

Statement to Casino Royal Commission by Jeff Carr

Thank you for the invitation to provide a written statement to the Commission. My responses to your questions are as follows.

1.

I have no specific qualifications or experience relating to the regulation and oversight of Casinos.

I do have knowledge and understanding of other aspects of gambling policy. I was Minister for Police from 1983 to 1986 during which time the Government changed the gambling landscape in a major way.

There was a crackdown on the illegal gambling houses then operating under a containment policy and gambling was legalized in a number of forms:

- (a) at the casino once it was established
- (b) the Kalgoorlie two-up school was legalized and provision made for permits to be issued to country race clubs for two-up after race meetings
- (c) community and sporting clubs were enabled to apply for permits to conduct legal gambling events

These all fall within the province of the Gaming and Wagering Commission.

I was a member of the Cabinet sub-committee, which considered submissions for the original Burswood casino licence.

2.

I do not have details of my date of appointment but my diaries show my first meeting as being on 29/01/2008 and my last on 13/12/2011.

I was appointed initially for 3 years and then renewed for 1 year.

3.

I do not recall being given any training.

4.

There were no specific allocations of responsibility within the Commission membership.

5.

I do not have records of my remuneration. I was paid in accordance with the relevant schedules for remuneration of Government Boards and Committees.

6.

The Commission normally met monthly for a half day. The agendas were provided in advance and I took some hours to study them closely.

Casino matters were always prominent but the agendas also included community gambling permits, two-up applications and other matters such as location of TAB agencies.

The Commission had at least one additional hearing when a patron of the casino appealed against his exclusion by the casino operator on the grounds of him being a problem gambler.

7 and 8.

I do not recall being given any specific information about powers, duties, responsibilities and obligations.

However given my 17 years in Parliament and my experience on other Government boards I believe I understood expectations.

9.

I do not believe the Commission was obstructed in any way during my term.

10.

I was not obstructed in any way.

11a.

I believe that I developed a sound understanding of Commission policies and procedures in regard to the casino.

These were aimed at ensuring the casino complied with legislative and regulatory requirements and involved requiring the casino to report regularly on a range of matters. The focus was on day to day operations including problem gambling, eg numbers of gaming machines and location of ATM machines.

11b.

There was not any focus on how gamblers came to be in possession of their money.

Any criminal involvement was seen as being a matter for police attention and I understood there to be communication between the Department and Police.

I was not aware of junket operators until reading media reports from the NSW enquiry.

12.

During my term the relevant department was a more specific department dealing with racing, gaming and liquor. I understood its role as being to provide reports and recommendations to the Commission and to carry out day to day administration in accord with Commission policies.

I was surprised that the Departmental Head was also the Chairman of the Commission. I am familiar with the more common structure whereby the CEO of

an organisation attends meetings of the board in an ex-officio capacity without voting rights.

This unusual structure did not cause any problems during my time due to the professionalism of the then Chairman, who did not in any way restrict questioning or criticism of the Department or its recommendations.

13 and 14.

I considered briefing papers and departmental support to be adequate.

15 and 16.

I do not recall being given any specific information about conflicts of interest but after 17 years in Parliament including 6 years as Minister for Local Government I had confidence in my understanding of the concept.

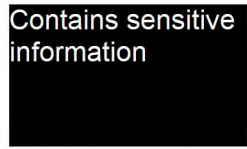
17.

I had no conflicts of interest.

18.

I presumed there was a conflict of interest policy applying to all staff of the Commission and Department but did not conduct any enquiries to confirm this. I do not recall any discussions on the subject.

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information

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Jeffrey Phillip Carr

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Amended Statement to Casino Royal Commission by Jeff Carr

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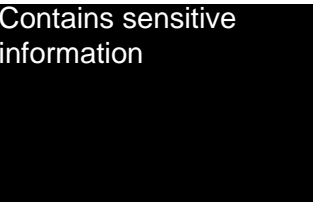
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