

Transcript

Station: **3AW** Date: **22/10/2019**
Program: **MORNINGS** Time: **08:35 AM**
Compere: **NEIL MITCHELL** Summary ID: **X00080760035**
Item: **INTERVIEW WITH GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VICTORIA POLICE.**
INTERVIEWEES: GRAHAM ASHTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, VICTORIA POLICE; GAVIN SILBERT, FORMER CHIEF CROWN PROSECUTOR [EXCERPT]

Audience:	Male 16+ 85000	Female 16+ 93000	All people 181000
------------------	-------------------	---------------------	----------------------

NEIL MITCHELL: Okay. Something else, you were on the line last night - the former chief crown prosecutor, Gavin Silbert, said: you really should be sacked because of your knowledge of the Nicola Gobbo situation, Gobbo's a police informant. This is what he said.

[excerpt]

GAVIN SILBERT: The upper hierarchy of Victoria Police has to take complete responsibility - I mean the buck stops at the top clearly and it went as high as the Chief Commissioner and some Assistant Commissioners. Those who knew and sanctioned what was happening were guilty of terrible breaches of duty and extraordinarily unethical behaviour.

[end of excerpt]

NEIL MITCHELL: What's your answer to that Chief Commissioner?

- GRAHAM ASHTON: Yes. I see that was going on last night and it's, I'm in a position where I've got to respect the processes of the Royal Commission. And that's a shame that others don't see the need to respect the processes of the Royal Commission. And the evidence will be put forward, and I've always said from day one that in relation to myself that I've done nothing wrong and I maintain that position. And Victoria Police at the time, 15 years ago when this stuff was happening, at the time were always acting in the interests, trying to act in the best interests of the community. I think that some of the sensationalism around some of that commentary is just unnecessary frankly.
- NEIL MITCHELL: Will you be giving evidence to the Royal Commission?
- GRAHAM ASHTON: I hope so, yeah. I hope so.
- NEIL MITCHELL: Well you haven't been told yet?
- GRAHAM ASHTON: I'm sort of standing by, waiting to hear and I'm, certainly I expect to be and I hope to have that opportunity which I'm looking forward to.
- NEIL MITCHELL: Are you able to tell us publicly when you first found out about the Gobbo situation.
- GRAHAM ASHTON: Yeah. I know you've asked me that before Neil and I've always had to respect that that's the evidence I've got to give to the Royal Commission but I would point out that simply knowing about the existence various informers isn't of itself, not a breach of the law - it's

not knowledge of the breach of policy at the time - but, which I think sometimes gets a bit lost in all that commentary around this.

NEIL MITCHELL: But he is saying a failure to act is unethical.

GRAHAM ASHTON: Yeah well, a failure to act on it was and I think that's what's been established that you're required to act on and I think that's what the Royal Commission is seeking to get at and I think that's what I look forward to talking to the Royal Commission about.

NEIL MITCHELL: So no resignation? You're staying until your contract runs out next year.

GRAHAM ASHTON: No. No, I'm not going anywhere. I'm going until 30 June next year, that's when my five year contract is up serving the community and that's, I'll do every single day of that.

* * END * *

TRANSCRIPT PRODUCED BY ISENTIA

www.isentia.com