



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

(Reference: [Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No 3 of 2018: Tender for the sale of block 30 \(formerly block 20\) section 34 Dickson](#))

Members:

MRS V DUNNE (Chair)
MS T CHEYNE (Deputy Chair)
MS B CODY
MS N LAWDER

TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE

CANBERRA

WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY 2019

Secretary to the committee:
Dr B Lloyd (Ph: 620 50137)

By authority of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

Submissions, answers to questions on notice and other documents, including requests for clarification of the transcript of evidence, relevant to this inquiry that have been authorised for publication by the committee may be obtained from the Legislative Assembly website.

WITNESSES

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Amended 20 May 2013

The committee met at 9.35 am.

WOOD-BRADLEY, MR IAN

THE CHAIR: Good morning and welcome to what is probably the final hearing of the committee's inquiry into Auditor-General's report No 3 of 2018, *Tender for the sale of block 30 (formerly block 20) section 34 Dickson*. This morning we will hear from Mr Ian Wood-Bradley. Have you seen the privilege statement, Mr Wood-Bradley?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes, I received it.

THE CHAIR: There is not one on the table, but could you confirm for the committee that you have read and understood the implications of the privilege statement?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes, I have.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Mr Wood-Bradley, the committee has asked you to appear today as a witness. You have already appeared as a witness—

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes.

THE CHAIR: in relation to your role on the tender evaluation panel for the sale of block 30, formerly block 20, section 34 Dickson. When you appeared at the hearing you said that you had no role in it, which left the committee feeling a little embarrassed, but we were subsequently informed and given paperwork that showed that you were a signatory to the tender evaluation process.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Sure.

THE CHAIR: And so we have asked you to come back again. Why did you tell the committee that you had nothing to do with the process?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Look, I did not recall being part of the process. I have been involved in two other tender evaluations, one at Dickson and one at Gungahlin town centre, and I was on the evaluation panel with the late Alistair Swain. Alistair and I were there to give advice on planning and design, because of my expertise in urban design and Alistair being the government architect.

The Woolworths car park site, which is the northern side of Woolworths, was actually one of the sites that we considered. There were comprehensive designs that were prepared for those tenders and the tenders were evaluated on financial and non-financial grounds using criteria.

THE CHAIR: But, back when you appeared last, you told the committee that you had no involvement in that process.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes. Look, I was really surprised when I saw the report, because I did not recall signing it. I may have signed it; I just cannot recall signing it. I have no

recollection of seeing or being involved in a panel process with the Dickson site, with that trade union, with the Tradies.

THE CHAIR: But you said that you were aware of the plans and you were aware that the tender evaluation process included both financial and non-financial issues, so what is it that you remember?

Mr Wood-Bradley: No, I remember that for both the Woolworths car park site and the Gungahlin cinema and supermarket site there were plans prepared for those two sites. With this site, the Tradies site, I cannot recall ever seeing a plan, so I can only assume that the design was not a matter for consideration in this evaluation. I cannot even recall the actual process for the Tradies club site.

THE CHAIR: But you can recall the process for the Gungahlin site?

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right and also—

THE CHAIR: And that was roughly at the same time?

Mr Wood-Bradley: No. It would have been before this. This would have been probably the last one. I would love to recall it, but I just cannot recall seeing the tender evaluation report; I cannot recall signing it. I cannot recall ever seeing any plans for the Dickson Tradies site.

MS CHEYNE: With respect, we do not believe the document lies, so were you just signing things without reading them?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Well, look, I cannot tell you if that was the case.

MS CHEYNE: Okay.

Mr Wood-Bradley: I just cannot recall if that was the case. I mean, I am quite a visual person. I recall clearly the other evaluations and we were really giving our view, from a design perspective, on what were the best designs or which ones we thought had the most promise. I wish Alistair was here, because I could talk to him about it, but I was, quite frankly, quite surprised when I saw the signed report. I mean, I have not sighted the original, but I was surprised when I read it. I can only imagine that design really did not come into it, because there were no comprehensive plans prepared or evaluated.

MS CHEYNE: What was your own record keeping like at the time?

Mr Wood-Bradley: I would have had a calendar and probably notes and notepads, which would have helped in providing advice to the tender evaluation panel, or to the other panel members, on matters of design and design.

MS CHEYNE: Have you kept those?

Mr Wood-Bradley: No. I really do not have them, no.

THE CHAIR: Where were you working at the time? Were you in the public service at the time—

Mr Wood-Bradley: No.

THE CHAIR: or had you gone on to private practice?

Mr Wood-Bradley: No. That was 2012. I am not sure of the exact date. My contract was terminated at the end of my contract period, which was, I think, the end of October 2012, and I was a consultant beyond that date.

THE CHAIR: So you were with the ACT public service as a contractor?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes.

THE CHAIR: Not as a permanent officer?

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right.

THE CHAIR: Until October 2012?

Mr Wood-Bradley: No, no, no. From October 2012 through to probably October 2016 I was a contractor with the ACT government.

THE CHAIR: And prior to that you had been—

Mr Wood-Bradley: I was an officer, yes.

THE CHAIR: an officer of the ACT public service?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes.

THE CHAIR: The tender process was basically November-December 2012. How many other tender evaluations have you done that you can recall?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Look, I can recall the two that I talked about, at the Gungahlin and the Dickson site.

THE CHAIR: So the other Dickson site.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes, the Woolworths site on the northern side of Woolworths between Antill—

THE CHAIR: The car park site.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes; that is right.

THE CHAIR: So you were involved in the tender evaluation—

Mr Wood-Bradley: The tender evaluation of that, yes.

THE CHAIR: for the car park, the Dickson car park site next to Antill Street?

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right. Yes.

THE CHAIR: And you recollect being involved in the Gungahlin shopping centre and cinema site.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes.

THE CHAIR: But you have absolutely no recollection of this. Those two that you recall, were they earlier than this?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Yes. There were designs that I reviewed with Alistair and we came to a consensus about what we thought was the best from a design perspective.

THE CHAIR: In your sort of limited experience, you can recall two other sites that you were on the tender evaluation panel for, from an urban design perspective—

Mr Wood-Bradley: Perspective, that is right.

THE CHAIR: that you had input into. So how did it work? For the other ones, did the tender evaluation panel sit down together or did you work with Mr Swain and then come together with the rest of the tender evaluation panel? How did it work?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Well, for the two other ones we were briefed by the Government Solicitor, Loretta—I have forgotten her last name.

THE CHAIR: Sorry?

Mr Wood-Bradley: We were briefed by the Government Solicitor about probity and about the role of the panel et cetera.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

Mr Wood-Bradley: We met as a panel. Alistair and I, I think, met separately and then together with the panel and we arrived at a clear recommendation. That happened with both the Dickson site—that is, the Woolies car park and shopping centre site.

THE CHAIR: That is the one that Coles eventually acquired.

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right.

THE CHAIR: So we might call it the Coles site.

Mr Wood-Bradley: The Coles site.

THE CHAIR: Yes.

Mr Wood-Bradley: And also for the Gungahlin cinema and supermarket site. But

with the trade union—sorry, with the Tradies club site, the car park site—frankly, I just do not recall it.

THE CHAIR: So you are saying that you have no recollection of being briefed by the Government Solicitor?

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right.

THE CHAIR: Do you recall who else might have been on the evaluation committee?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Well, I know that on the evaluation panel there was Floyd Kennedy, Alistair and me. Richard Drummond was the other party, I think.

THE CHAIR: Actually, we have got that somewhere. Yes, we do have that.

Mr Wood-Bradley: And, look, I have—

THE CHAIR: You were saying that you know that because you have seen a copy of the document?

Mr Wood-Bradley: I say that because they were on the panel previously and also I was given a copy of the tender evaluation panel report. I saw that I was a signatory to it, but, look, I cannot recall signing it. I can only imagine that the only reason I would have probably done that was because there was nothing from a design perspective that was a matter for consideration.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

Mr Wood-Bradley: I imagine that both tenders did not include designs or were very basic. I know I have never seen any design for the site.

THE CHAIR: So—

MS CHEYNE: Sorry, Mrs Dunne. So is that why you think you do not recall this one specifically, because it did not have the level of detail or—

Mr Wood-Bradley: That is right.

MS CHEYNE: require the level of attention that the others had?

Mr Wood-Bradley: Possibly.

THE CHAIR: Have you any other questions?

MS CHEYNE: No.

THE CHAIR: Okay.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Look, I wish I could help you more, but—

THE CHAIR: We do too.

MS CHEYNE: Yes. Look, I think we certainly appreciate as a committee that this is a long time ago for everybody. People's memories have proven to be something that we have discussed at length with numerous witnesses, in terms of record keeping, but it is unhelpful for us to arrive at conclusions.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Sure.

THE CHAIR: Okay. I think if that is the case we will conclude the hearing. Thank you, Mr Wood-Bradley, for your attendance. You will receive a draft copy of the *Hansard* for review. If there are issues that you wish to raise, you can raise them through the committee secretary, Dr Lloyd. Thank you for your attendance here today. This hearing of the public accounts committee is concluded.

Mr Wood-Bradley: Okay. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you very much.

MS CHEYNE: Thank you.

The committee adjourned at 9.49 am.