

**IN THE MATTER OF A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO  
THE PERTH CASINO**

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**AMENDED WITNESS STATEMENT OF MATILDA RUTH PROWSE**

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Date of Document: **12 17** May 2021

Filed on behalf of: The Gaming and Wagering Commission of  
Western Australia

Prepared by:

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I, **MATILDA RUTH PROWSE** of **Contains sensitive information**,

say as follows:

1. This statement is provided in response to the witness summons to give evidence, dated 30 April 2021 and issued pursuant to section 9 of the *Royal Commissions Act 1968* (WA), which is directed to me by the Perth Casino Royal Commission (**PCRC**).  
  
This statement addresses the matters set out in Schedule 1 to the summons.
2. I commonly go by the name Tillie Prowse.

3. I am a current member of the Gaming and Wagering Commission of Western Australia (**GWC**).
4. This statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. The views I express in this statement are from my own knowledge, except where I indicate otherwise.

### **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

5. I hold the following formal qualifications:
  - (a) BA (Hons) Degree, Social Policy and Social Work from Middlesex University, London (1990– 1994);
  - (b) Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors – GAICD (2017);
  - (c) Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training;
  - (d) National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Internal Verifiers Award (UK); and
  - (e) National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Assessors Award (UK).
6. In addition to my position on the GWC, I am currently a member of the Senior Leadership Team for the Australian Red Cross.
7. I have sat on a number of boards or commissions, including:
  - (a) the Wilderness Society (WA) Committee of Management from 2018 – 2020; and
  - (b) the board of the Patricia Giles Centre, of which I was the Chief Executive Officer ~~(GWC)~~ from 2016-2018.
8. I do not hold any specific formal qualifications specifically in relation to the regulation of casinos or casino gambling.
9. Before joining the GWC, I gained experience from a number of roles I held which have some relevance to gaming and wagering. In particular, my roles in the

Department of Corrective Services, provided me with a familiarity to operating within a legislative framework. These roles included:

- (a) Assistant Director Not for Profit Contracts from June 2010 – January 2011;
- (b) Acting Assistant Commissioner Prison Re-Entry from March 2014 – May 2014; and
- (c) Assistant Director Private Prison Contracts from January 2011 – March 2015.

## **ROLE ON THE GAMING AND WAGERING COMMISSION**

### Date and length of appointment

10. I was appointed a member of the GWC on 11 January 2021 and continue to this day.
11. To date, I have attended four GWC meetings (two in February and one in each of March and April) totalling no more than about 2 days' work.
12. The circumstances of my appointment are as follows: On 6 May 2020, I was approached by a Senior Policy Adviser (Ms Alannah Maurice) in the Minister's (Mr Paul Papallia MLA) office to provide my curriculum vitae. I subsequently met with Ms Maurice and Ally White at a café on 30 October 2020 at which the role was described to me in broad terms. I expressed my interest in joining because I wanted to apply my skills to contribute to wider WA community generally through involvement on government boards and committees. I also wished to contribute positively to the State government's commitment to increase women representation on government boards and committees. I later received a letter from Mr Papallia MLA confirming my appointment on 11 January 2021. A copy of that letter is exhibited to my statement and marked [GWC.0003.0006.0002](#).

### Training

13. When I joined the GWC, I did not receive any specific or formal training in relation to the performance of my functions as a member of the GWC, or in relation to the regulation and oversight of the Perth Casino specifically.
14. I did however attend an induction session with Ms Emily Howell, who is an Executive Officer to the GWC. At this session, we discussed the position generally, and Ms Howell provided me with an iPad and explained how it could be used to access meeting papers and the relevant statutes. Ms Howell also provided me with a copy of the following documents in hardcopy:
  - (a) the GWC Annual Report 2019-2020;
  - (b) the Public Sector Commission – Board Essentials (good governance guide for public sector boards and committees); and
  - (c) a GWC paper entitled Differentiating between Electronic Gaming Machines and Poker Machines.

### Areas of specific responsibility

15. I do not have any specific responsibilities on the GWC; the role is generic in that each member of the GWC has the same responsibilities.

### Remuneration and time spent

16. I am paid approximately \$16,600 per year for my service on the GWC. The Chair has agreed an uplift to this amount to take into account the increased time commitment arising from the PCRC. The exact amount is yet to be decided.
17. I spend approximately 5 to 6 hours a month performing my role as a member of the GWC. Attending GEC meetings would take up 2 to 3 hours of this total, depending on the agenda (and excluding travel time, when the meetings are in person). The rest is preparation time.

18. I note that the time commitments above do not include the time spent on matters related to the PCRC.

## **POWERS, DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

### Information as to powers, responsibilities, obligations and duties

19. With respect to the information that I was provided regarding the powers, responsibilities and obligations of the GWC, in addition to the materials described in paragraph 14 above, on 9 March 2021, Ms Howell provided me with a copy of the GWC's Code of Conduct.

### Obstruction

20. During my time on the GWC, I have not felt obstructed in the exercise of the GWC's powers. However, I recognise that the reliance of the GWC on Department employed staff to perform activities reduces our autonomy and ability to direct staff activities.
21. By way of example, at the April meeting of the GWC, I raised concerns that a number of action items remained outstanding (some dating back to 2018) and sought clarity from the Chair as to why a particular action to do with regulatory review had been marked "low priority". The Chairman advised that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, agencies had been directed to prioritise recovery efforts. Therefore, Departmental resources have been deployed to other priorities over the last 12 months and the regulatory review (amongst other action items) had been delayed.

### My understanding of the Commission's policies and procedures, etc

22. Given my limited time on the GWC, I am not aware of any specific policies and procedures regarding the exercise of its powers, or the discharge of its responsibilities and obligations in respect of the regulation and oversight of the:
- (a) Perth Casino; and

- (b) Risks associated with junket operations, money laundering, cash and electronic transactions at the Perth Casino and criminals infiltrating casino operations.
23. I have recently become aware of the Casino Manual, which I understand mandates certain procedures at the Perth Casino, but I have not read it or been provided with a copy.
24. With respect to junket operations, at the second meeting of the GWC I attended in February 2021, the GWC issued a direction to Crown to stop junket operations.
25. Given my recent appointment to the GWC, I am still coming to terms with the legislative framework in which the GWC operates. That said, it is my understanding that the GWC had a responsibility to report any issues with money laundering or criminal behaviour to other regulators (such as AUSTRAC or the police), and they would do the same if their investigations revealed something occurring at the Perth Casino. The GWC and the relevant regulator would then work out a strategy for addressing the issue, including by using powers under the *Casino Control Act*.

#### **SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT**

26. The Department provides all the full-time employee resources to the GWC, including the Chief Casino Officer, the inspectors and the executive support. Further, the Director General of the Department (or his deputy) chair the GWC meetings.
27. All the business of the GWC is recorded in a briefing paper (including a recommendation by the author) and then resolved by the GWC members.
28. These briefing papers are prepared by the Department and are generally provided at least five working days prior to the meeting; although amendments to the April GWC meeting were forwarded 24 hours before the meeting.

29. The briefing papers prepared by the Department are adequate. They extensively cover the matter for resolution or noting.
30. On the few occasions the information in the briefing papers has been insufficient to make a decision, the GWC has sought additional information from the Department and receive no-push back. The GWC's queries are usually addressed by the Chair (Duncan Ord, or his deputy, ~~Michael Connolly~~ Mark Beecroft), who are very experienced. Where they cannot be addressed, the Department takes the query away to address it.
31. My observation to date is the support that the Department provides to the GWC is adequate. Recently, there has been some delay in the Department responding to the GWC's "take away" queries. For example, I understand that the GWC raised questions about its key performance indicators under the legislative framework prior to my appointment, but those questions remain outstanding. This does not however change my view expressed above.

#### **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

32. With respect to Conflicts of Interest, as stated in paragraph 19 above, in March 2021 I was provided with a copy of the GWC's Code of Conduct. This document was discussed at the March meeting of the GWC (see agenda item 12.2).
33. Having worked in the public sector previously, I am aware of Conflict of Interest practices and the need to disclose all potential conflicts.
34. I did not have any conflicts of interest in relation to my role on the GWC.
35. In early April 2021, I raised a potential conflict of interest in writing for consideration at the next GWC meeting. A copy of that form is exhibited to my statement and marked [GWC.0003.0006.0001](#).

36. The GWC considered my potential conflict of interest and agreed there was no actual or perceived conflict. My disclosure of this potential conflict of interest was recorded in the GWC's conflicts of interest register.

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**MATILDA RUTH PROWSE**

**Place: Perth**

**Date: ~~12~~ 17 May 2021**