

Released under FOI

Jorgensen, Lynley

From: Hugh Grant <hugh.grant@bigpond.com> on behalf of Hugh Grant <hugh@asf.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 1:31 PM
To: Groves, Michelle
Cc: Jorgensen, Lynley; Roberts, Sebastian
Subject: Re: Powerlink CCP subpanel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Michelle

I am comfortable with the decision and fully support it.

Regards

Hugh

Hugh Grant

Executive Director, *ResponseAbility*

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From: "Groves, Michelle" <Michelle.Groves@aer.gov.au>
Date: Wednesday, 8 April 2015 9:43 AM
To: Hugh Grant <hugh.grant@bigpond.com>
Cc: Lynley Jorgensen <Lynley.Jorgensen@aer.gov.au>, "Roberts, Sebastian" <Sebastian.Roberts@accg.gov.au>
Subject: Powerlink CCP subpanel [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Hugh

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

As discussed, we have all agreed that your 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 have put to us for consideration following your discussion with Merryn York: specifically, your irregular social contact with some Powerlink employees, and perceptions you may have formed about Powerlink during your employment there that are now outdated.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. You worked for Powerlink seven years ago and left on amicable terms. We consider your work for Powerlink is sufficiently in the past to not pose an actual or a reasonable perception of conflict. You will be required to engage with the current material provided by Powerlink and bring your judgment and expertise to bear in respect of that material. We have no evidence that you will be unable to do that. Further, you have disclosed the social contact you have with current employees of Powerlink and we are satisfied that you are able to manage those relationships appropriately and professionally.

On that basis, I am writing to confirm that we will not ask you to recuse yourself from the CCP sub-panel assigned to the Powerlink reset. If you are comfortable with this decision, we will also communicate this to your fellow sub-panel members today.

I have advised Merryn York of our decision.

Thank you for how you have engaged with this issue and worked positively to have it resolved. I appreciate the efforts you made and your approach.

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Regards,

Michelle

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