Responses to questions on notice to Warwick Smith

Question 1:

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Do you know where you were?

WARWICK SMITH: - in Dubai.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Sorry?

WARWICK SMITH: In Dubai.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: In Dubai. Okay.

WARWICK SMITH: Yes. I'll check the calendar, but I said the candidates were those that were interviewed for the role.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Presumably if you're in Dubai, you're a couple of hours behind. So

it's probably four in the morning or thereabouts where you are, or perhaps even earlier—maybe about six in the morning, Dubai time, when you get this email. And then, you do turn it around within three and a half hours. Do you see that at the top? You reply at 4.46 p.m. Melbourne time, I believe. Is that your understanding, that it was about four hours?

WARWICK SMITH: I'd have to check my calendar, but the main thing is that I responded.

Answer to Question 1: I was in Perth, Western Australia.

Question 2: Meeting with Stephen Cartwright

The Hon, DANIEL MOOKHEY: When was that?

WARWICK SMITH: Look, I didn't think you'd be asking this. I'd have to go back and check, but it was, it would probably be before this process was underway. It would have been pre-COVID.

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The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Did you recall having any meeting with him in 2020 in which he was seeking your career advice?

WARWICK SMITH: I don't recall it but I can always have a look.

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Could you on notice? Do you mind?

WARWICK SMITH: Not at all.

... ...

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Indeed. Can I just ask you, Mr Smith, again: Do you recall specifically having a discussion—so I think we can establish that there was some discussion in 2020 with Mr Cartwright.

WARWICK SMITH: I don't know. I'd have to—you ask a question. I'm quite happy to be obliging and check and find out. We keep records of most meetings that take place.

Answer to Question 2: I have checked my records and did not have a meeting with Stephen Cartwright in 2020.

Question 3:

The Hon. DANIEL MOOKHEY: Insofar as any disclosures to the panel, did you have to make any disclosures to the panel prior to you agreeing to interview him on 30 March?

WARWICK SMITH: I don't believe I did, but I don't believe I needed to. There were other candidates that I knew that I declared an interest or a conflict or a relationship. Normally, if you're a businessman and a banker, you understand conflicts of interest and that personal relationships should be disclosed. It's matter of course. It's generally a first item of an agenda for meetings—any conflicts. I'm quite practised at that. I knew the guy that went to Japan—but not well. He once had been in one of my broader teams at Macquarie Bank. You declare those things. But Cartwright was not a personal colleague, not a professional business colleague, but he had the prospect of being very helpful with regard to building out a China basis for mid-level businesses, which would've been good and timely. So I was very encouraging if he followed up and had chats—and I'll check.

Answer to Question 3: I did not make any disclosures to the panel in respect of Mr Cartwright, prior to interviewing him because he was a not a current or former colleague, friend or family member.