

**Petra Taskforce****Steering Committee Update: 27 April 2010****Op. LORIS**

*Investigation relating to double murder of Terence and Christine HODSON.*

**Updates (as per Interpose) –**

Form 10A received from defendant – DALE. 25 witnesses requested, including [REDACTED] and Witness F.

Form 10A received from defendant – COLLINS. 18 witnesses requested.

Committal commenced - 9 March 2010.

Three members, Detective Sergeant Solomon and Senior Detectives Davey will run committal for duration.

All subpoena required material served – 32 volumes.

Committal hearing has been adjourned until 30 March 2010 where further subpoena argument will commence. Committal bogged down with these issues; I gave evidence for day and a half (last Thursday & Friday) in answer to five specific documents.

Hearing on Friday 12 & Monday 15 March by counsel for Witness F, seeking application for 'F' to be excused from giving evidence. Magistrate rejected affidavit and instructed that witnesses attend. Called three doctors who gave evidence and as a result, Magistrate refused to set subpoena aside but adjourned her evidence until 17 June. He also instructed that the court be supplied with regular medical reports.

In relation to [REDACTED] application by the Crown will be heard in the Supreme Court today regarding appeal against the non-granting of suppression order by Magistrate. Lawyers for press and defence granted leave to appear.

***Hearing in relation to suppression orders heard at the Supreme Court on [REDACTED] 2010 before Justice Beach; (application by Crown to appeal magistrate's refusal to grant suppression in relation to [REDACTED]). He found that the magistrate had erred at law in relation to the application of the [REDACTED] and referred it back to the Magistrates Court for further consideration and decision.***

***Decision made by crown that further application in relation to this suppression order will not be made to the commencement of the committal, i.e. the calling of witnesses.*** Jan 11.

**Suppression Order**

Suppression order in relation to [REDACTED] will be further heard at the Melbourne Magistrates Court on [REDACTED] 2010. Application by media lawyers to have suppression order lifted. Hearing on Thursday does not apply to witness F.

On the recommencement of the committal on [REDACTED] PII 2010, the defence recanted any undertakings entered into with the OPP and VGSO in relation to existing subpoenas and now object to all PII arguments in relation to all documents.

The defence (Dale) served three further subpoenas on this date.

The Crown submitted that the subpoenas should be set aside and the committal continue but the magistrate, Reardon ruled the following –

In relation to material previously supplied on original subpoenas;

- That all material is re examined and new copies are provided to the court with areas of PII claims highlighted to allow the magistrate to view the material pending contested arguments.
- 12 June 2010 – all material provided to the court.
- 02 August 2010 – deadline for submissions to be lodged by counsel
- 09 August – Mention hearing
- 23 – 27 August – legal argument booked in for one week

Material subject to subpoenas, 2, 3, 4;

- 01 October 2010 – mention in relation to progress of preparation of material
- 08 November 2010 – service of material on defence
- 15 November 2010 – further mention
- 29 November 2010 – legal argument in relation to this material commences – runs to completion

10 January 2011 – committal commences – booked in for 7 weeks.

Time frames are based on the expected length of time it will take for the material to be obtained, examined, sanitised and served.

I cannot help but consider that included in the strategy of the defence is to place as much time as possible between present day and the giving of evidence by the two main [REDACTED] 'F.'

### ISSUE

The above mentioned time frames extend the committal completion date to at least March 2011.

It is requested that consideration to have Petra remain as a designated workgroup and occupy the current premises until the completion of this committal hearing; to also have the two informants, D/Sgt Solomon and S/D Davey remain at Petra for this period.

Consideration should be given to –

- Maintenance of a level of supervision for the two informants

- *Maintain current premises*
- *Provision of adequate unsworn administrative support*
- *Consideration of the most appropriate level and method of contact and management of [REDACTED] for this period.*
- *Ongoing management of issues relative to witness F.*
- *Consideration of maintaining one TIO at Petra until completion of committal to assist with committal preparation.*

### ISSUE

*Petra is concerned that witness F is either directly or indirectly providing material to the defence and to the media. To support this assertion, I provide the following;*

- *Herald Sun media article dated 14 April 2010 – mention of “Bali,” “Bali Mandira Resort,” “Four offices from the Petra taskforce flew to Bali in March....,” “senior police even ordered the witness to stay out of the CBD.” These are matters only known to Petra, Wit Sec Unit and the witness.*
- *Also mentioned in media article is under heading “What police paid for,” “Flowers for birthday....birthday gift voucher....” Perusal of the chart of monies supplied under subpoena indicates exact wording used. It is not known, if the journalist has seen the chart of monies provided or how this occurred, other than via the witness.*
- *Witness F sent SMS text D/S/Sgt Kelly 13/04/10 in relation to ongoing Purana matter where her comments indicate contact with journalists.*
- *Perusal of Dale Subpoena 2 indicates that the defence are demanding production of any document of any conversation between [REDACTED] and Supt Rod Wilson. Perusal of Dale Subpoena 3 indicates that the defence are demanding production of any document of any conversation between Witness F and Supt Rod Wilson. The matter of Supt Wilson’s involvement in this matter is only known to the CCP’s office, Petra, Office of Legal Advisor and witness F. He has not been named in any documentation supplied to the defence under subpoena.*
- *Perusal of Dale Subpoena 3 (item 6) indicates that the defence are demanding production of any document setting out any benefit ..... including but not limited to document entitled ‘Witness Proposal.’ This document exists but this would not be known to the defence; it is only known to the witness and Petra.*

*Investigators are concerned that the witness is engaging in improper conduct in that she is providing material to the defence directly or indirectly and engaging in similar conduct with the media. It is suspected that this may continue.*

*On 15 April, 2010 I met with the OPP and VGSO in relation to this matter. Feedback was that the OPP will take matter under consideration but initial view was that there is little that can be done.*