

**In the Matter of Part 3 of the
Local Government Act 1993,**

**In the Matter of the Code of
Conduct Panel complaint C24207**

DOUGLAS A. COOPER

Complainant

LORD MAYOR ANNA REYNOLDS

Councillor

Statutory Declaration

I, Kelly Grigsby care of 16 Elizabeth Street, Hobart in Tasmania, Chief Executive Officer of the Hobart City Council (Council), do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I have been asked to provide my recollection of events regarding the display of transgender flags at the Town Hall on Saturday 26 February 2022.
2. On 24 February 2022 the Council received an email request from Working It Out to display the transgender flags at the Town Hall on Saturday 26 February 2022.
3. Approval was given on the recommendation from Council's Manager Community Programs. The recommendation was that the request aligned with Council's commitments set out in the Council's Social Inclusion Policy (Policy). A copy of the Policy can be accessed via this link:
<https://www.hobartcity.com.au/files/assets/public/council-meetings-aldermen/policies/policies-current/community-services-and-events/social-inclusion.pdf>
4. My understanding of events, as described to me by Council's Manager Corporate Governance via email on 9 June 2022 is as follows:
5. At 4.48pm on Friday 25 February 2022, the Manager, Community Programs emailed Working It Out that "the CEO has supported your request to have the transgender flag flown on the Town Hall portico tomorrow".
6. Also on Friday 25 February 2022, an email was sent from Sarah Carson to Paul Synnott (both council staff) communicating the operational requirements for the following day.
7. Paul Synnott was rostered to be on duty at the Town Hall on 26 February 2022 in order to provide support for the event booking in the ballroom. Sarah is Paul's supervisor. Paul was away on Friday as it was his rostered day-off. This is why he was instructed by email. A copy of the email is annexed and marked "A". The email states:

"We have been instructed to display the Transgender flags on both banners from 8.45am-3.30pm only on the Saturday 26th February. If you can please display them before you allow access to the event hirer at 9.00am."

8. Sarah's email also stated:

"The banners being displayed is at request by the Lord Mayor and CEO. They are just outside my office."

9. Sarah Carson had no direct contact from me or the Lord Mayor.

10. To my knowledge, the Lord Mayor did not request that the transgender flags be displayed on both banners. It was requested by Work It Out and approved by me on advice from my staff.

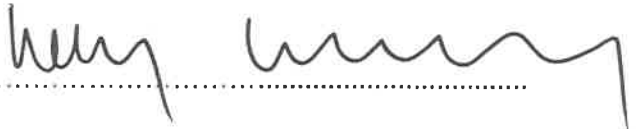
11. It appears that if statements were made by Paul Synnott to members of the public attending the event at the Town Hall on 26 February to the effect that "...the Lord Mayor had requested the transgender flags be displayed..." it is based on an error in the instruction he received.

12. The Manager Corporate Governance has not been able to discuss the matter with Paul Synnott as he is on extended carer's leave.

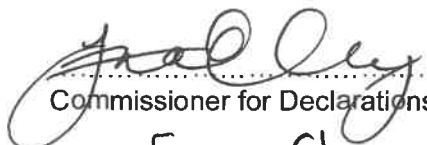
13. I confirm that a request has been made for assessed disclosure pursuant to s13 of the *Right to Information Act 2009* in relation to the display of the transgender flags, however that is still being assessed.

I make this solemn declaration under the Oaths Act 2001.

Signed by Kelly Grigsby
at Hobart in Tasmania,
this 17th day of July 2022

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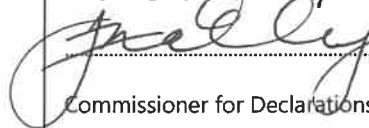
Before me:


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Commissioner for Declarations / Professional / Appointment Holders
Name: Fiona Cleary

Address: 50 Macquarie Street
Hobart
Position Held: Chief of Staff

"A"

This page is the annexure marked "A" referred to in the affidavit of Kelly Grigsby sworn on 17th August 2022 before me:



Commissioner for Declarations / Authorised Person

From: Sarah Carson
Sent: Friday, 25 February 2022 4:48 PM
To: Paul Synnott
Subject: Transgender flags

Hi Paul

Not sure if I advised you but Kimbra Parker will also be onsite on Saturday for some additional support if required.

We have been instructed to display the Transgender flags on both banners from 8.45am – 3.30pm only on the Saturday the 26th February. If you can please display them before you allow access to the event hirer at 9.00am.

The banners being displayed is at request by the Lord Mayor and the CEO. They are just outside my office.

I will call you on the way to the wedding to make sure you are ok 😊

Many Thanks

Sarah Carson
Hall Keeping Services Coordinator



City of HOBART

50 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7000 | hobartcity.com.au
Telephone (03) 62382765 | 0419585862

I acknowledge the Palawa people as the Traditional Owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania), the lands upon which I work and live, and pay respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

