything been repaid?---Yes, but only because he was under
24 threat from Mr Spicer and there was a discord and part of
25 the problem was - from Mr Lee's point of view is that
26 Mr Spicer was taking a lot of cash out of the company
27 and - I'm sorry, but it's relevant because you are trying
28 to make - - -

29 I simply want to know - - -?---You're trying to make

1 something - - -

2 Would you just - - -

3 COMMISSIONER: I'm sure you will have ample opportunity to put
4 your explanation in full. What's your question, Mr Tovey?

5 MR TOVEY: I simply want to know whether or not you were in a
6 position where repayments were being made or payments were
7 being made to Spicer Thoroughbreds, to Mr Spicer in the
8 period after November of 2018?---That was correct because
9 there were threats if we didn't.

10 The question is how much was paid to Mr Spicer during that
11 period?---I think the amount that you said. I'm not sure.
12 It was over 150,000, I think.

13 And did you receive any assistance in finding that money to
14 repay? I assume you didn't have it in the
15 bank?---Correct.

16 Did Mr Woodman give you assistance?---He's given me no
17 assistance.

18 All right. It's okay?---Nor did I ask for it.

19 In respect of your job as a lobbyist/consultant, what did that
20 involve?---That involved talking to local government
21 councillors, it involved talking to my side of politics in
22 terms of, you know, State parliamentarians and/or Federal
23 parliamentarians, and it also involved attending business
24 related functions that were held.

25 Did you have any role in respect of the personal finances of
26 Mr Woodman?---Sorry?

27 Did you have any role - - -

28 COMMISSIONER: I think you need to be a little more specific,
29 Mr Tovey.

1 MR TOVEY: Were you helping out Mr Woodman at all in respect of
2 his personal financial arrangements other than those that
3 related to politics?---I'm sorry, I don't understand the
4 question.

5 You told us that you were there for political reasons; is that
6 right? So your relationship with Mr Woodman as a
7 consultant was to make political connections at both
8 council and at State government level?---And Federal
9 government, correct.

10 All right. Was your role involved in any way in assisting him
11 in respect of his personal finances; that is, his finances
12 which related to something other than politics?---Okay,
13 now I get it. Sorry, I didn't understand where you were
14 getting - - -

15 That's all right?---There was a very brief time where he
16 considered getting a loan and he asked whether I would
17 assist with that, yes, in my other business, correct.

18 Who was getting a loan?---Mr Woodman.

19 Yes. What was that?---He considered - he considered or was put
20 to him by Councillor Aziz that Councillor Aziz needed
21 somebody to buy his house in Berwick. The reason was that
22 he was going through a divorce, this is Councillor Aziz,
23 and - - -

24 When was this first proposed?---Some time in - it was in 2018.

25 I will just tell you something before you go into this?---Okay.

26 Mr Woodman has given evidence recently about a whole series of
27 transactions and I want to see whether you agree with
28 this, that in early 2018 Sam Aziz wanted him to find some
29 way of channelling something in excess of half a million

1 dollars to Mr Aziz, that initially consideration was given
2 to buying the house - all right - and then following that
3 there were a whole lot of different ways in which that
4 result was sought to be achieved?---Correct.

5 In the course of that, Mr - in the course of that, that is in
6 late 2018, Mr Aziz in fact was threatening to change his
7 vote - - -?---Correct.

8 In respect of H3 unless you guys came up with the dough. Now,
9 is that your understanding of what happened?

10 COMMISSIONER: That's a long - - -

11 MR TOVEY: In general terms?---In general terms - - -

12 COMMISSIONER: That's a long question, Mr Tovey?---And we're
13 jumping around all over the place, but - - -

14 In general terms, that's correct?---In general terms, that is
15 correct.

16 MR TOVEY: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER: You need to go back over each step, though,
18 Mr Tovey.

19 MR TOVEY: I just want to ask you one further question before
20 I go back over it. Then it was the case that ultimately
21 in March of 2019 there - sorry, before I go to that, in
22 October, November, December you and Mr Aziz were in
23 discussions as to how payments could be made to him to
24 achieve his wish to get \$600,000 or thereabouts? You are
25 nodding. Is that the case?---Certainly Councillor Aziz
26 seemed to think - and I don't know how it came about, but
27 he seemed to think he was owed that money.

28 We will get to that?---Okay.

29 In any event, in October, November, December 2013 there were

1 discussions - - -?---'13?

2 Sorry, 2018 there were discussions between yourself and Mr Aziz
3 about various mechanisms that might be used to achieve
4 that result; is that the case?---I think that's the case.

5 And then was it the case after that that in December of 2018 he
6 started getting payments firstly in cash, thereafter
7 transfers of most of it of 23 to \$25,000 a month?---Yes,
8 my understanding was it was \$25,000 a month, and for
9 whatever reason \$23,000 a month was transferred and \$2,000
10 a month was cash.

11 And then ultimately in March of 2019 you took to Mr Aziz an
12 agreement?---Correct.

13 To give legitimacy to that arrangement?---Yes, I was given a
14 contract from Mr Woodman to give to Mr Aziz.

15 And in fact that was backdated to 30 December 2018?---My
16 understanding was that's correct.

17 All right. And you yourself took part in making cash
18 deliveries over a considerable period of time, did you
19 not, to Mr Aziz?

20 COMMISSIONER: Do you mean pursuant to that agreement?

21 MR TOVEY: Pursuant to that agreement and indeed
22 previous?---Pursuant to that agreement that was \$2,000 a
23 month which I was - I didn't understand why there was a
24 cash component. And the other amounts you are talking
25 about referred to the suitcase episode.

26 What was the suitcase episode?---I'm going to call it the
27 suitcase episode because I don't know how else to describe
28 it.

29 Following that there were, were there not, a series of payments

1 between approximately July of 2018 - I better make sure
2 I get this right. Excuse me, please, Mr Commissioner.
3 I'm sorry, between June 2017 and January of 2018 there
4 were a series of cash payments of 15,000 a month except
5 for one month where it was 40,000?---At the time I - - -
6 No, were you aware - - -?---I was aware of cash payments.

7 I was not aware of the amount. I was also - - -

8 No, we'll just take it a step at a time?---Okay.

9 Did you carry those cash payments to Mr Aziz?---I did, but
10 I didn't see the amounts and I didn't see what was in the
11 envelope and I did query it at the time.

12 COMMISSIONER: But you knew it was money?---I knew it was
13 money, but I was told - I was told that it was a loan
14 repayment to Mr Aziz, that there was a legal document that
15 had been signed between Mr Aziz and Mr Woodman, and that
16 Mr Woodman's lawyers held that document. So I thought it
17 was a legal document that - in the envelope was a return
18 of moneys that was - that belonged to Councillor Aziz.
19 Now, it was a highly unusual circumstance and - - -

20 MR TOVEY: Did you ever ask Mr Woodman why you were carrying
21 what were obviously large sums of cash to a
22 councillor?---He said it was a return of the money that
23 had been given to him by Councillor Aziz. He said he
24 received it in cash and he's returning it in cash because
25 that's what Councillor Aziz wanted.

26 And why you?---Well, it wasn't me to start with.

27 But you were the one who was making the deliveries month in and
28 month out according to him?---I wasn't the only one.

29 So - - -

1 Who else was?---I believe someone else who Mr Woodman employed.
2 Who was that?---I don't know, but - - -
3 What makes you think that? Somebody must have told you. So
4 who was it?---I think he had someone he employed. It
5 could have been - I think it was - I think the name is
6 Abdul who was doing - delivering money, not me. What
7 happened was the person who was doing that either wasn't
8 employed any longer or was no longer available or
9 something happened and I was asked to go down to
10 Mornington to pick up the envelope.
11 And when you communicated with Mr Woodman was it the case that
12 you would use code rather than talking about cash
13 payments? This is at the time you were dealing with the
14 15,000?---Sure. It wasn't deliberately code. It
15 was - I think Mr Woodman used to say - would text me or
16 call me or whatever and say something like, "The suitcase
17 needs to be returned," and I took it to understand that
18 was his sense of humour about how he received the money in
19 the first place and that it was going back.
20 And sometimes it was referred to by other means - sorry, in
21 another way as words like "packages"?---Yes, could have
22 been.
23 "Goods"?---Could have been.
24 Those sorts of things?---Could have been, yes. That sounds
25 familiar.
26 Yes. It was never, ever referred to in any communication
27 between you as the interest, was it - sorry, in any
28 written communication?---I didn't know there were interest
29 components to this. I thought it was just the returning

1 of the money that Councillor Aziz had lent Mr Woodman for
2 whatever reason. There was - sorry, I do believe there
3 was an email at some stage when Councillor Aziz said to me
4 that he needed to pay I don't know if it was his lawyers
5 or something to do with his marriage settlement and that
6 he needed the rest of the money transferred. At that
7 point in time I was copied into an email that I had
8 never - I had never seen before which actually outlined
9 the payments and what had been made and what was
10 outstanding, and that I think came from Mr Woodman's CFO
11 to Mr Woodman and I was copied in because
12 I think - I think the CFO thought I knew more about it
13 than I actually did.

14 COMMISSIONER: You started off your evidence today dealing with
15 Mr Aziz - a conversation with Mr Aziz in which he had
16 asked you to lie about 600,000 - about 350,000 or 70,000
17 rather than 600?---Yes.

18 Is this the money we are talking about?---I believe so.

19 Are you going to ask her about the origins of it?

20 MR TOVEY: Yes. (To witness.) Had you made - sorry, just
21 getting back to dealings you had with cash. Then if we
22 get back to this year, to 2019, you are again delivering
23 cash, 40,000 in December, and then after that - did you
24 make a delivery of 40,000, sorry, in January?---In cash?

25 Or December?---I don't believe so.

26 Sorry, in December of last year or January this year?---I don't
27 believe so. I have no recollection or knowledge that
28 I can think of.

29 Did you deliver regularly monthly payments of \$2,000?---I did.

1 And did you think that was legitimate?---I thought it was part
2 of the - what I thought was a legitimate contract.

3 This is the backdated contract?---Correct. Because they had a
4 verbal contract to begin with which at the time that they
5 had the verbal contract they said that they would draw up
6 a formal contract.

7 And was it just an accident then that the amount that Mr Aziz
8 was going to get under the consultancy agreement contract
9 that was backdated was the amount that he had been trying
10 to get by other means such as selling Mr Woodman his
11 house?---Was what an accident, sorry?

12 Was it just an accident that it was the case that in 2018 you
13 were trying to find a way to pay Aziz by including
14 Mr Woodman buying Mr Aziz's house for over - - -?---Just
15 to make it clear - - -

16 Was it just an accident, so far as you were concerned, that was
17 replaced by an agreement which just happened to give him
18 600,000 after the house deal fell through?

19 MR CASEMENT: Well, your Honour, I'm not sure she's given
20 evidence that she's actually seen the agreement or the
21 amount in it.

22 MR TOVEY: I thought you - you gave evidence, didn't you, that
23 you carried the agreement to him?---No, that's a different
24 agreement.

25 No, this is the consultancy agreement I'm talking about?---The
26 consultancy agreement, I did see that, yes.

27 COMMISSIONER: What counsel is asking you is whether you
28 thought it coincidental that the consultancy agreement was
29 for the very amount that Mr Aziz for a preceding period

1 had been trying to get from Mr Woodman. Did you think it
2 coincident or did you think it was related?---I think it
3 was related. I think it was related and I don't know why,
4 but at some stage Councillor Aziz told me that Mr Woodman
5 owed him 600,000, and I was very confused as to what that
6 was about.

7 MR TOVEY: Was that at the time that he was threatening to
8 change his vote?---I don't think it was at that exact
9 time, but I'm not sure.

10 I just want you to - did you consider that the \$2,000 was
11 suspicious?

12 COMMISSIONER: The \$2,000 in cash?

13 MR TOVEY: That is the \$2,000 cash was suspicious that you were
14 carrying to him monthly in 2019?---I just - I didn't - in
15 all honesty I don't - I just couldn't understand why there
16 was cash involved. It didn't make any sense to me. So
17 I was just doing what I was asked. But I didn't
18 understand, he got an agreement for 25,000, why there's
19 \$2,000 that is cash. I wasn't ever given an explanation.
20 And when you would pay it over to him did you do that openly or
21 would you do it in a covert fashion and tried to hide the
22 transaction?---Openly, I think. I mean, I don't know if
23 you necessarily want to openly hand over \$2,000, but
24 I wasn't hiding anything.

25 Was there any ever - was there ever any discussion between you
26 about how it looked, the handing over of the \$2,000?

27 COMMISSIONER: Discussion between?

28 MR TOVEY: That's between you and Mr Aziz?---Potentially,
29 because in all honesty I didn't feel comfortable about it.

1 COMMISSIONER: I'm not sure what you mean by that. You were
2 asked was there a conversation. You said
3 "potentially"?---I think there may have been a
4 conversation because I know how I felt, and - - -
5 How did you feel?---I just thought the 2,000 was completely
6 unnecessary and I felt - I didn't feel comfortable about
7 it, and as time went on with - I would say over the last
8 18 months I have been quite disturbed about how greedy
9 Councillor Aziz has become.

10 MR TOVEY: When you say "greedy", in making demands of money
11 from Mr Woodman?---Correct. Correct.

12 And what put him in a position where he might make demands, do
13 you think? What was he doing for Mr Woodman, to your
14 knowledge, which would generate such demands?---I think
15 it's making decisions or trying to get favourable
16 decisions for planning outcomes at Casey.

17 Was it your view that somebody in Mr Woodman's position had no
18 alternative other than to cave in and do what was being
19 required?---No, I think everyone has a choice.

20 But did you discuss with Mr Woodman whether you should be
21 getting involved in this sort of arrangement?---I don't
22 think I said it in those terms, but I definitely said to
23 him that I felt that Councillor Aziz was particularly
24 greedy and I said, "Every time I'm near him he's got his
25 hand out for money," and Mr Woodman's comment to me was,
26 "Well, there's two of them at Casey like that".

27 Sorry, "There's two of them at Casey like that"?---Correct.

28 And who was the other one?---I believe he was referring to
29 Councillor Ablett.

1 COMMISSIONER: What's the basis for that belief,
2 though?---I asked him.
3 And he said?---Yes.
4 He said both Aziz and Ablett - - -?---Yes, correct.
5 Were greedy?---Correct.
6 And when did the realisation - when did you first realise that
7 Mr Aziz's expectation that Mr Woodman should provide him
8 with money was linked to Mr Aziz supporting motions which
9 favoured Mr Woodman's interests?---I think it was late
10 2018. But just to make it clear that in conversations
11 with Councillor Aziz back - at least the middle of 2018
12 when there was discussion about the house purchase I said
13 to Mr Aziz that he needed to declare a conflict of
14 interest. He agreed. I asked him I think a second time
15 in 2018 and he told me that he was going to go and see the
16 CEO, I think it was the new CEO of the City of Casey,
17 Glenn he referred to him as - and I have not met him, by
18 the way - and he said he was going to speak to Glenn and
19 declare a conflict of interest with
20 Mr Woodman's - anything to do with Mr Woodman's business.
21 And I didn't realise you could go to the CEO to do that,
22 and I questioned him about it because when I was in
23 council you actually had to declare it in the room. So he
24 said, "No, these days you are allowed to go to the CEO."
25 So he told me in great depth how he was going to declare a
26 conflict of interest.
27 MR TOVEY: That was an obvious topic because if Mr Woodman was
28 to buy his house it would be a matter of public record,
29 wouldn't it?---A hundred per cent. A hundred per cent.

1 But, when you say it's an obvious topic, I felt obliged to
2 talk about it to him because I know that he needed to
3 declare a conflict of interest, and when he told me he was
4 going to I took him at his word.

5 COMMISSIONER: When was that conversation?---It was in 2018.

6 Well, we had a number of conversations, but I believe the
7 one about the CEO might have been in late 2018. And I had
8 assumed that that had taken place, and I didn't ask him
9 again until it was probably about three months ago before
10 this, it may have been about three months ago, and I just
11 out of curiosity, I said, "How did that conversation go
12 with the CEO, you know, about declaring a conflict of
13 interest," and he said, "I haven't done it yet." Well,
14 I can't tell you how shocked I was that he hadn't done it.

15 MR TOVEY: So the idea for - Mr Woodman has told us that the
16 idea was that he was going to pay I think 675,000 or
17 thereabouts for the house, and Mr Ablett - sorry, Mr Aziz
18 wanted to then live rent free in the house and have the
19 option of buying it back for next to nothing in two years
20 time; is that - basically that was his first
21 proposal?---That was his proposal, and he put it in text
22 message for me. Unfortunately for me I seemed to be
23 between the two of them and I would get messages, I would
24 pass them on, I would get messages back and pass them on.

25 COMMISSIONER: But, Ms Wreford, from what you have already told
26 us and there's no getting away from the simple fact that
27 at least by late 2018 you had recognised that Mr Aziz was
28 being bribed to make or support favourable council
29 decisions for Mr Woodman?---In all honesty, I wasn't sure

1 who was bribing who, and that's how I saw it.

2 But if you recognised - - -?---Yes, sure.

3 If you recognised that Mr Aziz was greedy and asking for money
4 from Mr Woodman in order that Mr Aziz would support
5 motions that favoured Mr Woodman's interest, let's not cut
6 about - let's cut to the chase: that's a bribe, isn't
7 it?---It is, and he needed to declare a conflict of
8 interest and he needed to withdraw himself from voting,
9 and I made that clear to him and he said he would. So,
10 I mean, you can lead a horse to water; you can't make them
11 drink.

12 MR TOVEY: But it would have been impossible to declare that as
13 a conflict of interest, wasn't it?---Pardon?

14 It would have been impossible to declare the receipt of I think
15 the amount - the correct amount is 750,000 from the sale
16 of his house. It would have been impossible to declare
17 that because in fact, as you understood it, what he would
18 have been doing by making that declaration was admitting
19 he had taken a bribe?---Yes, I guess so.

20 You agree with that?---I guess so, yes. I hadn't thought of it
21 like that.

22 Also I'm just about to take you to a surveillance that was
23 conducted on a meeting between you and Mr Aziz on
24 1 February of this year. But before I do that I want to
25 just ask you about one other thing. I will be suggesting
26 to you that in the course of that meeting Councillor Aziz
27 was talking to you about the way you had control or you
28 and he or whoever had control of Casey Council and was
29 suggesting to you that he be involved in taking over Yarra

1 Valley - sorry, Yarra Ranges Council. Do you recall a
2 conversation along those lines?---Vaguely. Yes, vaguely
3 about - I think he had something to do with helping
4 someone - this is my vague recollection, helping someone
5 in Yarra Ranges and something about - he may have said
6 something like, "I can do in Yarra Ranges what I have done
7 in Casey", but I'm not sure if that's exactly right, and
8 also I know how much he likes to brag.

9 COMMISSIONER: Sorry, who likes? Mr Woodman?---No, Mr Aziz.
10 Mr Aziz; sorry, yes?---I can't remember the exact words, but
11 I think that might have been the gist.

12 MR TOVEY: But Mr Aziz was there discussing that with you on
13 the understanding that he and those associated with him
14 controlled Casey Council?---I'll preface this by saying
15 that one thing is what you think you control and what you
16 actually control are two different things. You can't
17 actually control someone's vote. You can think you have
18 or you think you have the numbers, and it's quite normal
19 in political speak, if you like, to talk about "I've got
20 the numbers for" whatever it is, for a vote or for a mayor
21 or whatever, but you never really know until you get into
22 the room because everybody has to make their own decision.
23 Were you familiar with the issues around the C219 rezoning - -
24 -?---Yes.

25 And the H3 intersection?---Yes.

26 And I think it was the Pavilion Estate votes?---Yes.

27 All right. And was it your objective to seek to help

28 Mr Woodman get across the line - - -?---Correct.

29 Votes that assisted him commercially in respect all those

1 things?---Correct. That's my job, what I - - -
2 We understand - I don't know whether you knew or not, but we
3 understand from him that he was getting a consultancy
4 payment from Leightons in respect of C219 plus there was a
5 success fee at the end. Did you know about that?---He did
6 mention that to me at some stage.
7 Now, in respect of H - of the intersection, what was his
8 interest or what was his family's interest as you
9 understood it?---I know there was a number of estates
10 along Hall Road. I know that one - at least one of the
11 estates was Wolfdene, but I think one of the other estates
12 was - - -
13 Dacland?---Dacland, that's it, yes, Dacland. And I know there
14 was some friction between - I think there was friction
15 between Dacland and Wolfdene over the building of that
16 intersection. But my briefings on the matter - - -
17 So where did you get that information?---I may have got it from
18 councillors. I may have got it just from, you know,
19 talking to people and gathering information. When I was
20 briefed on it - when I was briefed on it via I think it
21 was Ms Schutz it was to do with the safety of that
22 intersection, in my understanding.
23 We are at cross-purposes?---Okay.
24 Was it from Mr Woodman that you got the understanding as to his
25 financial or his family's financial interest?---What are
26 we talking about?
27 H3?---H3, it was always told to me that it was to do with a
28 safety issue. I will explain it the best - - -
29 No, we have had explained to us already what the safety issue

1 was. I'm simply asking you as to the ownership of the
2 land and Wolfdene's interest, for instance, where did you
3 get that understanding?---It could have been I think from
4 Ms Schutz. It was - and it may have been Mr Woodman as
5 well, but I'm just telling you my memory, and I know there
6 were a number of stakeholders involved.

7 COMMISSIONER: And your role as a lobbyist in relation to H3
8 was to promote a focus on the safety issue?---Correct.

9 In support of the motion that Mr Woodman wanted to see
10 passed?---Correct. And it's all about getting - you know,
11 as far as I'm concerned it's about getting good community
12 outcomes.

13 MR TOVEY: In respect of H3 there were two issues that arose.
14 The first was Dacland paying for a larger share of the
15 construction of the intersection that was originally
16 agreed. Did you know about that?---Okay, I think I knew
17 about it, but I'm a little bit vague on the details and
18 the reason being that this was a very small part of what
19 I was doing at the time.

20 COMMISSIONER: You need to be clear, Mr Tovey. I don't think
21 Mr Woodman ever accepted that thesis, that Dacland was
22 going to have to pay more. It was rather that he wanted
23 them to proceed forthwith which in turn would generate
24 profits elsewhere?---Yes, so my understanding was that it
25 was all to do with timing and getting the intersection
26 built quicker because of - because when the subdivision
27 happens along Hall Road there's only one way in and out
28 for those people getting in and out of those estates and
29 it was a safety issue. So that was my understanding. Who

1 pays for what, I'm not across.

2 MR TOVEY: All right.

3 COMMISSIONER: Ms Wreford, whatever the merits of that proposal
4 or C219 or Pavilion - - -?---Sure.

5 And whatever genuine views any individual councillors had about
6 those issues, there's no doubt, is there, that once
7 councillors receive funds, whether legally or illegally,
8 which come from an interested party to that motion the
9 councillor can't participate thereafter in the
10 motion?---Correct.

11 And has it always been your understanding that that would also
12 require the councillor to abstain outside the actual
13 council meeting from seeking to influence other
14 councillors about it?---That wasn't my understanding, and
15 I'll just explain to me why. The legislation may have
16 changed since I was in council, but when I was in local
17 government between 2009 and 2010 - sorry, 2003 and 2010,
18 the Local Government Act back then said that we were
19 allowed to be involved in the discussion, we were allowed
20 to be involved in talking to other people, but we had to
21 leave the room for the vote. So that was my
22 understanding. The legislation may have changed since
23 then.

24 I don't think it has. But I don't think the legislation said
25 you were allowed to do that. It was the legislation
26 didn't say you couldn't do it?---Well, that could be
27 correct, too. And I think as councillors or - we probably
28 took it that we could be part of the discussion until the
29 vote came, and then it's up to everyone to make their vote

1 to their own conscience.

2 It was Mr Woodman's evidence here that he recognised it would
3 be quite unethical for a councillor, if they had a
4 conflict, to then seek outside the hearing room to
5 influence other councillors. Can you see that?---Yes,
6 I can see that. I can see that. All I'm doing is
7 reflecting on when I was in local government and what was
8 general practice then, and that's a number of years ago
9 now. So times change and maybe the rule - like I said to
10 you - - -

11 Interstate it's actually an offence for a councillor who has a
12 conflict of interest to seek to influence other
13 councillors outside the hearing room?---Yes, but it's not
14 that - my understanding is it's not the case here at the
15 moment.

16 I see the time, Mr Tovey.

17 MR TOVEY: I will just ask one question, which is unrelated to
18 anything that we have been talking about.

19 COMMISSIONER: Yes, certainly.

20 MR TOVEY: (To witness.) In respect of Sam Aziz he in fact was
21 party to the consultancy agreement that we have discussed
22 which was executed in March of this year?---Yes.

23 You in fact, did you not, had a conversation with Mr Woodman as
24 to whether or not Sam Aziz would be able to maintain
25 employment with Mr Woodman after that, that is after he
26 was no longer on council, and was it the case that you had
27 such a discussion and you thought it was something of a
28 joke?---I know that Councillor Aziz had said to me many
29 times that he wanted to work for Mr Woodman. He had made

1 that clear to me and I had passed on - I don't know if
2 it's a message, and he was always talking about when he
3 finished on council. So - - -

4 Was it the fact that you and Mr Woodman in considering that
5 aspect of his request thought it was a joke?---Correct.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER: Is that a convenient time? 2 o'clock.

8 Ms Wreford, you are of course entitled to leave the
9 building, go and have some lunch. We'll see you back here
10 at 2 o'clock.

11 <(THE WITNESS WITHDREW)

12 LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29