



STATEMENT OF POLICE

In the matter of:	Strike Force LANTLE
Place:	Redhead
Date:	6 May, 2013

Name:	Brad TAYLER	Tel. No:	
Rank:	Detective Chief Inspector (Former)		
Station/Unit:	Newcastle City Local Area Command		

STATES:

1. I am 50 years of age.
2. I have been requested to provide a statement regarding Strike Force LANTLE by the New South Wales Crown Solicitors Office.
3. I was attested into the New South Wales Police Force in October 1984. I performed general duties at Hornsby and Newcastle before transferring to traffic duties. In 1989 I commenced Detectives training and transferred to Kings Cross Detectives and Drug Unit in 1994. In 1997 I transferred to the former Drug Enforcement Agency in Sydney and was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant in 1997 at Tamworth. In 2000 I was promoted to Inspector level 3 at Tamworth. In 2002 I was promoted to Inspector Level 2 at Waratah. In 2004 I was promoted to Detective Chief Inspector at Lake Macquarie Command and held the position of Crime Manager. In 2008 I was transferred by the Northern region Commander to Newcastle City Local Area Command as Crime Manager. Superintendent Max MITCHELL was the Commander of Newcastle City command. This was a new command comprising both Waratah and Newcastle Commands. I remained in this position until I commenced extended sick leave in December, 2010. I was medically discharged from the New South Wales Police Service in December 2011.
4. At this time I am relying solely on my memory and some notes provided by the Crown Solicitors Office. These notes comprise some photocopies of my diaries for 2009 and 2010, an Investigators note dated the 3rd December, 2010 titled 'Case conference in relation to S/F LANTLE' and an email dated the 18th September, 2010 titled 'Re:Fw:Church File.'
5. As Crime Manager amongst other duties I was responsible for all criminal investigations within the command. I was stationed at Waratah Police Station and the Detectives office was located at Newcastle Station. At Newcastle City Local Area Command, the Detectives office was comprised of one Crime Coordinator held by Detective Senior Sergeant QUINN, five Detective Sergeants and approximately twenty five investigators. At some point in time one of the Detective Sergeant positions was held by Detective Sergeant Kirren STEEL. Prior to commencing in this position, Sergeant STEEL was performing higher duties as a relieving Duty Officer at the rank of Inspector at Newcastle City.
6. It is my recollection that Strike FORCE LANTLE commenced as a file from Strike Force GEORGIANA from Lake Macquarie Command. Strike Force GEORGIANA was actually commenced when I was Crime Manager at Lake Macquarie. I do not recall all of the details of the file but it involved allegations of historical sexual assault by members of the clergy in the Hunter area. I believe that I suggested the file

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be investigated by Lower Hunter Command as I believe the offences as outlined occurred in that command. This is generally how investigations are allocated. I forwarded the file through Northern Region command. The name Strike Force LANTLE would not have been in existence at this time. The name would have been created by Newcastle Command once directed to investigate the matter and is allocated automatically by the investigative management system known as Eagle I.

7. I do not recall what occurred next. These details should be clearly outlined on the file. I do recall the file at some point remained in the Northern Region Command office for a significant amount of time without any or little action. I do not know why this occurred.

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14. I believe the actual file at that time may have been with State Crime Command. I recall that I had forwarded the file to Northern Region Command indicating my belief that State Crime Command should conduct the investigation into this matter. My reasons would be on the file but I believe it was because of the nature of the complaint involving senior clergy and involved travel outside of New South Wales. It was my opinion the matter was best handled by that unit.

15. The next diary entry I have been provided is the 25th May, 2010. About 2.30pm that date I received a phone call from a UR27 from SNAP. I cannot recall at this time what SNAP stands for. UR27

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was requesting information on the Maitland Newcastle Diocese investigation. I informed UR27 that I was unable to confirm or deny any investigation was occurring but was happy to speak to any victims. UR27 stated he was a victim. I informed UR27 I was unaware of any report made by him. UR27 stated he would come in and make a report. I informed him I would only discuss his matter and not any further investigation matters. I have recorded that UR27 was 'not happy' and the conversation was overheard by Inspector SZAAK and Senior Sergeant THOMPSON who I believe were both in my office at the time. It is my recollection that UR27 was furious. I do not believe I ever heard from this person again.

16. The next diary entry I have been provided is the 31st May, 2010. I have recorded that Joanne McCARTHY from the Newcastle Herald rang me re the church issues. I provided nil comment. McCARTHY informed me she has another victim and would forward it by email.
17. The next diary entry I have been provided is dated the 2nd June, 2010. At that time I have recorded that I was given a message to contact ABC television re the Catholic Church. I checked the trim number on the New South Wales Police report relating to this matter (Trim D/2010/4966) and the file was with Inspector TOWNSEND of Northern Region. I phoned Inspector TOWNSEND and he stated he had the file since the 25th May, 2010. TOWNSEND stated he had been busy and was in Lismore. He stated he would try and do his report in the next days. TOWNSEND stated it was a matter for CET (Police Command) whether we investigate these matters that are 15 years old. I emailed TOWNSEND additional information from Journalist McCARTHY and forwarded same to Inspector JACOBS of the Sex Crimes Unit. I have noted that I briefed my commander.
18. Again, it is my belief that Strike Force LANTLE had not commenced at this time and it was being determined who would investigate same.
19. I have been provided a copy of an email dated the 16th September, 2010 from Inspector FOX to Detective Sergeant STEEL. I do not recall this email. Also attached is an email from Sergeant STEEL to a number of officers including myself and a reply from Inspector HUMPHRY. I believe that Inspector HUMPHRY may have been acting commander at the time. I do not recall these emails but more than likely read same.
20. The next entry I have been provided is the 27th September, 2010. I have noted 'peruse file re church sex assaults'. It would appear at that time the initial file was in my possession. I have also noted that I conducted a handover with Senior Sergeant QUINN. It would appear I commenced leave at that time.
21. The next entry I have been provided is the 18th November, 2010. On that date I have stated I attended Eagle I re this matter. I cannot recall if I started the Eagle I investigation that date or simply reviewed same.
22. The next relevant entry I have been provided is the 22nd November, 2010. On that date at the request of Superintendent MITCHELL I emailed journalist Joanne McCARTHY re Strike Force LANTLE. McCARTHY then contacted me and stated she had a number of potential witnesses. I arranged to meet with McCARTHY. I then contacted Senior Sergeant QUINN to obtain suitable dates for himself and Sergeant STEEL to meet with myself and McCARTHY. QUINN informed me he had spoken to Detective Inspector FOX re this matter and other complainants.
23. On the 23rd November, 2010 I have noted that I spoke to Superintendent MITCHELL re the welfare of Senior Sergeant QUINN. At that time I had formed the opinion that QUINN was suffering stress and I believed he may commence sick leave.
24. The next relevant entry I have been provided is the 26th November, 2010. About 12pm that date I attended Newcastle Police Station where I had a meeting with Joanne McCARTHY, Senior Sergeant QUINN and Detective Sergeant STEEL. Another person, Andrew (MORRISON?), I cannot recall his surname introduced himself as a barrister acting for victims of the church. I recall inquiring as to his involvement prior to allowing him to participate in the meeting. Notes re this meeting are recorded on the Eagle I for Strike Force LANTLE. There was considerable friction during the meeting. I was of the opinion that McCARTHY was present to provide investigators with names of victims and witnesses in this matter. McCARTHY indicated herself and Andrew were present to be briefed on the conduct of the

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investigation. I recall informing McCARTHY that I would not provide her any information on the conduct of our investigation. McCARTHY refused to provide us any details and I recall her stating that the victim/witness AL would not provide a statement to police unless she (McCARTHY) was present. I recall informing McCARTHY this was not appropriate. I informed her that AL could have a support person but a journalist with a vested interest in the matter was not appropriate. The meeting was terminated. Later that date I briefed Superintendent MITCHELL on this meeting.

25. On the 29th November, 2010 I have recorded that Senior Sergeant QUINN and I again briefed Superintendent MITCHELL regarding McCARTHY.
26. The next relevant entry I have been provided is the 1st December, 2010. At 11.30am that date I had a conversation with Senior Sergeant QUINN. I was informed that the victim/witness, AL had contacted Joanne McCARTHY of the Newcastle Herald and complained re police. This information was at direct odds with a conversation between QUINN and AL prior to this, as recorded on Eagle I. I instructed QUINN to complete an investigators note on Eagle I. I was also informed that the sister of AL was not interested in prosecuting this matter and that her statement did not disclose a serious offence. I instructed QUINN that two Detectives were to travel to Queensland to interview the sister. I also stated that Detective Sergeant STEEL should obtain documents from Zimmerman House. I then recorded that I briefed Superintendent MITCHELL re this information.
27. On this same date I have noted that I have received a second call from Senior Sergeant QUINN. QUINN informed me that Chief Inspector FOX had knowledge of the investigation and was in possession of documents. I was informed that FOX had sent a report to Northern Region regarding this information. After speaking to Superintendent MITCHELL I arranged a meeting relating to this matter for the 2nd December, 2010.
28. The next relevant entry I have been provided is the 2nd December, 2010. About 11.15pm that date I attended a meeting at Waratah Police Station concerning Strike Force LANTLE with Superintendent MITCHELL, Senior Sergeant QUINN, Detective Sergeant STEEL and Detective Senior Constable FRENEY. About 12pm that date the meeting also included Superintendent HAGGETT from Port Stephens Command and Detective Inspector Peter FOX. Shortly afterwards Inspector PARKER and TOWNSEND from Northern region attended the meeting. I have read an Investigators note dated the 3rd December, 2010 and titled 'Case conference in relation to S/F LANTLE'. This Investigators note contains relevant information concerning that meeting.
29. The next relevant entry I have been provided is dated the 9th December, 2010. About 10.30am that date I attended a meeting with Inspector Paul JACOBS from Sex Crimes, State Crime Command. Also present at that meeting was Detective Sergeant STEEL and Inspector PARKER and TOWNSEND from Northern Region.
30. About 3pm that date I spoke with AL re her complaint relating to this matter. I cannot recall the outcome of this matter but it would be well documented within the Newcastle Command including Complaint Management Team minutes.
31. The next relevant entry I have been provided is dated the 10th December, 2010. About 8am that date I attended a meeting at Newcastle Police Station with Detective Sergeant STEEL and Inspector JACOB from Sex crimes. Later that date I completed the complaint file concerning AL and briefed Superintendent MITCHELL.
32. I have been asked a number of specific questions by the crown solicitors office. My response is listed next to the relevant questions numbers as follows:
 - B a) I was not provided with any directions in relation to this matter that differed from any other investigation, By that, the terms of reference were identified and listed in Eagle I. I do not recall at this time what the actual terms of reference were. Like any investigation that I had conducted and or managed, it was to follow the terms of reference and conducted in a time and cost effective manner.

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- ii) I had very little discussions with any persons concerning Chief Inspector FOX. Upon Newcastle City Command commencing this investigation, I don't believe I was initially aware that FOX had any vested interest in this matter. The decision for Newcastle City Command to investigate this matter was ultimately made by the Northern Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner Carlene YORK. The main issue was the media involvement in this matter. I believe I held a view that Inspector FOX was communicating with journalist McCARTHY and certainly had communication with witnesses/victims. Upon becoming aware of some interest by FOX, a meeting was later organised as listed in the Investigators note dated 3rd December, 2010. The main reason for this was to make it clear that Newcastle City was investigating the matter and for all information to be provided to investigators from all sources including FOX. I have never directly spoken with FOX concerning this matter. I was present at the meeting as stated, but at no time did he contact me concerning any information, interest or concerns he may have held.
- b)i) The only meeting I am aware that Chief Inspector FOX attended is listed in the Investigators note as already referred to.
- ii) I have already referred to the meeting that Joanne McCARTHY was present on the 26th November, 2010. (See paragraph 25). I am aware there is an Investigators note that directly related to this meeting. This meeting was organised at the request of Superintendent MITCHELL. I believe the meeting was intended to obtain victim/witness names and any relevant information from McCARTHY and also attempt to manage the amount of media releases that McCARTHY was issuing at this time and allow the investigators to pursue the allegations.
- c)i) I have already made reference to the complaint from **AL** in this statement.
- ii) I have had no dealings with **AK**
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- d) I believe Strike Force LANTLE was sufficiently resourced. In effect there were two Investigating officers, namely Detective Sergeant STEEL and Detective Senior Constable FRENEY. Detective Sergeant STEEL was relatively new to the Newcastle Detectives office. Detective Senior Constable FRENEY is a very competent investigator. The investigation was supervised directly by Senior Sergeant QUINN, then myself with regular reporting to Command. Other senior staff including Northern Region officers and State Crime Command also had access to Eagle I which allowed them to review the investigation progress at any time. It is common in any investigation such as this to start the investigation and review staffing arrangements on an ongoing basis. It is a simple measure to increase staff as required. This is something I have demonstrated significantly in my time particularly at Lake Macquarie and Newcastle commands. As previously stated, I initially requested this matter be investigated by State Crime Command. This was not necessarily due to complexity but due to the senior church officials involved. This request was declined. State Crime Command did provide a consultation to the investigation by Newcastle City. Inspector JACOB attended and reviewed the investigative strategies that I believe are outlined in Eagle I.
- e) I do not believe the investigation was initially complex. In my opinion, it was a matter of determining if a significant offence had occurred and obtaining statements from any witnesses and/or victims. Once that was done it was a matter of investigating who was aware of the initial complaints and what was done or failed to be done by the Church. I believe that during my involvement in Strike Force LANTLE, the investigation was conducted appropriately in very difficult circumstances. These being that the victim **AL** would not in my opinion provide assistance to police. There may have been difficulties between **AL** and Sergeant STEEL but these issues continued with other staff. I do not believe whilst I was involved that **AL** actually completed a statement in this matter. Further, the media involvement by Joanne McCARTHY made things very difficult. In particular, McCARTHY involved herself as a link between **AL** and investigators. Further, McCARTHY refused to supply additional

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victims/witnesses that she stated she was in possession of. I believe there was communication between McCARTHY and Chief Inspector FOX regarding possible witnesses and information.

- C a) I cannot comment on any co-operation or hindrance by the Catholic Church regarding Strike Force LANTLE. Prior to my leaving this investigation, it had certainly not progressed far. It is my experience that the Catholic Church and other organisations have significant holdings relating to matters of sexual complaint. Generally, these are not provided to Police unless a specific request is made by investigators. At that point information is usually provided. The full extent of that information would only be known by the Church.

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- D My commencing sick leave was a lengthy process. I started suffering stress-related health issues in August 2009. In September, 2009 I attended my medical practitioner where I was subject to a number of blood tests. I advised my commander of my health issues at this time. In December, 2009 and February, 2010 I took periods of annual leave. However, upon returning to work my symptoms worsened. In July, 2010 I was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In August, 2010 I submitted a work cover certificate to the NSW Police. In December, 2010 I commenced sick leave.

- E I cannot recall when Senior Sergeant QUINN commenced sick leave. I am aware that he was seeking medical assistance approximately 12 months prior to him commencing sick leave. Superintendent MITCHELL was aware of the health issues of Senior Sergeant QUINN.

I do not recall when Detective Sergeant STEEL commenced sick leave. I was unaware of any issues involving Sergeant STEEL.

- 33 I note the terms of reference regarding this inquiry relating to Chief Inspector FOX being asked to cease investigating relevant matters. I don't believe FOX was asked or directed to cease anything. He was told that Newcastle City had been directed to conduct the investigation. It would be expected he would provide any information to Newcastle Investigators. In my opinion, it was based solely on the fact that Newcastle City had carriage of the investigation and it could be detrimental to have other persons or Commands conducting similar, and possibly related, inquiries. This is a normal practice when a strike force is formed and one Command assumes leadership. Chief Inspector FOX was requested to provide all information to the strike force. I am aware of approximately a four page unsigned statement that was handed over by Chief Inspector FOX to investigators. I recall reading this document and in my opinion it provided little in the way of facts or direct evidence. As stated, if Chief Inspector FOX had relevant information or witnesses, he could provide that information to the strike force. I did not and do not see that as being unusual. Depending on the progress of the strike force it was highly likely that Chief Inspector FOX maybe required to provide a statement to assist. Further, at the time I do not believe I was aware of any actual investigation that was ongoing by Chief Inspector FOX. I do not recall anything on police holdings relating to this. At no time to my information did Inspector FOX request carriage of this matter.

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