

Transcript

Station: **3AW** Date: **28/02/2019**
Program: **MORNINGS** Time: **09:27 AM**
Compere: **NEIL MITCHELL** Summary ID: **X00078027695**
Item: **CONTINUING INTERVIEW WITH GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF
COMMISSIONER, VIC POLICE, REGARDING PROTECTION OF LAWYER X.**
INTERVIEWEES: GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VIC POLICE

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| Audience: | Male 16+ 52000 | Female 16+ 89000 | All people 141000 |
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NEIL MITCHELL: Lawyer X, the subject of the Royal Commission. The name will be made public tomorrow afternoon because you stopped fighting to keep it secret; why?

GRAHAM ASHTON: Well, I've got a duty to make sure that anyone that gives us information in relation to criminal offending, and regardless whether it was yesterday or 20 years, that we can do everything that we can to try and make sure that they don't incur any risk to their safety and all the assessments that are in relation to Lawyer X was at their significant safety risk. So, I've got a responsibility to that person and responsibility to anyone that gives us information to try and make sure they're on the safe, so I needed to exercise that for the courts, in this case, in order to fulfil that duty.

NEIL MITCHELL: I understand that but why no longer?

GRAHAM ASHTON: Because I think we've done all we can, we've taken it through that legal process, a long legal process, and we've sort of lost every step of the way on it so we're

done- we've reached the point where we've done all we can legally.

NEIL MITCHELL: Expensive?

GRAHAM ASHTON: Yeah, expensive. Legal actions are always expensive for us.

NEIL MITCHELL: Any idea how much?

GRAHAM ASHTON: I haven't sort of quantified it in terms of all over the years but it'll be several hundred thousand at least, I would imagine, over the years.

NEIL MITCHELL: Are you still concerned for the safety of Lawyer X?

GRAHAM ASHTON: Yeah. I mean we're obviously- we're still concerned about the safety of the person now and given the nature of the matters that she was talking to police about, so there's obviously still that concern to safety and we're still working to try and make sure that we're doing everything we can to try and make sure that person is safe.

NEIL MITCHELL: So obviously, once her name is released, that- your concern escalates?

GRAHAM ASHTON: That's another facet to it because people will see a face at the paper and or on other media, electronic media, and they'll know sort of what the person looks like. So from that point of view of recognising people on the

street, recognising people around, it becomes another layer that we have to look at.

NEIL MITCHELL: Because you wouldn't even need to be in a crook in Victoria who didn't know who it was?

GRAHAM ASHTON: Yeah. But this will be broadcast very broadly, not only in Victoria.

NEIL MITCHELL: Okay. There have been reports it's cost \$5 million to try and keep secret. Is that likely?

GRAHAM ASHTON: I suppose it depends how you calculate these things now, in terms of- both sides of that are arguing against a false oppression, will you include their legal costs, and how far back you go in terms of calculating it. So I haven't done a total tally up of every single- every single aspect of that to note, but it's expensive.

NEIL MITCHELL: Okay. And this is about security. I mean there's been some commentary that it was police covering up inadequacies.

GRAHAM ASHTON: Well, we haven't been covering the matter up. It's something that we've been going through a process with now for a long time on this particular case and we've never thought to cover anything up.

In relation to the court matters, they've all been focused around the security of the person, and I haven't seen anything in any material, in any stage, that suggests that

we've done anything other than doing that. And that has been the focus with this.

NEIL MITCHELL:

Do you recall when you first discovered that she was being used as an informer in this way?

GRAHAM ASHTON:

Yeah. It's a question regularly asked still and I think- [indistinct] asked me for it as well, but I- it's something that now the Royal Commission's afoot, I really can't delve into until the matter is dealt into by the Royal Commission. So hopefully, we'll get that opportunity this year.

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| Station: | 3AW | Date: | 28/02/2019 |
| Program: | MORNINGS | Time: | 09:30 AM |
| Compere: | NEIL MITCHELL | Summary ID: | X00078027611 |
| Item: | CONTINUING INTERVIEW WITH GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VIC POLICE, REGARDING THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VIC POLICE PRACTICES. | | |

**INTERVIEWEES: GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VICTORIA
POLICE**

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| Audience: | Male 16+ | Female 16+ | All people |
| | 34000 | 65000 | 100000 |

NEIL MITCHELL: Have you been asked yet to appear at the Royal Commission?

GRAHAM ASHTON: No. I haven't been asked yet to appear. I suppose that's a matter for the Royal Commission and they'll need to work out what witnesses they want and when they want them. But if they want me to appear I'll certainly be there and I'll do my best to assist.

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