

OPERATION KINGFISHER

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN STATEMENT MADE BY JOSHUA CERAMIDAS DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 2023
 BY
 JOHN GREEN (PSEUDONYM)

I, John Green, make the following response to the written statement of Joshua Ceramidas dated 6 September 2023 ('Statement').

Reference to paragraph numbers are references to the numbering system used by Mr Ceramidas in the Statement.

1. I take no issue with the facts stated in paragraphs 1-5 of the Statement.
2. With respect to paragraph 6, I state that I was backfilling for Mr Matthews rather than Mr Bray.
3. I take no issue with the facts stated in paragraphs 7-14 of the Statement.
4. With respect to paragraphs 15-17 of the Statement, while I have no recollection of what was discussed at them, I did attend MINSET meetings and the timings to which Mr Ceramidas refers seems correct. I do not recall the topic of Campbell School project or Secure Local Jobs being raised at the meeting. I may have recalled more if there had been some controversy occur. I may have discussed Secure Local Jobs without focusing specifically on any issue but I do not have a recollection of that. I may have discussed the binary nature of the assessment as well as the need for a Secure Local Jobs certificate but again I do not specially recall details of such conversations.
5. With respect to paragraph 18, I have no recollection of either of those two topics being raised. It doesn't mean that it did not happen but I have no recollection of whether this was discussed at the 24 February 2020 MINSET meeting.
6. I take no issue with the facts stated in paragraph 19.
7. With respect to paragraph 20, I do not have a note, or particular recollection of, the exact date of 25 March 2020, but I do believe that this is the conversation in which Mr Ceramidas "checked in" with me to ensure that Ms Haire had spoken to me about the Campbell School project
8. I take no issue with the facts stated in paragraph 21, insofar as I agree that from late March 2020 Mr Ceramidas and I did not meet face-to-face. However, Mr Ceramidas and I did have phone conversations such as the phone conversation between Mr Ceramidas and me referred to in paragraph 7 above and paragraphs 9 and 10 below.
9. With respect to paragraph 22, I agree that Mr Ceramidas and I spoke about the various matters set out in that paragraph at various times over 2020 but not all took place in the early part of the year. The issue of "Lead paint at Yarralumla Primary School" was an issue that arose later in 2020. As part of those conversations, Mr Ceramidas and I also discussed the Campbell School Project and other (non-screwdriver ready) capital works.
10. With respect to paragraph 23, I agree that we did discuss the matters he sets out, although I cannot recall the exact dates of each of those phone conversations. However, I also recall that in a phone conversation between Mr Ceramidas and me in March 2020, Mr Ceramidas

"checked in" with me to ensure that Ms Haire had spoken to me about the Campbell project (see paragraph 7 above).

11. With respect to paragraph 24, I cannot recall attempting to call Mr Ceramidas at 8:15 pm on 10 June 2020. I do not believe I would have tried to contact Mr Ceramidas to discuss the tender evaluation results with him.
12. With respect to paragraphs 25-26, I repeat that in March 2020 Mr Ceramidas called me to "check in" to ensure that Ms Haire had spoken to me about the Campbell School project. As part of that conversation, Mr Ceramidas and I also discussed the Campbell School Project and other (non-screwdriver ready) capital works. I also repeat what I say in paragraphs 9 and 10 above.
13. With respect to paragraph 27, I agree that Mr Ceramidas did not direct me or give me a direction about the procurement process for the Campbell School project. As stated above in March 2020, Mr Ceramidas called me to "check in" that I got the message from Ms Haire. It was my understanding that Mr Ceramidas had mentioned the Campbell School project to Ms Haire. He had given Ms Haire a direction as I had understood it because of his conversation with her. I understood from my conversation with Ms Haire that she had attended the Minister's office where she was informed that Manteena was not to be the successful tenderer for the Campbell School Project. Further, she had agreed with the Minister's office that she was to be the final decision-maker, once I had worked through the tender process. I was not to be the decision maker in this case.

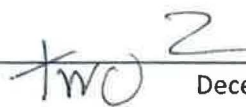
In the case of Ms Cross, on or around 26 February 2020, Ms Cross passed on to me that she had been told that the Minister's office didn't want Manteena to get it because of concerns about Secure Local Jobs and labour relations. As a result of that I thought there were concerns raised by the union.

14. With respect to paragraphs 28-53, I have no knowledge about these text message or Mr Ceramidas' views. These text messages only came to my attention during the ACT Integrity Commission hearings. In paragraphs 36-38, I note Mr Ceramidas' assertion that he "chewed" me out. I do not recall his "chewing me out" nor the heated discussion between Mr Ceramidas and me concerning my approach to interpreting the code. I do not recall Mr Ceramidas telling me that I needed to go and look at the issue which Mr Ceramidas says he raised with me about an evaluative approach to past performance under the Code and that I could not delay or avoid doing that any longer. I also do not recall being told my job was "on the line" referred to in paragraph 48.



John Green (pseudonym)

Date



December 2023