

## Responses from Jim Soorley:

### Questions to Jim Soorley

1. Did you receive the \$2500 in cash from Neil Jedid on March 2018 in the restaurant carpark, as Mr Jedid's claims?
2. Why did you insist on being paid this way?
3. The Courier Mail reported on 30 Sept 2020 that the Transport minister Mark Bailey admitted he spoke to you about Neil Jedid's lease. Is this true?
4. If yes, what was discussed?
5. Do you have any reason to believe there was a link between the Mr Jedid's complaint about you to the Office of the Integrity Commissioner and the decision by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to terminate his restaurant's lease five days later?

### Reply

The issues were covered in the CM and AFR 18 months ago.

Re Questions 3 & 4, as the CM reported I had a brief discussion with Mark Bailey. He stated that the property was going to a competitive tender process.

Re Question 5.

The answer will not suit your narrative but the facts are these:

Jedid was told months earlier his lease would not be renewed.

He was told it was going to a competitive tender process.

He thought he was entitled to another extension.

The State had made it clear to him long before my involvement that it was going to a competitive tender and that he could participate.

He did not tell me before my work that he had already used a lobbyist and his union contacts to try to reverse the Department's decision.

So there is no relationship between his false claim and the decision to take this site to open tender.

To the best of my recall, his lease was not terminated, he was operating on extensions of his original lease. The last extension had expired and he was told to vacate.

So the Department of Transport and Main Roads simply implemented their earlier decision not to renew again his lease.

It is important that the ABC have the facts of this case