

Special Commission of Inquiry

STATEMENT

Troy Wayne Grant MLA
1/18 Talbragar street
Dubbo NSW 2830

Monday 29th April 2013

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared to give in evidence to a Special Commission of Inquiry or any other related legal inquiry. The evidence is to the best of my knowledge and belief a true and accurate record and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence I could be liable to prosecution for any statement made by me, that is not the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So Help me God.
2. I am 43 years of age.
3. I am the Nationals Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Dubbo and have held this position since the 26 March 2011. In addition I am the Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Committee Member of the NSW Legislative Assembly Social Policy Committee.
4. Prior to entering Parliament in 2011, I was a Constable of Police with the New South Wales Police Force joining the force on 30 October 1988 until resigning my Commission as an Inspector of Police on 26 March 2011.
5. I cannot recall the timelines involved but I did have I believe two conversations with Detective Inspector Peter Fox after he took carriage of a Catholic Priest investigation/s in the Hunter. I cannot recall who initiated that/those phone calls but it was on the premise of offering any assistance regarding material that I had seized that may be relevant and of assistance to his inquiry, from my Catholic Priest investigation into Father Ryan and the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese. I do not recall any specifics of his investigation/s and who he was investigating, the only common names that we discussed were Bishop Michael Malone and his level of help or hindrance, Monsignor Patrick Cotter who at some point passed away, Sister Evelyn Woodward and Father Brian Lucas. I believe I may have had one conversation with Inspector Fox prior to the death of Mons. Cotter and one post.

Witness;

Signed

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DARREN BOLGER
29.4.13

Signed

Signature;.....

TW GRANT
29.4.13

6. I had limited dealings with Detective Inspector Fox during my career despite him being my supervisor at Cessnock Detectives office for a short time. I believe that I had no more then two phone calls with him regarding the Catholic Church, post that time. My observations were that he was meticulous in his investigations particularly the recording in his Duty Book that would be the best source of any record of conversations between us. I had from recollection only one involvement with him over an investigation which was a drug and Outlaw Motorcycle Gang investigation at Wollombi.

7. I can't recall the specifics of our conversation/s or any references to a phrase such as the 'Catholic Mafia'. It is not a phrase that I recall having ever heard or used. I certainly discussed with him the individuals and their roles in my investigation

REDACTED - RELEVANCE

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8. At no time during my investigation did I encounter whatsoever any calculated hindrance or obstruction from senior Police. I was only ever supported by the Commander of the Region Major Crime Squad Detective Chief Superintendent John Ure, Detective Senior Sergeant John Mooney and Detective Sergeant Rhonda Mulligan. While being the lead investigator I was also supported by a large number of other police officers from the Major Crime Squad during the arrests, execution of search warrants, interviews and custody support during the investigation. I am aware that Detective Chief Superintendent Ure spoke to Bishop Clarke at the time of the arrest and warrants execution then later joined the arrest team in Taree. Detective Senior Sergeant Mooney spoke initially to Father Ryan at his arrest, then to Father Brian Lucas and Father Bill Burston who were referred to provide appropriate legal and personal support.

9. Given that I had no hindrance or obstruction from Police concerning my investigation I had no reason to discuss that with Peter Fox, nor do I recall him disclosing to me any hindrance or obstruction regarding his investigation from Police.

10. In relation to any communications with Detective Inspector Peter Fox I can't recall other then one or two phone calls any other communications matters relevant to the Inquiries terms of reference. I have provided a statement to the NSW Police Force in mid 2011 regarding in frequent contact that has occurred between myself and Joanne McCarthy of the Newcastle Herald concerning a lack of action of a Catholic Priest investigation. I believe that matter related to Dennis McAlinden but I cannot be sure. As I have stated I have no knowledge of nor do I know of any material that links any part of or individual to my brief of evidence and investigation to any other investigation within the Maitland/Newcastle Diocese.

Witness; Signed
DARREN BURTON
29.4.13

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Signature;..... Signed
W GRANT
29.4.13



**Crown
Solicitor's
Office**

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28 March 2013

Mr T Grant MP
Member for Dubbo Electorate
P O Box 1327
DUBBO NSW 2830

By facsimile (02) 6882 3689

Dear Mr Grant

Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ("Inquiry") – request for statement

I refer to the above Inquiry and to the recent conference with you and the team assisting the Commissioner on Monday, 11 March 2013.

The Commissioner would be greatly assisted by the provision of a sworn statement from you in relation to your communications with Detective Chief Inspector Fox as described below.

Background

From the above-mentioned conference on 11 March 2013, I understand that Detective Chief Inspector Fox was at Cessnock LAC with you during 1994-95 (although you did not work with Detective Chief Inspector Fox on the same investigations).

I also understand that with the exception of two brief conversations with Detective Chief Inspector Fox in relation to a child sexual abuse investigation concerning a clergy member that he was working on, you have not otherwise been in touch with Detective Chief Inspector Fox since 2007/8.

Matters to be covered by the statement

Having regard to the above, I request that your statement address the following matters to the best of your recollection:

- a) details of any discussions that you may have had with Detective Chief Inspector Fox in or around 2002/2003 (or at any time thereafter) in which the phrase the "Catholic Mafia" (or similar descriptor) may have been used;
- b) whether, in respect of any investigation(s) in which you had been involved relating to clerical abuse and/or potential concealment (including regarding Fr. Vincent Ryan and

Monsignor Patrick Cotter) you had ever encountered what you regarded as being any calculated hindrance or obstruction from senior Police;

- c) whether you had ever discussed with Detective Fox at any time, including in 2002/2003, what you regarded as any calculated hindrance or obstruction from senior Police in previous investigation(s) (as referred to in sub-paragraph (b)) and, if so, the content and context of such discussion;
- d) details of any other communications with Detective Chief Inspector Fox or any other person you may have had, or any other information of which you are otherwise aware, concerning matters relevant to the Inquiry's terms of reference.

Timing of the statement

The Commissioner would be assisted by the provision of the statement by no later than Friday, **12 April 2013**. However, please let me know if you anticipate difficulties with this time frame.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Sullivan of my Office on (02) 9224 5029 should you wish to discuss any aspect of the above.

Yours faithfully

Signed

per
Emma Sullivan
Special Counsel
for Crown Solicitor