

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**SECOND FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF  
STEPHEN CRAIG GLEESON APM**

- 1) My full name is Stephen Craig Gleeson APM.
- 2) I have previously provided three statements to the Royal Commission:
  - a) First statement – 6 November 2019;
  - b) Second statement – 20 November 2019;
  - c) Third statement – 23 January 2020.
- 3) I am providing this supplementary statement in order assist the Royal Commission in relation to issues that have arisen since my previous statements were made. I am conscious of the Commissioner's direction that where such issues have arisen, witnesses provide supplementary statements to ensure that the record is complete.
- 4) As I explained in my earlier statements I briefed then Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr Ken Lay about the issues that I had identified during the course of my work on the Comrie Review. I refer here to what have been called the 'out of scope' issues.
- 5) The first briefing of Mr Lay was on 21 June 2012 and there was a second briefing on 3 August 2012 which is when the finalised Comrie report was handed over.<sup>1</sup>
- 6) By the time of the first meeting I was already well aware of the out of scope issues. My out of scope issues report to Assistant Commissioner Pope was finalised the next day and was already substantially drafted. I had already briefed Mr McRae and Assistant Commissioner Pope earlier in the day. I had spoken in depth with Neil Comrie about these issues as well and sought his guidance.
- 7) The meeting with Mr Lay arose because both the Chief Commissioner and I were attending an unrelated Emergency Management meeting. I cannot recall whether I asked to speak with him at the end of the meeting or vice versa.
- 8) I remember explaining to the Chief Commissioner the out of scope issues that had arisen, that they potentially involved members of the Petra Steering Committee, whom I then named, and that a formal report was being finalised. I did not give the Chief Commissioner, or anyone else, an incomplete, less than forthright or sanitised version of the issues that I had identified. I had no reason to do so.

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<sup>1</sup> VPL.0099.0021.0039 at .0081 and at .0094.

- 9) I am aware (and expected) that after that meeting the Chief Commissioner received my out of scope issues report once it had been finalised and that he, entirely appropriately, notified the OPI.
- 10) A significant issue for me throughout this period was the fact that it appeared that the SWOT analysis may have been before the Petra Steering Committee at the time that consideration was being given to transitioning Ms Gobbo from being a human source to a witness. Because of the rank of the members involved in that committee, the only way in which I could discharge my obligation to report potential misconduct was to refer the matter to the OPI. This is because, where potential misconduct involves members of the rank of Assistant Commissioner and above, such matters could not be considered in-house by Victoria Police. Only the OPI had jurisdiction to deal with those issues. Had my out of scope concerns only related to the SDU and associated members, there would have been no need to refer the matter to the OPI. Instead, those matters could have been referred to the Ethical Standards Department as it was then known.
- 11) The potential involvement of the Petra Steering Committee is addressed in detail in my out of scope issues report from the last paragraph on page 1 through to the penultimate paragraph on page 3.<sup>2</sup>
- 12) I briefed the Chief Commissioner again on 3 August 2012. I recall that at the outset to this meeting Mr Lay saying words to the effect of "Steve, do we have a problem". I again discussed the out of scope issues with him. I explained that we still had a lot of work to do but it was clear that there were significant issues of the kind set out in my out of scope issues report. I recall again discussing the fact that, on the face of it, the Petra Steering Committee may have had notice of the SWOT analysis. It was for this reason that I needed to ensure that the OPI was notified, which by this stage had already occurred.
- 13) I am aware that questions have been asked about the amendment of the version of the out of scope report that was provided by the Chief Commissioner to Mr Bonighton at the OPI by the removal of the sentence "I'm conscious of my Police Regulation Act obligations to report apparent misconduct and accordingly provide this report to you for appropriate attention".<sup>3</sup> The reason that I removed that sentence was simply because the report was not being forwarded by me to the OPI, but rather from the Chief Commissioner.
- 14) I am aware that Mr Lay has said in evidence in response to questions from counsel assisting that I did not say to him that "Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners

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<sup>2</sup> VPL.0100.0105.0001 at .0005 - .0008.

<sup>3</sup> VPL.0005.0258.0001.

and Commanders were acting corruptly or inappropriately”.<sup>4</sup> I agree with this. I had not formed a view about that question and could not do so on the material then available. However, as described above, I raised as I had done previously in writing and orally, the potential issue of the involvement of the Petra Steering Committee and given whom this involved this was the whole reason why the matter needed to be referred to the OPI, rather than ESD.

- 15) I am aware that there has been a repeated claim that I was directed not to speak with certain people in the course of the Comrie Review. The only such direction that I received was from Assistant Commissioner Pope and is described in paragraph 28 of my first statement. This was a direction not to speak with Briars or Petra investigators. I understood the reason for this was that both investigations were ongoing. I received no direction which prevented me from speaking with anyone else, including members of the Petra Steering Committee.
- 16) As explained in paragraph 37 of my first statement, I decided not to further brief Mr Ashton (I cannot recall whether he was Assistant or Deputy Commissioner at this time) once I became aware of the Petra Steering Committee issue. This was in order to avoid putting him in a position of actual or perceived conflict. I was open about this decision with Mr McRae, Assistant Commissioner Pope and the Chief Commissioner. I took the same approach with Assistant Commissioner Cornelius. However, this would not have prevented me from seeking and obtaining documents from either of those people or from anyone else had I needed them. I took significant steps to find the Petra Minutes in particular, and did not feel in any way fettered in whom I could approach in attempting to locate them.

Dated: 20 February 2020



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Stephen Craig Gleeson

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<sup>4</sup> T13546:44-47.