



CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMISSION

TRANSCRIPT OF INVESTIGATIVE HEARING

10 CONDUCTED AT LEVEL 2, NORTH TOWER, 515 ST PAULS TERRACE,
FORTITUDE VALLEY WITH RESPECT TO

File No: CO-16-1664

HEARING NO: 17/0001

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017
(DURATION: 53MINS)

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LEGEND

PO Presiding Officer – ALAN MACSPORRAN QC
CA Counsel Assisting – GLEN RICE QC
30 HRO Hearing Room Orderly – JESSICA WINTERS
W Witness – MICHAEL CHARLTON
LR Legal Representative – Mr A J GLYNN QC with Mr M WOODFORD,
Barry Nilsson Lawyers

- CA The next witness is Councillor Michael CHARLTON of the Moreton Bay Regional Council.
- PO Mr CHARLTON, do you have any objection to taking an oath?
- W No, I don't.
- PO Thank you.
- 10 HRO Please stand and take the Bible in your right hand and repeat after me. The evidence.
- W The evidence.
- HRO Which I shall give.
- W Which I shall give.
- 20 HRO In these proceedings.
- W In these proceedings.
- HRO Shall be the truth.
- W Shall be the truth.
- HRO The whole truth.
- 30 W The whole truth.
- HRO And nothing but the truth.
- W And nothing but the truth.
- HRO So help me God.
- W So help me God.
- 40 PO Mr GLYNN, you're appearing?
- LR May it please, Mr Commissioner, I appear by leave with my learned friend Mr WOODFORD for Councillor CHARLTON, and I am instructed by Barry.Nilsson Lawyers.
- PO Thank you very much. Mr RICE.
- CA Is your name Michael Keith CHARLTON?
- 50 W Yes, it is.
- CA Mr CHARLTON, you are Deputy Mayor of Moreton Bay Regional Council?
- W Yes.

- CA You were elected in 2016 as councillor for Division 9?
- W Correct.
- CA You are appearing today in response to a notice to attend; am I right?
- W I am.
- CA Could I just show you this notice?
- 10 W Certainly.
- CA Is that a copy of the notice you received?
- W I believe so.
- CA I tender that.
- PO That's Exhibit 36.
- 20 CA Could I start with a little bit of background, Mr CHARLTON. You first became a councillor, I think, in 1994?
- W Yes.
- CA Would that have been to Pine Rivers at that stage?
- W It was.
- 30 CA And you've successfully contested every local government election since?
- W That's correct.
- CA The amalgamation occurred in 2008?
- W Yes.
- 40 CA So that, in that election, you contested a division of what was then the Moreton Bay Regional Council?
- W Correct.
- CA Were you contesting Division 9 at that stage?
- W I believe so, yes.
- CA And so you've been the councillor for Division 9 since 2008?
- 50 W Correct.
- CA I'll just ask you, firstly, about the 2008 election. One feature of it, I think, was that you and another gentleman, called Brian BATTERSBY, campaigned as a group; is that correct?
- W Bryan GALVIN.

- CA Bryan GALVIN, was it? Sorry.
- W Bryan GALVIN was the mayoral candidate.
- CA Did you join with him for campaign purposes?
- W Yes, I did.
- 10 CA As a group?
- W Correct.
- CA Was there a scheme of declaration or registration of a group at that stage?
- W I'm not sure what a scheme of declaration is.
- 20 CA Well, you know under the 2011 Act, a group has to be registered with the Electoral Commission giving notice of who the members of the group are and other details; did you know that?
- W Under the 2011 Act?
- CA 2011, yes.
- W But we're talking about the 2008 election, aren't we?
- 30 CA We are, yes. Was there such a scheme in 2008?
- W I don't recall. I recall registering as a group, but I don't recall a scheme.
- CA What was the purpose of joining with him as a group for the purpose of that election?
- W I supported Brian as the mayoral candidate. It was for convenience of operation in manning pooling booths and for funding of campaign.
- 40 CA What advantages did it have for campaign purposes?
- W Well, there were two campaigns. Where there was commonality in approach to the campaign around manning of booths in my division, I supplied workers to -- in fact, I think I had a joint How to Vote Card with Brian in 2008.
- CA There was some resource sharing?
- W There was.
- 50 CA Anything more than that?
- W Well, there was the financial -- my campaign was financed through the group.
- CA Did you do joint fundraising then?

- W I attended some fundraisers with Brian, yes, I did.
- CA When you contested the 2012 election, did you do so as an independent or as a member of a group?
- W As an independent.
- CA And likewise in 2016?
- 10 W Yes.
- CA As an independent?
- W As an independent.
- CA Can I just ask you for your view on what is the content of the expression "independent" as it applies to you?
- 20 W Well, that's a good question. I guess the way I view the word "independent" is that I'm not obligated to anybody else, that I am free to make the decisions that I see fit, and certainly when it comes to holding office, there is no obligation upon me to vote any particular way to honour a commitment to anyone else.
- CA For the 2016 elections, did you promote yourself using the word "independent"?
- W I don't recall. Look, I may have, but I'm-
- 30 CA Some people make quite a thing of it and others don't want to do so. I'm just wondering where you fit in the scheme of things.
- W I certainly view myself as an independent character.
- CA In your interface with electors, though, is that something you promote to them?
- W Correct.
- 40 CA Do you do so in any written form? In any of the written election material that gets prepared, do you use the word "independent" or promote that aspect?
- W Look, I may well have. I'm not 100 per cent sure. I don't have all my electoral material here before me. But certainly I'm not a member of a political party. I've never been a member of a political party, and I've always informed my community of that and badged myself as an independent, I believe, accordingly.
- 50 CA You know, of course, the Mayor, Allan SUTHERLAND?
- W I do.
- CA Just remind me which elections he contested -- was it 2008?
- W Yes.

- CA Successfully?
- W Yes.
- CA And he has been in office since then?
- W Correct.
- 10 CA And you're now his Deputy Mayor?
- W I'm the council's Deputy Mayor.
- CA In 2016, your campaign material included, did it not, a letter of endorsement from Allan SUTHERLAND?
- W Sorry, could you repeat that question?
- 20 CA In 2016, your campaign material, your printed material-
- W Correct, yes.
- CA -included a letter of endorsement from the Mayor, Allan SUTHERLAND?
- W Yes, it did.
- CA On the back of that letter, there was a How to Vote Card; is that correct?
- 30 W Correct.
- CA How did you come to get a letter of endorsement from the Mayor?
- W The Mayor asked me would I like a letter of endorsement.
- CA So he approached you, or at least initiated it?
- W I believe -- that's the best of my recollection.
- 40 CA You would remember if you went seeking such a thing, wouldn't you?
- W Well, election campaigns can be fairly frenetic environments. I can't guarantee that I would have remembered having approached, but that's not my recollection. I believe it came up in conversation, and my thought process was simply I think there's some benefit potentially in that, so I accepted the offer.
- CA What use did you make of the letter? I assume he wrote you a letter?
- 50 W He did. I believe you have a copy of what you're referring to. And it was letterbox dropped through Division 9.
- CA Was it letterbox dropped with the How to Vote on the back of it?
- W That's correct.

- CA How valuable do you think that kind of endorsement was for your campaign?
- W You mentioned Councillor Brian BATTERSBY, retired, or ex-Councillor Brian BATTERSBY earlier. In my very first election, in 1994, he said to me, "At the end of the day, you will get a result and you will analyse it, but you'll never know actually what has caused the result." So I don't believe it did either the Mayor or I any harm. In fact, I have reminded the Mayor that his highest divisional vote of 65 per cent was in Division 9.
- 10 CA Presumably you used it by way of mail-out because you thought it had some community capital?
- W Correct.
- CA Not possible to quantify it?
- W I don't know how I would quantify it.
- 20 CA You didn't pay him for it?
- W Sorry?
- CA You didn't pay him for such a letter?
- W My intent, the decision to do the letter, was for me to pay 50 per cent. Post election, Allan offered to pay for the whole lot, and my response was I would accept that, but it had to be declared as a third party declaration, which it was.
- 30 CA I'm sorry, I am not quite sure I understood all that. There was a cost for the production of the letter?
- W Correct.
- CA Which you shared, did you?
- W We shared in that I declared a benefit from Allan SUTHERLAND on my declaration form and that cost was part of that benefit, my share of that cost.
- 40 CA You didn't pay him, though, for the fact of his writing you a letter of endorsement?
- W No, I did not. No.
- CA From the sound of it, you discussed at least the cost of the mail-out, so I assume that you told him that you were going to make use of it by way of a mail-out or in some other public way?
- 50 W Well, there would be little point in him writing the letter if I wasn't going to make use of it.
- CA Okay. You have used joint How to Vote Cards in the past, haven't you?

- W I've used joint How to Vote Cards for some time, I think off the top of my head back to 1997, but I don't have records that go back that far, so I'm not 100 per cent sure.
- CA You did so in 2016?
- W Yes.
- 10 CA There was a joint How to Vote Card with Mr SUTHERLAND?
- W Correct.
- CA Can I just show you this. Is that a copy of the joint card?
- W I believe so, yes.
- CA I tender that.
- 20 PO That's Exhibit 37.
- CA How did it come about, Mr CHARLTON, that you and Mayor SUTHERLAND had a joint How to Vote Card for the 2016 election?
- W Look, I don't recall any specific conversation or who initiated that conversation. But, again, it's a matter of logistical resources and, from my point of view, habit. As you pointed out, I have been using joint How to Vote Cards for some time.
- 30 CA Someone must have decided to get it printed in that fashion, though.
- W Correct.
- CA Who was that?
- W Well, I decided, and so did the Mayor.
- CA Was it something that you spoke about to each other, that you would do this, or did you, for example, just do it without reference to him?
- 40 W Oh, no, no. I would not use the Mayor's image without his permission.
- CA Okay.
- W I would think that would be disrespectful.
- CA So following on from that, there must have been some communication concerning what was proposed?
- 50 W Correct, yes, and we agreed on the design.
- CA Speaking of the design, we see in fact you have, in that instance, used the word "independent" to describe yourself as a local councillor?
- W Yes.

- CA And the same for the Mayor. The format of each card is quite similar, isn't it, in terms of artwork? The colour is different, but in other respects the layout is quite similar?
- W Well, they're both a similar size, so I suppose, yes, the answer is they are similar, yes.
- CA Well, the font size for both names is the same; the font is the same? Below that, you both declare your independence; correct?
- 10 W Correct, yes.
- CA And you would appear jointly to have adopted the slogan "For a bright future"; correct?
- W Correct.
- CA Who came up with that slogan?
- 20 W Well, I don't recall who came up with the slogan "For a bright future", but on the rest of my electoral material, my slogan was "Bright ideas for a bright future", and I came up with that particular slogan.
- CA You don't know what the origin was of those words "For a bright future" that appear on that How to Vote Card?
- W Sorry?
- CA Do you know what the origin was of that set of words, "For a bright future", that appear on that How to Vote Card?
- 30 W The first I heard that slogan was at the launch of the university site concept. I thought it was a good slogan and put the "Bright ideas for a bright future" on the front of it.
- CA Which university site, Mr CHARLTON?
- W That's the Petrie University site, now known as The Mill PDA.
- 40 CA That layout with its similarities, was that something that was derived from a previous example or did you arrive at that kind of artwork for the purpose of this election?
- W Look, I'm not 100 per cent sure. I think there's a commonality. It was just a decision made to use that artwork.
- CA Was there cost sharing associated with the use of that How to Vote Card?
- 50 W Again, there was to be cost sharing. That was my intent at the time of the production of the How to Vote Cards. And, again, Allan offered to pay for the entire cost, which, again, was part of that declaration.
- CA A How to Vote Card, can I suggest, is one form of self-promotion of yourself as a candidate?

- W Correct.
- CA Would you accept that a person looking at that How to Vote Card would think that you and Mr SUTHERLAND were mutually supporting each other for election purposes?
- W You could deduce that, yes.
- 10 CA Having had an arrangement with him for the use of a joint How to Vote Card, did you pause at any time to consider whether that might give rise to at least a perception that you and he were a group of candidates?
- W No. No, I did not, and in fact my understanding of both the intent and the definition of a group of candidates -- I believed we didn't fall into that category. And if the intent of the disclosure of a group is so that the electors can see who is supporting who, I would say that that How to Vote Card, by your own statement, clearly shows that I was supporting the Mayor as the mayoral candidate, but not as a group.
- 20 CA There were other shared promotional arrangements, weren't there?
- W There were.
- CA There was a billboard; correct?
- W Yes.
- 30 CA You shared a billboard with Mayor SUTHERLAND and Councillor GILLAM?
- W Correct.
- CA Just the one?
- W Yes.
- CA Do you know whether Mr SUTHERLAND supported other candidates by way of a letter of endorsement such as he gave you?
- 40 W I don't know for sure if he did or if he didn't, no.
- CA Can I show you this billboard image. Is that an image of the shared billboard with the Mayor and Councillor GILLAM?
- W Yes, it is.
- CA That was positioned, was it, on Gympie Road towards Bald Hills Flats?
- W Correct.
- 50 CA I tender that billboard image.
- PO Exhibit 38.
- CA Can I show you a tax invoice. I am not sure if you have seen it before, but just have a look at it. I am going to suggest to you that that's a tax

invoice from the business APN, being the publisher of that billboard that is depicted on the screen?

W Yes.

CA Have you seen that invoice before?

W No.

10 CA Okay. Do you see that that invoice is made out to - just pick it up if you wouldn't mind - to "A bright future for Moreton Bay". Do you know of any such entity?

W No.

CA Do you know the address, 72 Southern Cross Drive, Newport?

20 W I believe it may be the Mayor's address, but I'm not 100 per cent sure of the Mayor's address as being that, but I believe it may well be his address.

CA Was there a payment sharing arrangement between the three of you for the use of that joint billboard?

30 W Again, there was to be - I was going to pay a percentage of the billboard and when it came time for that to be arranged, the Mayor again offered to pick up my share as well as his share and, again, my response was I would accept that, but it had to be part of that third party declaration, which it was then, and is.

CA I tender that invoice.

PO Exhibit 39.

CA I will show you another billboard image, although it doesn't depict you. Can I suggest it is an image of a billboard that was positioned on Anzac Avenue. Do you know anything about that?

40 W Only that I saw it when I drove down that way.

CA Right. Did you have anything to do with the establishing of that billboard?

W No.

CA Any discussion with any of the persons depicted about that billboard?

W I was aware of the billboard, but that's all. I wasn't part of its creation.

50 CA I tender that billboard image.

PO Exhibit 40.

CA I will show you some invoices then, Mr CHARLTON, and I will ask you to comment about them, if you can. There are a number of invoices there from a business called Bishopp Outdoor Advertising.

- W Yes.
- CA Being the entity associated with establishing that billboard that I just showed you.
- W Yes.
- 10 CA Do you see that each of them is made out to the Allan SUTHERLAND Mayoral Campaign?
- W Yes.
- CA But each one includes an inscription of the words "Allan SUTHERLAND Mayoral Campaign 2016", with your name in brackets after it.
- W Yes.
- 20 CA Did you have anything to do with the payment of that invoice?
- W No, I didn't have anything to do with the payment of the invoice.
- CA Did you have anything to do with establishing the contract for the setting up of that billboard?
- W I had conversations with Bishopp Outdoor about what signs might or might not be available, and handed that over to the Mayor for his decision from that point on.
- 30 CA Well, were you delegated in some way to make inquiries to report back to the Mayor about costs?
- W No, I did that of my own--
- CA What prompted you to do that?
- W I believe billboards were an appropriate medium to be used.
- 40 CA Okay. But why make an inquiry about billboards for the purpose of reporting back to the Mayor?
- W Well, simply as assistance to the Mayor.
- CA Was that in the course of any inquiries that you were making on your own behalf, like an add-on--
- W Correct.
- 50 CA --or was it some cost?
- W Correct. I mean, my desire to look at billboards sprung from my desire to have a billboard in the Strathpine area, if it was available, for my use. I believe it's an appropriate and effective medium.
- CA I appreciate this isn't your document, it's an invoice, but do you,

looking at that, have any explanation for the use of your name on the invoice?

W Only that I had spoken to them about the billboards and, clearly, they've used that as their contact.

CA Were you a contact for them in relation to the billboard used by the Mayor and those other two candidates?

10 W Well, no. I don't believe so, no.

CA Did you get any communications from Bishopp Advertising in relation to that billboard on Anzac Avenue?

W Not that I recall other than when I, as I said earlier, asking what billboards might or mightn't be available.

CA Was your contact with Bishopp Advertising limited to that?

20 W I believe so.

CA Did you give them contact details for yourself, your mobile phone, for example?

W I believe they already had those.

CA How would they have had that?

30 W Through dealing with council, with applications for signage.

CA I see.

W And all my contact details are also publicly available.

CA Yes. So to confirm, there was, you say, no contact with Bishopp Advertising concerning the billing for this billboard?

W I don't believe so, no.

40 CA Can I change the subject a bit and ask you about whether you're aware of an entity called the Moreton Futures Trust?

W Yes, I am.

CA Do you know Kirby LEEKE and Dr John RYAN?

W Yes, I do.

50 CA Just take them in turn. First of all Kirby LEEKE, how do you know him?

W I've known Kirby for a long time, through family associations and associations with the Masonic Lodge.

CA Going back how far, can you estimate?

- W Oh, probably close to 35 to 40 years. Kirby's father, Malcolm LEEKE, was the accountant for Better Stores and my father-in-law Jim JEFFERIES was one of the founders of Better Stores and when I worked for my father-in-law at Mitchelton, there was some association in the delivery of things - papers and documents to M V LEEKE & Co.
- CA And Dr John RYAN, how do you know him?
- 10 W Dr John has been my personal physician for quite some years now and he was practising in Albany Creek where I have lived since 1980, and he was also a mutual friend of Bryan GALVIN's.
- CA What do you know about the origin of Moreton Futures Trust?
- W Moreton Futures Trust was set up as a vehicle to raise funds to fund election campaigns for candidates, as determined by the trustee, as I understand it.
- 20 CA About how long ago, can you estimate?
- W Oh, look, I'm not 100 per cent sure, but sometime between 2008 and 2012.
- CA Do you know of any connection between Kirby LEEKE and Dr John RYAN and the Moreton Futures Trust?
- W In that they're trustees.
- 30 CA Well, are they trustees to your knowledge?
- W My understanding is that they are trustees, yes.
- CA Do you know what is the purpose of the trust's existence?
- W The purpose is as I just stated. My understanding, the trust was created as a vehicle to raise funds to fund election campaigns for candidates, at the choice of the trust.
- 40 CA Do you know how persons associated with the trust raised money?
- W I'm aware of some fundraising activities, but not necessarily all.
- CA What kind? What kind of activities are you aware of?
- W I'm aware of an event out at Lakeside, a motor sport day. In fact, I think there was more than one, I think there was two. I think there was a corporate dinner. But apart from that I'm not - I'm certainly not sure, and I've had no active role in any of that for some time now.
- 50 CA You know who the trustees are. Do you know whether they in fact are the ones who decide how funds that are raised might be disbursed?
- W That's my understanding.
- CA That the trustees do it?

- W That's my understanding.
- CA Okay. You have just said, I think, that you had no involvement with the operation of the trust since its establishment?
- W No, I said I've had--
- CA Oh, okay, I may have misquoted you. If I have, I'm sorry.
- 10 W That's not my statement.
- CA Okay. All right. Well, perhaps you can tell --
- W I said that I haven't had any involvement with the trust for some time now.
- CA I see. All right. I am looking to establish what connection you have had had with the trust so perhaps you can tell us historically what that is?
- 20 W Certainly I was part of the discussions and the concept for the formation of the trust, and then there was a change in legislation, there was a change in trustees, and I determined to not have any active role in the trust from, off the top of my head, early 2012, prior to the 2012 election.
- CA Is there some committee associated with making decisions as to who might benefit from funds raised?
- 30 W No.
- CA Do you know of any such committee?
- W No, I do not.
- CA Do you know anything about the decision-making in terms of how funds are disbursed since you withdrew your involvement with it?
- 40 W Only what I've just answered, and my understanding is that it's the trustees' decision.
- CA Do you know any meetings of persons directed to carrying out the objects of the trust?
- W With specifics to what?
- CA Well, I am just looking to explore what your level of knowledge is. Whether you have any knowledge of meetings of persons, or whether persons meet, for the purpose of carrying out the Objects of the trust?
- 50 W Not that I'm aware of. Not that I've been part of for some time.
- CA And specifically, say, during the period 2012 through to the 2016 election, you were not on any committee associated with the carrying out of the trust's Objects?

- W I can only be sure of in the lead-up to the 2012 - sorry, what period are we talking about?
- CA Well, 2012 to 2016.
- W Yes. No, from early 2012 on, apart from being aware of the trust and knowing the people involved on a personal nature, I've had no involvement.
- 10 CA Do you know whether Mayor SUTHERLAND received funds from Moreton Futures Trust for the 2016 campaign?
- W I believe he did.
- CA What is the basis of your belief?
- W Him stating that in his declaration.
- 20 CA His gifts disclosure declaration?
- W Well, it - no. No, I think it was the Electoral Commission declaration.
- CA I beg your pardon?
- W I think it was the Electoral Commission declaration, and also a statement from him that he had received funds from the trust.
- 30 CA Was it ever a subject of discussion between you and him going into the 2016 election?
- W In what way?
- CA Well, as to how he might be funded and whether there might be some benefits to him from that?
- W He may have made statements that he was being funded by the trust, but it wasn't a topic of discussion, or an involvement that I had.
- 40 CA Were you ever offered money from the Moreton Futures Trust?
- W In the 2016 election?
- CA Yes.
- W No.
- CA Had you been offered money prior to that?
- 50 W Yes.
- CA For campaign purposes?
- W Yes.
- CA In which election?

W 2012.

CA Did you receive money on that occasion?

W I did, which is on my declaration, a \$5,000 loan which was repaid in full.

10 CA Can I just go to your disclosure return. I see the invoice. I don't think I tendered that, I better do so now. If you just pass it back and I'll describe it. There were three invoices from Bishopp Advertising; I tender those invoices.

PO Exhibit 41.

CA Can I show you this disclosure return, Mr CHARLTON. Just confirm for us that that's your disclosure return dated 1 July 2016?

20 W Yes, I believe so.

CA If you look at page 2, it describes the amount of gifts received as being just under \$14,000, with quite a large number of donors?

W Yes.

CA It is a very precise figure of 94. Does someone keep a record of that?

W It was a best estimation of a combination of the campaign launch, and a couple of people that I met outside of that who couldn't make it to the campaign launch who donated \$50 each.

30 CA All right. Well, looking at page 3, in terms of the donations above the sum of \$200, there are only two.

W Yes.

CA One is the Mayor?

W Correct. That's those in-kind donations that I mentioned.

40 CA The billboard?

W The billboard, the letter, and the How to Vote Card.

CA Okay. Those three things?

W My share of those.

CA They're rolled up in that figure of \$2,501?

50 W Correct.

CA Well, the balance then - well, the \$4,500 attributed to those two people, the total is just under \$14,000, leaves about \$8,500. How was that derived?

W I had a campaign launch in early March which was--
CA Of 2016?
W Of 2016.
CA Right.
W And those funds were raised at that campaign launch.
10 CA Was that at a soccer club?
W Correct.
CA Can you explain what it consisted of?
W Yes. I had not a lot to do with the organisation. It was actually
20 suggested by Bryan GALVIN that I have a campaign launch. My
response was that I thought I was a bit too occupied with the campaign.
He suggested that he would assist, so we went from there and the local
soccer club made itself available to host a meet and greet, just for
a couple of hours, come along, hear from the Mayor, hear from
a couple of my supporters and myself.
CA Which soccer club was that?
W Albany Creek Excelsior Soccer Club.
CA Were there a lot of people in attendance?
30 W There were.
CA I tender that disclosure return.
PO Exhibit 42.
CA You were aware, were you, Mr CHARLTON, of the requirement under
the Electoral Act to keep a dedicated account for campaign purposes?
40 W Correct.
CA Did you do so?
W Yes, I did.
CA Can I show you this account statement. Is that a copy of a National
Bank statement of yours?
W Yes, it is.
50 CA Is that account your dedicated campaign account?
W I believe so, yes.
CA We see in that, on the 8th of March, a cash deposit of \$8,000. Do you
see that?

W Yes, I do.

CA Can you just tell us where that was derived from?

W That was from the campaign launch.

CA Proceeds of the campaign launch?

10 W Correct.

CA Right. Can you tell us if that amount of \$8,000 is included in the \$13,900 that you declared as gifts?

W I would expect so.

CA Well, by what means was \$8,000 raised on that occasion?

W It was \$50 entry fee.

20 CA Yes.

W Off the top of my head there was around 90-odd people there and there were raffles run on the day.

CA And drinks as well?

W Sorry?

30 CA Drinks? Alcohol?

W Yes, there were, yes.

CA On that bank statement there are a couple of entries. One is the 10th of March showing an internet transfer, a debit to campaign card.

W Yes.

CA Can you explain what that is?

40 W Yes. That's a credit card which I opened to pay bills.

CA Campaign bills?

W Campaign bills, and campaign bills only, at that point in time, and then that card would be paid through the dedicated campaign account.

CA So when you get your credit card statement and see what it is, do you make the transfer from your campaign account to pay off the credit card?

50 W Correct.

CA But the details of purchases involved in that amount so transferred are to be found only on the credit card; correct?

- W Yes.
- CA And similarly on the 29th of March there is a transaction of the same kind, being a transfer of \$1,468 to your credit card?
- W Sorry, which date?
- CA 29 March.
- 10 W No, that's not to the credit card.
- CA Okay. You're right. There is one, however, I think on the next page, 14 April, a sum of \$4,364?
- W Correct.
- CA The credit card, was it brought into existence for the purpose of the campaign or was it one you already had?
- 20 W No, it was one I opened purely for the campaign and I would have cancelled it but my daughter is a single mum with five boys and she moved back to Brisbane late last year, in October last year, and I've given her that card to use from that point on, but there is a clear separation between the operations.
- CA Was it a National Bank card like the bank account?
- W Yes, it is.
- 30 CA Did you open the bank account for the purpose of a campaign, or was it one you already had?
- W No, no, it was specifically opened for the campaign.
- CA Can you tell us did you open a bank account and apply for a credit card at the same time or--
- W I'm not 100 per cent sure. I can't--
- 40 CA At any rate, they were both for the same purpose?
- W Correct, yes. I mean, I may have applied for the credit card after opening the bank account, I'm not 100 per cent sure, but certainly the concept of the credit card was to be for the campaign - campaign purposes.
- CA I have almost finished, Mr Chairman, but there is one matter that I need to take up with the Commission's officers for a short time, if I may, so if I could ask for an adjournment for a short period. We will establish in the meantime whether there is anything further to ask Mr CHARLTON.
- 50
- PO Okay. Let me know when you are ready to resume. We will adjourn for a short time.
- HRO All stand, please. This hearing stands adjourned.

SHORT ADJOURNMENT

- HRO All stand, please. This hearing is resumed.
- PO Mr RICE.
- CA Thank you. Just a couple of things, Mr CHARLTON, about the soccer club campaign launch that you mentioned.
- 10 W Yes.
- CA Were there costs associated with the conduct of that?
- W Yes, there were.
- CA What were they?
- 20 W I have no idea. I didn't handle any of the money on the day. Bryan GALVIN did all that. As I said, it was in the middle of the election campaign, so I had no role in that at all.
- CA Do you know what sort of costs would have been incurred, or the cost to use the clubhouse, for example?
- W I'm not in a position to comment. I didn't have any involvement with that on the day and that is now some time ago. As I said, I was in the middle of the election campaign.
- 30 CA It was suggested to you that you should have a launch, so you did?
- W Correct.
- CA Do we take it that it was arranged by others?
- W I spoke to the soccer club, or the past president of the soccer club about it, but most of the organisation was done by others from my recollection, from my memory.
- 40 CA What others? Who were they?
- W Bryan GALVIN and a gentleman called Claude SORBELLO, who was the past president of the soccer club.
- CA So the logistics of getting food and drink and whatever else you had on the night were left to others?
- W Correct.
- 50 CA You don't know how they were paid for?
- W I assume they were paid out of the takings of the entrance fees.
- CA Do you know who collected the entrance fees?
- W I think it was Bryan, but I'm not 100 per cent sure.

- CA Was it done in cash on the night or in some other way?
- W No, it was cash.
- CA It was a cash event, was it?
- W To the best of my understanding, yes, it was.
- 10 CA And you received, at the end of the process, \$8,000 as we have seen credited to your bank account?
- W No, that was one payment. There is another payment there as well, sir.
- CA Is there? Just point that out if you still have it in front of you.
- W I think it's - to the best of my recollection, it's the \$1,455 on the 22nd of March and, again, Bryan handled all the finances and gave me the first deposit and said that they were still finalising costs and accounts, and then he gave me the balance which I deposited in the account.
- 20 CA I tender that bank statement.
- PO Exhibit 43.
- CA That is Mr CHARLTON's evidence.
- PO Thank you.
- 30 Mr CHARLTON, just one thing. Looking at that page on the screen at the moment, Exhibit 43, you will see that there is an amount of \$1,468.08 on the 29th of March, the 10th of March; I think there's a third one on the last page, on the 18th of May, and they are all referable to separate invoices. Do you recall now what those were for, the same amount each time?
- W I've made some notes, Mr MACSPORRAN, if I might refer to those?
- 40 PO Certainly. You may refer to those if you need to.
- W I believe it was for letterbox dropping.
- PO I see.
- W Iris Brooks letterbox dropping which was direct debits. I will just need to find the page. So the one on the 29th of March which is \$1,468.08 for invoice 348 was for Iris Brooks letterbox dropping, as was the one on the 18th of May for \$1,468.08, invoice 413.
- 50 PO And the 10th of March, I think, was the third one.
- W And there's one on the 19th of March - sorry, the 10th of March, \$1,468, again the same letterbox dropper.
- PO The same contractor?

W The same contractor.

PO Just finally the soccer club, were you a member of that club?

W No.

PO Were you a frequenter of the club?

10 W Infrequently. More upon invitation from the club to certain matches or specific events.

PO Did you expect that there would be a charge for you to use the club for a couple of hours for your launch?

W Correct.

PO Okay. There was no suggestion it was going to be given to you for nothing?

20 W No.

PO All right. Thank you. Mr GLYNN?

LR No, Commissioner.

PO Thank you. Thank you for coming, Mr CHARLTON. You are excused.

30 W Thank you.

PO Mr RICE?

CA They are the witnesses scheduled for today.

PO Thank you. Can you just tell us, just for those present, who the witnesses tomorrow are?

CA Yes. They are Dr John RYAN, Tim CONNOLLY and Kirby LEEKE.

40 PO Thank you, Mr RICE. We will adjourn, thank you, until tomorrow at 10 am.

HRO All stand, please. This hearing is adjourned.