

Released under FOI

Jorgensen, Lynley

From: YORK Merryn (Powerlink) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 April 2015 12:01 PM
To: Groves, Michelle
Cc: Jorgensen, Lynley; Roberts, Sebastian
Subject: RE: CCP sub panel membership [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Michelle

Your email conveying the decision of the AER is acknowledged.

Best regards
Merryn

Merryn York
Chief Executive



From: Groves, Michelle [<mailto:Michelle.Groves@aer.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 9:37 AM
To: YORK Merryn (Powerlink)
Cc: Jorgensen, Lynley; Roberts, Sebastian
Subject: CCP sub panel membership [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Merryn

We have recently discussed your concerns regarding a potential conflict of interest arising from Hugh Grant's participation in the Powerlink reset as a member of the CCP sub-panel.

As discussed, we have all agreed that Hugh's past employment with Powerlink does not create an actual conflict of interest. The AER Board has, however, turned its mind to the risk of perceived conflicts of interest that you and Hugh have put to us for consideration: specifically, Hugh's irregular social contact with some Powerlink employees, and perceptions he may have formed about Powerlink during his employment there that are now outdated.

We do not consider either of these give rise to an actual conflict of interest, or create a valid perception of such conflict. Hugh worked for Powerlink seven years ago and left on amicable terms. We consider his work for Powerlink is sufficiently in the past to not pose an actual or a reasonable perception of conflict. Hugh will be required to engage with the current material provided by Powerlink and bring his judgment and expertise to bear in respect of that material. We have no evidence that he will be unable to do that. Further, Hugh has disclosed the social contact he has with current employees of Powerlink and we are satisfied that he is able to manage those relationships appropriately and professionally.

On that basis, I am writing to confirm that we will not ask Hugh to recuse himself from the CCP sub-panel assigned to the Powerlink reset. We will confirm this with Hugh and other members of the sub-panel today.

Regards,

Released under FOI

Michelle

Michelle Groves
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