

Statement of Graeme John Parker

Special Commission of Inquiry into matters relating to the Police investigation of certain child sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

7th March 2013
On 15 February 2013, I say:
Signed

Preliminary matters

1. This statement is prepared by me for the sole purpose of responding to a summons dated 12 February 2013 issued on 13 February 2013 by the Special Commission of Inquiry (established by way of letters patent dated 21 November 2012 and varied by letters patent dated 11 January 2013) for me to produce a statement in relation to a number of defined issues. This statement is produced by me to the Special Commission of Inquiry pursuant to the said issued summons unwillingly and only on the basis that, without exception, section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 applies to restrict the use of this statement and the documents referred in it, and attached to it. Pursuant to section 23(2) of the Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983 I object to the information contained within this statement, and the attachments to the statement, being used in any criminal, civil or other proceedings or inquiries or investigations of any kind.
2. My full name is Graeme John Parker and I am a Detective Inspector with the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF) attached to the Newcastle City Local Area Command.

Background

3. I was attested as a police officer in December of 1987. After the date of my attestation I served 5 years in general duties at Kurni Kurni. I was then transferred to the Special Operations Group located at Maitland where I served for a period of 2 years from 1992 to 1994. The major part of the Special Operations Group's work related to the investigation and prosecution of drug related offences.
4. Thereafter, and from 1994 onwards, I carried out plain clothes duties at Raymond Terrace. In this role I was involved in investigating and prosecuting a range of criminal activity, including child sex abuse matters. In 1995 I completed the Initial Response Officer Course which qualified me to interview and obtain statements from child and adult victims of sexual assault.
5. Also during this period I was one of two investigators conducting inquiries on behalf of the New South Wales State Coroner into the Seaview Air Disaster. On the recommendation of State Coroner Derrick Hand I was formally recognised departmentally for this investigation.
6. In 1996 I was engaged in the Detective Education Program. During the course of the same year I was designated as a Detective. Also, I undertook a Bachelor of Policing (Investigation) course at the Charles Sturt University, which I successfully completed in 1998.
7. In the years 1997 and 1998 I was attached to Strike Force Matre. This Strike Force was engaged in the investigation of outlaw motor cycle gangs. After my

secondment to Strike Force Matre came to an end, I returned to my previous position at Raymond Terrace and subsequently, Lower Hunter Detectives up until 2000.

8. During this period I was selected by the Crime Manger at Lower Hunter Local Area Command to undertake a controlled operation into drug distribution in the Cessnock area. I was again formally recognised departmentally for this investigation.
9. In 2000 I was attached to Strike Force Sibret, which was a joint crime command Northern Region operation. The work of the Strike Force also related to outlaw motor cycle gangs and was subjected to the highest possible security levels. The Commissioner formally recognised both the Strike Force, as a unit, and me, as an individual, for this investigation.
10. In 2002 I was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant within the NSWPF. I was stationed at the Singleton Police Station which is part of the Hunter Valley Local Area Command. My primary work was general criminal investigations. I was responsible for the day to day management of all investigations and staff attached to the Singleton Detectives Office. During this period I was Investigation Supervisor of Strike Force Kyema, a joint Homicide and Hunter Valley LAC operation. I was again formally departmentally recognised for this investigation.
11. In 2006 I was promoted to the rank of Inspector in the Hunter Valley Local Area Command. In 2008 I was transferred to the Crime Manager's position at Brisbane Waters Local Area Command with the substantive rank of Detective Inspector. In March of 2011 I transferred to Newcastle City Local Area Command as Crime Manager with the substantive rank of Detective Inspector.

2 December 2010 meeting

12. I was present at a meeting which occurred on 2 December 2010 at the Waratah Police Station relating to Strike Force Lantle. In 2010 I was still attached to the Brisbane Waters Local Area Command, and my involvement in attending the meeting on the 2nd of December was in the capacity of relieving Inspector Townsend in his position Operations Manager for Northern Region. To the best of my recollection, I commenced the relieving duties for Inspector Townsend on 21 October 2010 because of Inspector Townsend being taken 'off line' to manage a Northern Region Operation in the Hunter Valley Local Area Command. **Annexed to this statement and marked "A"** is a copy of the minutes of the meeting on 2 December 2010.
13. After finishing those relieving duties I returned to the Brisbane Waters Local Area Command for a period of time until I was later transferred to the Newcastle City Local Area Command in March of 2011.
14. Prior to my attendance at the meeting on 2 December 2010, I had little knowledge in relation to Strike Force Lantle, other than some media reports regarding the Strike Force. Before the 2 December meeting I received a short briefing about issues surrounding the Strike Force. My recollection is that I was briefed on this matter by Assistant Commissioner York and Inspector Townsend. They gave me a general briefing and provided me with some basic information in relation to the meeting and Strike Force Lantle. Part of that briefing was that I was to ensure that the Region's position was adhered to. I was made aware that Newcastle Local Area Command was reluctant to take carriage of the investigation, as their position was that the State Crime Command should be responsible for the investigation.

Region's position was contrary to this, and I was tasked to ensure that Newcastle accepted responsibility for the carriage of Strike Force Lantle.

15. It was also a concern to Region that there appeared to be someone within the NSWPF leaking information to the Newcastle Herald about the investigations undertaken by Strike Force Lantle. My role, within the meeting, was to ensure Region's position was to be made clear to all present. That position was that the Newcastle City Local Area Command was to be responsible for the investigation and that any future unauthorised media statements were to cease immediately.
16. I have read the investigator's note relating to the meeting of the 2 December 2010. To the best of my recollection, what is recorded and contained in the meeting note accords with what occurred during the meeting. As the notes themselves record, I came to the meeting a short time after it had commenced, with my delay being a result of other necessary commitments which I had to attend to at the time.
17. At the time of the meeting on 2 December 2010 I was aware that Strike Force Lantle had already been set up. Further, I was aware that Detective Sergeant Steel was the officer in charge of the Strike Force and in that capacity she was responsible for running the Strike Force.
18. In terms of the change of investigator from Detective Sergeant Steel to Detective Sergeant Little, it was my understanding that the reason why Detective Sergeant Little was appointed as the officer in charge was because Detective Sergeant Steel went on medical leave towards the end of December of 2010.
19. After the meeting of 2 December 2010 was concluded, I made an entry in my personal diary relating to what occurred at the meeting. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "B"** is a true copy of the diary entry which was made by me at the time. The diary entry records the following:-

Meeting with Mitchell, Tayler, Quinn, Steel, Haggett and Fox re Catholic Church investigation. Mitchell issues direction that all officers involved in the investigation and management issue are not to speak with the press on issues without authorisation from himself. Further enforced when I explained region's position on this issue. It was clear that NMH has pipe line to investigation which needs to be stopped as it is effectively hampering the progress of same. Everyone states they understand. Discussion is Newcastle will have carriage of matter. Fox to pass on all knowledge and statements etc to Steel in handover.

20. After completing my relieving as Northern Region Operations Manager, I returned to my substantive duties at the Brisbane Waters Local Area Command. I had no further involvement with Strike Force Lantle until March 2011.

March 2011 and the resourcing of Strike Force Lantle

21. In March 2011 I transferred to the Newcastle City Local Area Command as Crime Manager. By virtue of my substantive role, I assumed overall responsibility for Strike Force Lantle from Detective Chief Inspector Tayler who had left the Local Area Command. As part of my duties and functions in my current role within the Newcastle City Local Area Command, I have the responsibility of managerial oversight of all serious investigations, ensuring they are staffed and resourced adequately and appropriately, and generally ensuring investigations progress in a timely and appropriate manner.

22. Shortly after commencing my role of managing and overseeing Strike Force Lantle I received a briefing from the Officer in Charge of the investigation, Detective Sergeant Little. I also reviewed the Strike Force holdings and familiarised myself with the direction and charter of the investigation. I was completely satisfied with the manner in which the Strike Force was being conducted by Detective Sergeant Little. It was my belief that appropriate personnel were attached to the Strike Force, and I also have the view that the investigation was carried out in a highly professional manner, particularly given the difficulties that the investigators faced.
23. During the investigation a number of managerial decisions were made. One of these decisions was to minimise the number of police officers attached to the Strike Force to ensure the integrity of the investigation was not further compromised. By limiting the number of officers involved, it was felt greater control could be exercised over the integrity of the investigation. It was my understanding that one of the reasons Detective Sergeant Little was chosen to be the officer in charge of the investigation was because of his integrity and thoroughness as a police officer.

Detective Chief Inspector Fox's involvement in Strike Force Lantle

24. In terms of whether Detective Chief Inspector Fox was an appropriate person to play an active role in Strike Force Lantle, it was my view that it would not have been appropriate for him to play any active role in the investigation for the following reasons.
25. The Region Commander determined that Newcastle LAC was the command best placed to undertake and manage the investigation. Strike Force Lantle was established by that command.
26. At the commencement of the Strike Force, up until the present time, Detective Chief Inspector Fox was and remains attached to the Port Stephens Local Area Command as a Crime Manager. It would be most unusual for a person in that position, whoever it may have been, to be given a management role, with respect to a Strike Force, in a different local area command.
27. Once carriage of the Strike Force had been allocated to Newcastle LAC, Detective Chief Inspector Fox's role with the Strike Force would necessarily be limited. Based on my experience, it would have been unprecedented for a person in Detective Chief Inspector Fox's rank and position to have been given any active, primary role as an investigator for Strike Force Lantle. Once this was determined, the management of the Strike Force proceeded in accordance with the standard operating procedures of the NSWPF.
28. If Detective Chief Inspector Fox had been brought in to play a direct role in Strike Force Lantle, it would not have been in the capacity of an investigator, but into a role that more befits his rank and position within the NSWPF. That level would have been Crime Manager and Supervisor of the Strike Force. This role had already been assigned to Detective Chief Inspector Taylor and subsequently to me. As stated earlier, this was determined by the original allocation of the Strike Force to Newcastle LAC by the Region Commander and positions were assigned by standard operating procedures in accordance with NSWPF protocols. Any divergence from this would have been highly irregular.
29. To the best of my recollection, at the time I attended the meeting of 2 December 2010, and after I took over my duties at the Newcastle Local Area Command in March of 2011, I had no knowledge of Detective Chief Inspector Fox being involved

in any active investigation which related to any matter relevant to Strike Force Lantle.

30. After I began managing the investigation from March of 2011 I had direct dealings, in my capacity as a Crime Manager, with Detective Sergeant Little. Detective Sergeant Little was responsible for the day to day running and management of the investigation, however, we did consult on a regular basis with respect to the progress of the investigation, the future direction and investigation avenues, and associated matters. Detective Sergeant Little conducted a number of interviews with various corroborating officers. However, to ensure the integrity of the investigation, it was mutually agreed that only Detective Sergeant Little and I would conduct interviews that were determined to be of a sensitive or discreet nature or that presented a risk to the probity of the investigation.
31. As a result of the meeting on 2 December 2010, I was of the belief that Detective Chief Inspector Fox had produced copies of all relevant information he had in his possession to Strike Force Lantle. This opinion did not change after I took over as Crime Manager in March 2011. I was, however, aware that Detective Chief Inspector Fox had forgotten to bring copies of his original documents to the initial meeting that occurred on 2 December 2010.
32. After several discussions with Detective Sergeant Little about this matter, and in the interest of completeness and thoroughness of investigations, it was decided a final formal approach should be made to establish if Detective Chief Inspector Fox held any other information significant to Strike Force Lantle. This occurred in April 2012.

Communication with Detective Chief Inspector Fox on 30 March 2012

33. At about 15.57 on 26 March 2012 Detective Chief Inspector Fox forwarded an email to Superintendent Gralton and others with the subject heading being ^{NP} "Trail". Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "C" is a copy of the said email. To the best of my recollection, I was consulted by Superintendent Gralton in relation to the matters raised by Detective Chief Inspector Fox in the body of the email, so as to give some input into how Superintendent Gralton should respond. Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "D" is a copy of an email forwarded by Commander Gralton of the Newcastle City Local Area Command to Detective Chief Inspector Fox in response. The email was sent at 15.36 on 30 March 2012.
34. In terms of the indication given by Commander Gralton to Detective Chief Inspector Fox relating to the directions given to him by Superintendent Mitchell and as to whether they were still in force, to the best of my recollection, my input was that if any such directions had been given by Superintendent Mitchell it should remain in force as long as the Strike Force remained in operation. I was in agreement with such a response being given to Detective Chief Inspector Fox, particularly as it was my view that the integrity of the investigation by Strike Force Lantle should not be compromised with respect to any leaking of information to any person associated with the media.

Communication with Detective Chief Inspector Fox on 2 April 2012

35. On 2 April 2012 I made arrangements to meet with Detective Chief Inspector Fox for the purpose of obtaining any further information that may have been in his possession in relation to the investigation. Arrangements were made for a handover of any information to take place on the 3rd of April. Because of unforeseen

circumstances, Detective Sergeant Little and I were unable to keep this appointment. On 4th April 2012 Detective Sergeant Little and I were returning to Newcastle from Sydney. I contacted Detective Chief Inspector Fox by the hands free car phone and the call was monitored over the car loudspeaker. At the commencement of the conversation I made Detective Chief Inspector Fox aware of that fact, and indeed, Detective Sergeant Little introduced himself via the hands free system.

36. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "E"** is a copy of a file note which was created by Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Little. To the best of my recollection, the contents of the file note correctly record the terms of the conversation had with Detective Chief Inspector Fox.
37. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "F"** is an email forwarded by Detective Sergeant Little to Detective Chief Inspector Fox (with a copy being forwarded to me on the email). The email is timed and dated as 13.05 on the 2nd of April 2012. The annexure also contains an email forwarded to me by Detective Chief Inspector Fox at 12.25 on 2 April 2012.
38. Apart from the matters dealing with the direction given to Detective Chief Inspector Fox referred to in this statement, I was not involved, to the best of my recollection, with any other occasion when any direction, instruction or communication was given to Detective Chief Inspector Fox with respect to the handing over of files or with respect to his speaking with the media.

Report of 19 November 2012

39. In November 2012, Assistant Commissioner York requested that I prepare a report in relation to Strike Force Lantle. **Annexed to this statement and marked with the letter "G"** is a copy of that report.
40. On 22 August 2012, Strike Force Lantle investigation was completed when a brief of evidence consisting of 2970 pages with a summary of 255 pages prepared by Detective Sergeant Little was given to the NSWPF Legal Services Unit. Subsequently, this brief and summary was served on the Office of the DPP for their assessment as to whether any charges would be preferred against any person. The Office of the DPP is still considering the matter.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

Conclusion

46. As far as I am concerned, and based on my experience as a police officer with 26 years of service with NSWPF, the instructions given to the police officers in attendance at the meeting of the 2nd of December 2010 were both proper and appropriate, as was the response by Commander Gralton in his email forwarded to Detective Chief Inspector Fox on 30 March 2012.

Signed

Signature of Graeme John Parker

7 MARCH 2012

Date

"A"

NSW Police
INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Investigation: S/F LANTLE
Title of Note: Case Conference in relation to S/F LANTLE

Narrative:

At 12.25pm on Thursday 2 December 2010, a meeting was held at Waratah Police Station in relation to S/F LANTLE. Officers present were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- Supt. HAGGETT
- DCI TAYLER
- D.I. FOX
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Det. Sen. Con. FRENEY
- Det. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED * A *
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Greene John Perke*
SIGNED THIS *7th* DAY OF *March*
2013

Detective Inspector PARKER (Northern Region) arrived midway through the meeting.

Superintendent MITCHELL outlined that Newcastle City LAC has carriage of investigations relating to *AK, AL* and GOGERTY. This was at the direction of the Region Commander. Mr MITCHELL identified that the investigations presented a high level of risk to the organization and needed to be managed well. He acknowledged that Detective Inspector FOX had a strong background in relation to the nature of the complaints, and that for the investigation team to perform their function, it was essential that he disclose all relevant information to the team.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had compiled all relevant documents held by him, but had mistakenly left them behind. He indicated that he had no problem disclosing information held by him to the investigation team. He indicated that he would make arrangements for the documents to be presented to the investigation team. He indicated that the information available would indicate that the clergy abuse/cover up is widespread and that there is a need for a broad ranging task force to be established to investigate it. He indicated that he had recently documented this in a report to the Region Commander.

In order to control confidentiality in relation to the investigation, Supt. MITCHELL indicated that nobody was to speak to the media (including Joanne MCCARTHY) without his knowledge. Mr MITCHELL indicated that in the event police are contacted by MCCARTHY, he was to be advised.

Inspector FOX indicated that in addition to his knowledge of the AK and AL cases, he had interviewed another lady named AJ. FOX indicated that AJ had only wanted to deal with him. She is a victim and a witness and has information dating back to the 1980s about offending behaviour by high ranking members of the Catholic Church including REDACTED HART, CLARKE and LUCAS. He indicated that she was from an inter sanctum of the Church and had been privy to a lot of conversations. She is born in 1951 and was ten when offences occurred against her. He indicated that she was very fragile.

Inspector FOX also indicated he had a statement from a Mike STILLWELL who was a teacher at Merriwa.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had begun obtaining a statement from AK who resides in Queensland. He indicated that a loose arrangement had been made to complete that statement when AK returned to the Newcastle area over the Christmas break.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had interviewed Leo CLARKE after his retirement, primarily in relation to his investigations concerning FLETCHER and RYAN. He did however speak with CLARKE about MCALINDEN. He believes that CLARKE deliberately lied to him when CLARKE advised him that he knew of no other incidents involving MCALINDEN.

Inspector FOX indicated that he had come into the investigations on and off over the years. He indicated that in 2004 he submitted two reports to SCC calling for a far reaching investigation of the incident. He had also submitted a number of information reports. He indicated that he had informants in the form of a former priest and sister. He indicated that he had no doubts that there was collusion in the Church.

Det. Insp. PARKER arrived at this stage of the meeting.

Insp. FOX indicated that due to the scale of the investigation it was imperative that a task force was established.

Supt. MITCHEL indicated that there was a need for LAC investigators to collate available information at this stage in order to allow further assessments to be made.

Insp. PARKER indicated that the Region Commander's firm view that the file was to remain with the LAC. It was a matter for the LAC to collate the information and present that to S.C.C. if that was appropriate. Insp. PARKER indicated that if the information gathered went beyond the Terms of Reference, the L.A.C. would need to identify why.

Insp. FOX outlined that the information given by *AJ* discloses other witnesses and potential witnesses. He reiterated his earlier view that a task force needs to be pursued.

The meeting was concluded at this point and Supt. HAGGETT and Insp. FOX departed.

Inspector TOWNSEND arrived at this time and was briefed by Sgt STEEL. Present for this briefing were:

- Supt. MITCHELL
- DCI TAYLER
- Insp. PARKER
- Insp. TOWNSEND
- Det. Sgt. STEEL
- Det. Sen. Const. FRENEY
- Det. Sen. Sgt. QUINN

Det. Sgt. STEEL indicated that she had spoken with Helen KEEVERS earlier that morning. KEEVERS was the Manager of Zimmerman House for 30 years. She indicated that she had a high level of knowledge about MCALINDEN'S offending and other priests and victims. She indicated that she has seen numerous critical documents outlining such conduct.

She indicated that the most crucial documentation had been forwarded by Zimmerman House to the Catholic Church's Insurance body. She made reference to a document authored by Monsignor GOTTER where he indicated that it was fortunate that MCALINDEN'S offending was on children and not adults and females. She also indicated that MCALINDEN had engaged in a course of conduct regularly used by Catholic Priests where children were taken swimming in deep water so that they would need to hold onto the priest for assistance.

STEEL outlined the 'Encompass' program that was set up by Archbishop PELL to treat priests who have problems (primarily child abuse). The program maintained files outlining the problem behaviours and identified treatment plans. KEEVERS indicated that PELL had closed the program down without notice. She indicated that the files relating to the program had been moved by a man known to her for storage.

STEEL indicated that senior clergy moved MCALINDEN to P.N.G. for a period after his offending behaviour was discovered.

REDACTED

Other Senior Clergy (BURSTON/HART and LUCAS) were involved in cover ups.

KEEVERS told STEEL that police would only get one chance at a search warrant because she is certain that Church members would destroy documents.

Supt. MITCHELL indicated that the issue for the L.A.C. is the scope of the investigation. Inspector TOWNSEND agreed that the scope of the investigation had greatly broadened since it was first allocated to the L.A.C. It was agreed that the following would occur:

1. Inspector PARKER would contact Insp. JACOBS of S.C.C. to invite an investigator(s) from Sex Crimes to attend a debrief to be held with KEEVERS.
2. Det. Sgt. STEEL to conduct the debrief in the week commencing 6 December 2010.
3. Det. Sgt. STEEL to collate all information available to date after the debrief and formulate a summary document to be forwarded to S.C.C. for their consideration as to whether or not the investigation would fit their charter.

Meeting Concluded 1.15pm

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTE

Prepared By:	Detective Senior Sergeant Justin Patrick Quinn
Registered No:	26028
Date:	5/12/2010

"B"

THURSDAY
16/029 Week 48 2

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - B
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *General John Parker*
SIGNED THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH
2013

10: *Mostly a lot of Mitchell, Taylor, Quinn, Speer, Haggott*
Pop na Catholic Church investigation. Mitchell issues
direction that all officers involved in investigation and arrangements
issue are not to speak with press or OAS without authorization
or himself. Further entered into a explain legal position
of OAS issues. It is clear that NWA has refused to
invest. OAS would need to be started as it espouses
maintaining the process of same. Everyone must stay under the
direction of the castle will have control of matter.
to pass on all knowledge and statements. etc to
Spicer & Marshall.

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"C"

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - C .
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Greene John Parker*
SIGNED THIS *7th* DAY OF *March*
2013

From: Peter Fox
To: John Grafton; Ian Mather
Cc: Carlene York; Craig Ree
Date: 26/03/2012 15:57 ZE10
Subject: NP *trial*

In 2010 I made submissions to investigate paedophile activity by the Catholic Church following past prosecutions & approaches to me by victims through a newspaper reporter Joanne McCARTHER. I obtained statements before being aware of inquiries at Newcastle. I contacted investigators there & was then directed by Superintendent MITCHELL to surrender all the documentation I had, including victim statements, cease any involvement in church paedophilia investigations or dealings with victims. I was also directed to not contact Joanne McCARTHY & report any contact with her immediately. I was further directed to hand over a separate non-related ministerial file sent to me as a

result of my past investigations into paedophilia in the Catholic Church.

Complying with my directions I am reporting I was contacted today by Det Sgt Kristy FABER requesting I assist in connection with the trial of NP which is currently underway. I was asked if I could obtain a photograph of Fr James FLETCHER from about 1980. I was also asked to ascertain the whereabouts of Fr FLETCHER & NP around that time & if they had access to Campbell's Hill Church at Maliland or any association between them.

I spoke to persons (But not Joanne McCARTHER) in confidence who are assisting. I may have further contact to secure photographs & other information. A number of those persons are in contact with Ms McCARTHER, one of them mentioned being aware I was not permitted to speak with McCARTHER. I did not discuss this further other than say that was correct.

Since Mr MITCHELL is no longer in North Region & the 3 police assigned the investigation reported off sick after my direction I have not been told what if anything has occurred with the matter.

1. It is highly unlikely the persons with whom I have sought information will deal with other police (I can elaborate on this if required) The information may assist in the criminal prosecution of sexual assault offences on children by a member of the Catholic Clergy but I am seeking permission before I take this further. Am I allowed to conduct more inquiries for D/Sgt FABER?
2. Are all the directions given to me by Mr MITCHELL still in force & if so for what period?
3. Am I yet able to be told the reason for those directions?

Peter Fox
Detective Chief Inspector
Crime Manager
Port Stephens LAC
Redacted

"0"

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - 1 .
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Graeme John Parker*
SIGNED THIS *7th* DAY OF *MARCH*
2013

John Gratton---30/03/2012 15:36:43---Peter, (cc: A/A/C Swilks, DI Parker and Sgt McDonald as req..

From: John Gratton/25360/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Gabrielle McDonald/26885/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Graeme
Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, David
Swilks/16580/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Ian
Mather/21728/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Craig Rae/22212/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 30/03/2012 15:36
Subject: Re: NP | Trail

Peter;
(cc: A/A/C Swilks, DI Parker and Sgt McDonald as requested by AC York & others included in original
email from you)

In response to the specific issues you raise (which I have highlighted in red):

1. It is highly unlikely the persons with whom I have sought information will deal with other police (I can elaborate on this if required) The information may assist in the criminal prosecution of sexual assault offences on children by a member of the Catholic Clergy but I am seeking permission before I take this further. Am I allowed to conduct more inquiries for D/Sgt FABER?

Please contact Det Inspector Parker in relation to this issue as he is over-seeing Strike Force Lantle which relates to the investigation. He should be in a position to guide you in relation to who is best to respond.

2. Are all the directions given to me by Mr MITCHELL still in force & if so for what period?

Yes, until lifted the direction remains in place.

3. Am I yet able to be told the reason for those directions?

The investigation is highly protected and will be until finalised.

Further, I'm advised you were to provide documents that you had that may relate to investigations that were underway at Newcastle. Could you please discuss that when speaking with Det Inspector Parker.

Regards,

John Grafton
Commander
Newcastle City

Peter Fox—26/03/2012 15:57:22—In 2010 I made submissions to investigate paedophile activity by L...

Product Details

[Product History](#) [Cancel this Product](#) [Update Categorisation](#) [Link/Unlink this Product](#) [Create a Similar Product](#)
[Create Task related to this Product](#)

Title Written clarification sought from DCI FOX re email content
Type TEXT DOCUMENTS:Investigators Note **File Number** IN-111
Date Created 12 Apr 2012 **Status** Accepted
Created By DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE **Reviewed By** DETSGT JEFFREY LITTLE
Date of Note 12/04/2012
Electronic or Scanned Copy FOX Emails 2.pdf (3489.3KB)

Brief Description

On Tuesday, 3 April 2012, D/C/Insp. FOX sent an email to D/Sgt LITTLE confirming he had nil substantive information relating to Bishop Leo CLARK. (Relative email attached.)

About 12:08 hours on Wednesday, 4 April 2012, returning from SYDNEY, PARKER and LITTLE partook in a car telephone conversation with FOX on loudspeaker during which PARKER enquired whether FOX had ANY further information or evidence relating to this investigation. FOX stated, "No, I've got nothing more. I didn't do an interview with CLARK. I only had an off the record chat to him that wasn't recorded."

The attached email (sent by DCI FOX on 05/04/12) was responded to with questions to clarify information contained in DCI FOX' email. Subject email attached.

Category

- POLICE
 - Internal Communications*
- * category contains this product

Signed

[Back to Search Results](#)

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED "E"
 ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Crane John Pecher*
 SIGNED THIS 7th DAY OF MARCH 2013

"F"

{In Archive} Re: Fw: Church Inquiry
Jeffrey Little

to:

Peter Fox

10/04/2012 06:45

Cc:

Graeme Parker, John Gralton

Hide Details

From: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice

To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Cc: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, John
Gralton/25360/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Signed

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - F
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Graeme John Parker*
SIGNED THIS *7th* DAY OF *MARCH*
2012

Security:

To ensure privacy, images from remote sites were prevented from
downloading. Show Images

Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

2 Attachments



Image.1334004308545.jpg Image.1334004308546.gif

Hi Pete,

file://C:\Documents and Settings\jnl\Local Settings\Temp\notes2747601-Web257... 12/04/2012

Thanks for your email. This has been a complex and protracted investigation and to ensure completeness in this regard, I just need to clarify some points raised in your email. To ensure all points are properly and thoroughly clarified, and not lost in translation, I believe email is the best option. You mention, "There are lots of important bits I have collected over the years, most of it in my head." In the event of any legal proceedings, I'm sure you'll appreciate my determination to properly get to the bottom of this matter. So, just to clarify:

1. You mentioned that *"Before Malone retired he commented there was a paedophile network of priests in the Newcastle/Maitland Diocese. Nice to know what he knew & meant by that."*

- 1.1. Who did MALONE make this comment to?
- 1.2. With such a serious allegation, what supportive statement or evidence did you obtain from him?

2. You mention, *"There is a lot of info on past priests (now deceased) that the church knew were paedophiles that were never charged, but victims in the Hunter paid compensation."*

- 2.1. From where does this information come?
- 2.2. What specific priests are you referring to?
- 2.3. Did you take any action regarding same?

3. You mention, *"That was clearly evident back in the late 90's as I mentioned in reports I sent to SCC in 2003-4 & the Intell reports from back then. FLETCHER used to have gatherings at Muswellbrook of a little group that included NP HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN,"*

Redacted

Redacted

That collection is incredible considering their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them."

3.1. In reference to "...their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them." and resultant of your investigations, what charges were laid relating to "concealing"?

4. You mention, "I spoke to Vince RYAN who would be well worth interviewing".

4.1. When you spoke to him, what information / evidence did Vincent RYAN offer relative to victims AL, AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ?

4.2. What specific evidence do you believe RYAN can offer relative to AL, AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ?

5. You mentioned, "Troy GRANT who locked him up has some really interesting stories too."

5.1. What information / evidence do you know / believe he possesses relative to this investigation?

6. You mention, "There are a lot more victim's of McALINDEN that can be tracked down. I would suggest in excess of 10."

Redacted

6.1. Redacted

7. Redacted

7.1. Redacted

7.2. Redacted

7.3. What is it about the "Healing Program" do you say is "questionable"?

8. You mention, Redacted

I doubt you will be allowed to pursue all that because of the scale. That's why I did the reports to SCC 8 years back.

8.1. On what do you base your assertion pertaining to "...
Redacted

8.2. In light of the seriousness of their content, would you be so kind as to provide relevant copies of your "...reports to SCC 8 years back." as they relate to this investigation.

9. You mention, "The Fletcher & McALINDEN matters should be filed at Maitland, there may be some documents there worth looking at, in particular the stuff we seized on warrants from the diocese office."

9.1. Do you mean MAITLAND Police Station or somewhere else?

9.2. To ensure I go straight to the relevant item/s, of this material, what documentation do you know is contained within it that specifically relates to

AL
AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ ?

10. You mention, "There was also material filed at the court from the trial."

10.1. Of this material, apart from GOGARTY' tendency evidence as it supported victim AB, what specifically supports allegations of concealing offences by clergy formerly & currently attached to the MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE Diocese of the Catholic Church relative to

AL, AK, Peter COGARTY or AJ ?

11. You mention, "... LUCAS is really a linchpin with his previous OS, Vatican connection, training & being a qualified lawyer. He's been involved in the background of so many over the years, as set out by AK, AL, AJ Y. He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country."

11.1. I understand LUCAS' alleged involvement as it pertains to this investigation, however, would you specifically clarify your assertion, "He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country." and point me in the direction of actual evidence or anything else upon which you base this please.

12. You mention, "You should jump on the net and have a read of his evidence during the Wood Royal Commission in the middle of the Hunter matters, it makes interesting reading."

12.1. I have read his evidence. Is there evidence I'm not seeing or something specifically the Royal Commission

didn't act upon?

13. . You mention, *"I don't have any more documents off the top of my head ... Diary entries I'd have to check, but mostly it is in my head."*

13.1. If you would, please let me know the outcome of checking your diary entries including book and page numbers for any relevant entries. Is it possible this could be done with some priority?

Thanks for you assistance Pete. I look forward to your response email.

Kindest regards,

Jeff LITTLE

Detective Sergeant

Newcastle City Local Area Command

Cm Church & Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300

Phone: (02) 4929 0004 | Eaglenet: 70004

Fax: (02) 4929 0634 | Eaglefax: 70634

Email: lltt1jef@police.nsw.gov.au

~~Peter Fox~~---05/04/2012 14:01:57---Graeme Without knowing where your matters have gone it's hard to say what else can be done. There ar

From: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice

To: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Cc: John Grallon/25360/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Date: 05/04/2012 14:01

Subject: Re: Fw: Church Inquiry

Graeme

Without knowing where your matters have gone it's hard to say what else can be done. There are lots of important bits I have collected over the years, most of it in my head. Where would I start? For instance:

Before Malone retired he commented there was a paedophile network of priests in the Newcastle/Maitland Diocese. Nice to know what he knew & meant by that. That was clearly evident back in the late 90's as I mentioned in reports I sent to SCC in 2003-4 & the Intell reports from back then. FLETCHER used to have gatherings at Muswellbrook of a little group that included ^{NP} HARRIGAN, BURSTON, SAUNDERS & RYAN.

Redacted

That collection is incredible considering their crimes or involvement in concealing. I personally had dealings with all of them.

I spoke to Vince RYAN who would be well worth interviewing. He has been tucked away by the Catholic Church since his release. Troy GRANT who locked him up has some really interesting stories too.

There is a lot of info on past priests (now deceased) that the church knew were paedophiles that were never charged, but victims in the Hunter paid compensation. That was mostly in the time of Leo CLARK & his predecessor but some residue was handed over to MALONE. I don't know if anyone approached him before he left as I remember at some stage him stating publically he was prepared to hand 'everything over' to police if asked. There are a lot more victim's of McALINDEN that can be tracked down. I would suggest in excess of 10.

REDACTED

I could go on but it is really something that needs a major investigation beyond a LAC as it expands.

Redacted

I doubt you will be allowed to pursue all that because of the scale. That's why I did the reports to SCC 8 years back.

I don't have any more documents off the top of my head - I was directed by Max to surrender it all - which I did. (The reasons for which I am still at a loss) Diary entries I'd have to check, but mostly it is in my head. The Fletcher & McALINDEN matters should be filed at Maitland, there may be some documents there worth looking at, in particular the stuff we seized on

warrants from the diocese office. There was also material filed at the court from the trial.

Before finishing can I just say LUCAS is really a linchpin with his previous OS, vatican connection, training & being a qualified lawyer. He's been involved in the background of so many over the years, as set out by AK, AL & AJ. He is the church's 'Mr Fix-It' travelling all over the country. You should jump on the net and have a read of his evidence during the Wood Royal Commission in the middle of the Hunter matters, it makes interesting reading.

Graeme I could go on but so would any investigation, not that I am saying it shouldn't. As with Kristy's inquiries, I still have contact with a lot of families & people with extensive connections in the church & am only too willing to assist with any aspect you might want to pursue.

Peter Fox
Detective Chief Inspector
Crime Manager
Port Stephens LAC
0418 201581

Graeme Parker—05/04/2012 12:04:57—Pete I know we spoke on the phone yesterday, but I've only just read the report you sent through the

From: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 05/04/2012 12:04
Subject: Fw: Church Inquiry

Pete

I know we spoke on the phone yesterday, but I've only just read the report you sent through the other day, and I just want to make sure that there's definitively no other statements, reports, diary entries or file notes etc that relates to either McAlinden or any concealment of offences relating to Fletcher AJ, AL, AK, or Gogerty. Our investigation is just about to finality and I just want to ensure we haven't missed anything.

Thanks mate

Graeme

Signed

G. Parker | Detective Inspector | Crime Manager Investigations | Newcastle City



LAC | NSW Police Force
Phone: 49290008 | Eaglenet: 70008 | Mobile: 0411117534 | Fax: 49290634 | Eaglenet
fax: 70634 | Email: parkgra1@police.nsw.gov.au

----- Forwarded by Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice on 05/04/2012
11:31 -----

From: Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Date: 02/04/2012 13:05
Subject: Re: Church Inquiry

Hi Pete,

Yes, I have that report dated 25/11/10 and am aware of that passage.
However, Graeme mentioned you interviewed CLARK???

Cheers: Jeff

Jeff LITTLE
Detective Sergeant
Newcastle City Local Area Command
Cm Church & Watt Street, Newcastle NSW 2300
Phone: (02) 4929 0004 | Eaglenet: 70004

Fax: (02) 4929 0634 | Eaglefax: 70634
Email: jlittlejef@police.nsw.gov.au

-----Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice wrote:-----

To: Graeme Parker/24632/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice, Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
From: Peter Fox/18127/Staff/NSWPolice
Date: 04/02/2012 12:25
Subject: Church Inquiry

(See attached file: Church.doc)

Gents here is a copy of the report I sent to region in December 2010. Para 4 on page 2 is the Leo Clark aspect I spoke to Graham about this morning. I am surprised they didn't forward my report to you but have a read and let me know if anything else may assist.

Peter Fox
Detective Chief Inspector
Crime Manager
Port Stephens LAC
Redacted

[attachment "Church.doc" removed by Jeffrey Little/27476/Staff/NSWPolice]



**NEWCASTLE CITY
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

Signed

1st Floor
Newcastle Police Station
Wall and Church St
Newcastle NSW 2300
Tel: (02) 49290999 / 70008
Fax: (02) 49290634 / 70634

THIS IS THE ANNEXURE MARKED - G
ANNEXED TO STATEMENT OF *Grace John Parker*

SIGNED THIS *7th* DAY OF *MARCH* 2013 D/

ISSUE:

Request for information by Assistant Commissioner York regarding delays associated with the investigations conducted by Strike Force Lantle, including investigation contacts with Detective Chief Inspector Peter Fox of Port Stephens Command.

BACKGROUND:

On 12 July 2010 Operations Manager, Northern Region, Inspector Anthony Townsend produced a eleven page document addressing allegations of the concealing of serious offences by former and current clergy attached to the Newcastle Maitland Diocese of the Catholic Church. This appears to have been as a result of information, including statements, received by Lake Macquarie LAC from Journalist Joanne McCarthy. The file was furnished to the Region Commander, Northern, who signed off on her instruction to the Commander Newcastle City LAC on 1 September 2010. Those instructions included the identification of suitable investigators, initial assessment of evidence, the utilisation of State Crime Command in an advisory capacity with a view to handing over the investigation at a later stage, if deemed appropriate. Should the matter fall outside the charter of the State Crime Command, Newcastle LAC would retain investigative carriage of the matter.

In early October 2010 Strike Force Lantle commenced investigations into allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy from the Newcastle/Maitland diocese of the Catholic Church. The Strike Force consisted of Detective Senior Sergeant Justine Quinn, Detective Sergeant Kirren Steel and Detective Senior Constable Jason Freaney and was under the hegemony of Detective Chief Inspector Bradley Taylor, the then Crime Manager of Newcastle City LAC. At that time an E@gle investigation was also commenced.

It is clear from records within the E@gle holdings that difficulties between Investigators/Managers of Lantle and Detective Chief Inspector Fox seem to have commenced almost from the beginning of the investigation. This would appear to relate to issues concerning investigative responsibility for the complaint and the possession of files/statements pertaining to Lantle. There is also an underlying issue regarding the probity of the investigation, particularly to what appears to be a constant leaking of information to Ms McCarthy.

On 2 December 2010 a meeting was held between officers from Newcastle City LAC, Port Stephens LAC and Northern Region to resolve issues surrounding Strike Force Lantle. Superintendent Mitchell commenced the conference by explaining that Newcastle City LAC had carriage of the

investigation at the express direction of the Region Commander, Assistant Commissioner York. As such he required DCI Fox to hand over all documents pertaining to S/F Lantle. DCI Fox indicated that he was happy to comply, but had mistakenly left the documents in question back at the Raymond Terrace Police Station. DCI Fox also mentioned a report he had recently supplied to the Region Commander.

Superintendent Mitchell directed that no officer was to speak to the media, including Joanne McCarthy without his knowledge. He added that any contact by Ms McCarthy needed be reported to him.

On 13 December 2010 Detective Sergeant Steel reported off on sick report and did not return to duty.

On 20 December 2010 Detective Chief Inspector Taylor reported off on sick report and did not return to duty.

On 21 December 2010 Detective Senior Sergeant Quinn reported off on sick report. He returned to duty on 21 February 2011 only to again report sick on 4 April 2011. He did not return to duty.

On 30 December 2010 Detective Sergeant Jeffery Little was seconded to Strike Force Lantle to replace Detective Sergeant Steel.

On 27 March 2011 Detective Inspector Parker commenced duties at Newcastle City Local Area Command as Chief of Investigations. As part of those duties I was responsible for managerial oversight of all investigation within the Command. This included Strike Force Lantle.

From this point the investigation progressed in a timely manner without further significant issue. While there were further delays associated with the investigation, these were not significantly different from those suffered during the course of any major investigation. These would include such issues as availability/reluctance of witnesses, analysis of voluminous information/intelligence, investigative delays and sick/annual leave. Any note worth delay has been documented within the Strike Force holdings, however, none would be deemed to have significantly affected the timeliness of the investigation.

Regarding the approaches made by Strike Force Lantle to Detective Chief Inspector Fox prior to 2 April 2012, interrogation of Strike Force Holdings indicates a total of 27 products associated with the name FOX.

After further review of these holding, eight products are considered to fit the criteria of the request. These documents are attached for your consideration. While some do not relate directly to contact with Detective Chief Inspector Fox, all are considered relevant as they reflect directly on the decision making processes, relating to the officer, conducted during the management of this investigation.

The final document included, is a record of conversation between Journalist Joanne McCarthy and Detective Inspector Graeme Parker, shortly after he assumed managerial control of Lantle. While this document relates to April 2011, it does show remarkable relevance to the current situation.

COMMENT:

The holdings of Strike Force Lantle are extensive. What has been supplied is merely the result of a search conducted across the investigation on the key word fox using between dates of 1/9/2010 and 4/4/2012. This should not be considered to be definitive as to contact between the Strike Force and Detective Chief Inspector Fox. It does not, for example, take into account any phone contact between officers associated with Strike Force Lantle and Detective Chief Inspector Fox that may have been recorded in individual officer's duty books, diaries, writing pads or any other means of contemporaneously recorded documentation. If these records have not been uploaded to E@gle1, they will not be captured during the conducted search.

What is, however, quite apparent is the Strike Force's willingness to accept assistance from Detective Chief Inspector Fox, even when he appeared to display an absence of enthusiasm to do so.

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for information.

Signed

**Defective Inspector
Graeme Parker
Chief of Investigations
Newcastle City LAC
19 November 2012**

ANNEXURE "H" AND "I"

**CONTENT REMOVED AT
COMMISSIONER'S DIRECTION**

Pages 342-345