



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190B

## STATEMENT OF POLICE

<b>In the matter of:</b>	Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes
<b>Place:</b>	Missing Persons Registry, NSW Police Force Headquarters, Parramatta
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2023

<b>Name:</b>	Paul RULLO	Tel. No:	██████████
<b>Rank:</b>	Detective Senior Constable		
<b>Station/Unit:</b>	Missing Persons Registry		

### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 50 years of age.
3. I make this statement in respect of a letter I received from the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes (Inquiry) dated 21 August 2023 (Letter) enclosing a summons to attend the Inquiry on 18 September 2023.
4. The Letter drew my attention to the fact that the submissions of Counsel Assisting the Inquiry dated 7 June 2023 (Counsel Assisting's Submissions) concerned aspects of my involvement in the matters being examined by the Inquiry. In that respect, I was referred to paragraphs [73]-[76], [331]-[339], [343]-[344] and [631] of the written submissions of Counsel Assisting dated 7 June 2023 and paragraphs [130] and [355]-[359] of the written submissions of the Commissioner of Police.
5. I have prepared this statement by reference to the Letter.

Witness: ██████████

Natalie BULL  
 Detective Senior Constable  
 Missing Persons Registry  
 20 September 2023

Signature: ██████████

Paul RULLO  
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**Statement of** Paul RULLO  
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**Background**

6. I have attained a Bachelor of Education (Secondary)(Humanities & Social Sciences) from the University of Sydney in 2000 with a major in History.
7. I have had two periods of employment with the New South Wales Police Force. I attested from the NSW Police Academy May 2000 and worked at Leichhardt LAC in General Duties until I resigned from the New South Wales Police Force in November 2000. I re-joined the following year and attested from the New South Wales Police College in 2001 and worked in General Duties from 2007 at Newtown LAC (now part of Inner West PAC). I was confirmed as a Constable after completing the Diploma in Policing Practice from Charles Sturt University which was awarded in 2003. During my service in General Duties, I completed a secondment to the Burwood Anti-Theft Unit in 2005.
8. On 22 April 2007 I commenced Criminal Investigation duties at Newtown Local Area Command Criminal Investigation Office. I successfully completed both the Investigators Course in 2008 and the Detectives Education Program in which I was subsequently designated a Detective in 2009. I was awarded the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Investigations) in 2010. Whilst in the Newtown Detectives office, I investigated and assisted in matters relating to a wide variety of crime categories. I also assisted with region response to major criminal investigations such as murders and a Coronial investigation.
9. In 2012 I commenced Criminal Investigation duties at the State Crime Command's Unsolved Homicide Team, Homicide Squad. In 2014 I completed the Homicide Investigators Course. In this unit I assisted with a number of long-term unsolved homicide matters and reviewed unsolved homicide matters. I would also provide assistance to the Homicide Squad's on call teams with regard to strike forces.
10. In 2022 I commenced Criminal Investigation duties at the State Crime Command's Missing Persons Registry and I am currently in this role. My duties at the Missing Persons Registry is to review Missing Persons matters and provide advice and guidance to Police Area Commands and Police Districts for Missing Persons investigations.

Witness:

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11. When I was at the Unsolved Homicide Team I was allocated as an investigator to Strike Force MACNAMIR 1, SF MACNAMIR 2 and Strike Force NEIWAND. Strike Force MACNAMIR 1 and Strike Force MACNAMIR 2 was the re-investigation into the death of Scott JOHNSON (JOHNSON) whose body was found at North Head, Manly on 10 December 1988. SF MACNAMIR 2 again relates to the re-investigation of the death of Scott JOHNSON but had been commenced as another Strike Force on 6 May 2015 after the State Coroner removed Detective Chief Inspector Pamela YOUNG (YOUNG) from the investigation into the matter. SF NEIWAND was the re-investigation into the disappearance of Gilles MATTAINI last seen on 15 September 1985 in Bondi, the disappearance of Ross WARREN who was last seen on 22 July 1989 in Sydney but his vehicle was later located near Marks Park, Bondi, and the death of John RUSSELL whose body was discovered at the base of a cliff below the walkway of Marks Park between Tamarama and Bondi.
12. My involvement in SF MACNAMIR 1, SF MACNAMIR 2 and SF NEIWAND was task driven. In other words, I would be assigned a task by either the Officer in Charge (OIC) or the Supervising Investigator for me to complete but I was not involved in the direction of the investigation. The Officer in Charge for Strike MACNAMIR 1 and 2 was Detective Sergeant Penelope BROWN (BROWN). The Supervisor for Strike Force MACNAMIR was Detective Chief Inspector Pamela YOUNG. The Supervisor for Strike MACNAMIR 2 was Detective Superintendent Jason DICKINSON. For Strike Force NEIWAND the Officer in Charge of the matter was Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL and the Supervisor was Detective Sergeant Steven MORGAN when I began tasks on the matter.
13. All the tasks that I performed and the products that I created in relation to SF MACNAMIR 1, Strike Force MACNAMIR 2 and Strike NEIWAND were recorded on [e@gle.i](mailto:e@gle.i).

**My involvement in Strike Force MACNAMIR 1**

14. On 11 June 2013 I assisted Detective Sergeant Penelope BROWN (BROWN) with conducting a walkthrough interview of the North Head area where Scott JOHNSON'S belongings were

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- located. This walkthrough interview was conducted by Detective Sergeant BROWN and Detective Inspector Nicole JONES with Ulo KLEMMER, who provided information about the location when it was a gay 'beat' and how the gay 'beat' operated. I was the video camera operator for this interview.
15. On the same date, I attended the North Head sewerage plant area with Detective Sergeant BROWN to conduct an analysis of the cliff area to identify the location where JOHNSON was last at and where he was found deceased. I video recorded this cliff area and the base of the cliffs.
16. I created a synopsis of an Electronically recorded statement (ERISP) with I316 obtained by Detective Sergeant BROWN and myself at Manly Police Station on 12 September 2013. I316 had been hired by the JOHNSON family to investigate the death of Scott Johnson.
17. I requested a transcript of the ERISP interview with I316 referred to in paragraph 16.
18. On 26 September 2013 Detective Sergeant BROWN and myself interviewed Person of Interest, NP1
19. I made requests for subscriber details and call charge details for a number of persons of interest including NP1 and NP280
20. On 19 February 2014 Detective Sergeant BROWN, Detective Inspector RUSSELL and myself spoke with Person of Interest NP269
21. On 20 February 2014 Detective Inspector RUSSELL and I spoke to Person of Interest, NP3  
NP3
22. I made enquires with the University of Oxford, United Kingdom regarding any student and medical records for Scott JOHNSON.

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23. I made enquires with the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom regarding any student and medical records for Scott JOHNSON.
24. I made enquires with the Queens College, University of Cambridge regarding any student and medical records for Scott JOHNSON.
25. I made enquires with the University of Cambridge Counselling Service regarding medical/counselling files for the period 1983 to 1984 in relation to Scott JOHNSON.

**My involvement in Strike Force MACNAMIR 2**

26. On 22 May 2015 [I446] and I attended St Mary's Police Station and obtained a statement from [I442]
27. On 07 October 2015 Detective Sergeant BROWN and I spoke to Person of Interest [NP258] [NP258]

**My involvement in Strike Force NEIWAND**

28. I commenced working on Strike Force NEIWAND on or around 6 June 2016.
29. I requested notebooks, duty books and General Station pad/Occurrence pad entries to NSW Police Force Records Services. This request is in relation to police who worked on the original investigations for MATTAINI, WARREN and RUSSELL and those that worked on Strike Force /Operation TARADALE.
30. I requested that the NSWPF Mapping Unit provide maps including aerial maps for the Tamarama, Marks Park, MacKenzies Point and Bondi Beach areas in 1989.
31. I requested and obtained from NSW Corrective Services inmate profiles for [NP24] [NP16] [NP22] [NP23] [NP21] [NP19] and [NP41]
32. I requested records from the State Coroners Court about the death of [I456] and an unknown male located deceased on 17 March 1991 floating off Tamarama Beach.

Witness:

[Redacted]

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33. I reviewed Constable BARRETT'S notebook. He attended the scene of Russell's death.
34. I reviewed Detective Sally DUNBAR'S Duty Book. Detective DUNBAR attended the scene of RUSSELL'S death.
35. I made enquiries of Matthew GODBOLD, Spencer WALTON, Craig STEVENSON and [159]  
 [159].
36. I requested records from WIN News and reviewed those records with regard to Ross WARREN.
37. I requested that RMS provide records as to vehicles owned by Paul SAUCIS and Craig ELLIS and reviewed those records.
38. I requested that TAFE provide records for Amanda EVANS and reviewed those records.
39. I spoke with several former and, at the time, current employees of WIN News including Michael REDMAN, Mark LYONS, Danny MITROVIC, Geoff PHILLIPS, Michael POSETTI and Tracey GLOVER-CHAMBERS.
40. On the 5 May 2017 I was the video camera operator for a walkthrough at Marks Park, Mackenzies Point with [198]. Other investigators present were Detective Senior Constables TIERNEY and CHEBL. [198] knew Ross WARREN and attended the gay 'beat' at Mark's Park regularly from 1988 to 1990 at night time. [198] explained how the gay 'beat' operated.
41. I took statements from Patricia HIESBERGER, Mark LYONS, Mary PAPAKOSMAS (nee FRANKS), Terry MOORE and Craig WARREN.
42. I spoke with Rodney STRINGER.
43. I made enquires of Ex WIN TV employee Robert EAST.

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**Written submissions of counsel assisting the Inquiry**

44. I refer to paragraph 362b and deny that the views of Detective Chief Inspector LEHMANN and Detective Chief Inspector YOUNG influenced my work on Strike Force MACNAMIR or on Strike Force NEIWAND. I have not seen any document produced by Detective Chief Inspector LEHMANN and Detective Chief Inspector YOUNG.
45. I refer to paragraph 502 and the submission that Strike Force MACNAMIR did not adopt an open-minded approach to the reinvestigation of the death of Scott JOHNSON. This is incorrect. Lines of inquiry were followed and investigated to see where that evidence would lead. Any suggestion that myself or any other member of Strike Force MACNAMIR did not have an open-minded approach is offensive. At no time was there any pressure or direction placed on me by Detective Chief Inspector YOUNG or Detective Chief Inspector LEHMANN or any senior police officer to prevent the homicide hypothesis. I did not see or hear of any pressure placed on any other member of Strike Force MACNAMIR to prevent the homicide hypothesis.
46. I refer to paragraph 576 and the submission that in Strike Force NEIWAND'S implementation and outcomes it was clearly aimed at discrediting both the work of Operation Taradale and Mr PAGE personally, and discrediting the findings of the Taradale Inquest as well. This is false. Strike Force NEIWAND was a re-investigation into those matters and an open-minded approach to these matters was applied. There was no agenda to discredit Mr Page, Operation TARADALE or the TARADALE Inquest.
47. I refer to paragraph 597 and the submission that "SF NEIWAND deliberately eschewed any focus on persons of interest; specifically sought to identify faults with Operation TARADALE; and sought to skew the focus of the investigation away from any suggestion that Mr WARREN, Mr RUSSELL or Mr MATTAINI died by homicide. It did so, despite the fact, that Operation TARADALE had received praise from multiple quarters, despite the findings of Coroner MILLEDGE, and despite the recommendations of DSC Taylor of the UHT." This is false. We were re-investigating the matters and were looking at all lines of inquiry, reviewing what

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TARADALE had done and what the coronial inquest findings had said. Part of re-investigating matters is to look "with fresh eyes" on matters. There was no deliberate attempt to take away any focus on Persons of Interest or to be critical in a negative way of TARADALE investigators or the Coroner.

48. I refer to paragraph 633 and the quote from the evidence of Assistant Commissioner CRANDELL that "it's very difficult for them to have objectivity, given their history." This is false. I conducted my enquiries and looked at the available evidence with all my tasks with objectivity. I saw no bias from my colleagues on Strike Force NEIWAND. I find the suggestion that we were biased or had a set agenda for the re-investigation into Strike Force NEIWAND matters offensive. It is my hope that this Special Commission will correct this wrong assertion and acknowledge the hard work that investigators put into the matter.
49. I refer to paragraph 635 and the submission that the actual objective of Strike Force NEIWAND was to attack and rebut the work of Operation TARADALE and the findings of Coroner MILLEDGE. This is false. It was a re-investigation. When re-investigating matters you look at the work conducted by previous investigations and also the findings of the coroner. Any prior police investigation and any court, whether it be, coronial, criminal or civil, is not above having it's actions, views and findings being looked at again. It's a basis of our police system and legal system that matters can be re-investigated and appeals made at court via applications for another Inquest or an appeal in the Criminal or Civil Court.
50. I refer to paragraph 637 and deny that there is a culture of a "company line" on hate crimes or that there is an unwritten rule. I find this submission offensive. There is no policy in the New South Wales Police Force to discriminate against anyone or any investigation. On the contrary, in all my policing career there has been an emphasis on being sensitive and understanding to the needs of vulnerable communities. In particular, there has been a lot of training with regard to the LGBTIQ community. With regard to my experience being a part of Strike Force MACNAMIR, Strike Force MACNAMIR 2 and Strike Force NEIWAND, and the Unsolved Homicide Team, there was no culture of peer pressure to adhere to any one or anyone's views.

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Again, there was no direction by any senior officers in these investigations or in the New South Wales Police Force to influence these investigations in any way for a desired outcome.

51. My concern is that the views as submitted by Counsel Assisting will create a perception in the public's mind that LGBTIQ deaths will not be investigated properly. I can assure, from my experience at the Unsolved Homicide Team, that any LGBTIQ related death was and will continue to be treated in a professional manner. It is my hope that this Special Commission will correct this erroneous suggestion that the Unsolved Homicide Team did not investigate matters due to bias and help foster a positive and confident attitude towards the Unsolved Homicide Team.
52. I refer to paragraph 641 and the submission that the way in which Strike Force NEIWAND treated Mr Page (both ruthless and unfair, it is submitted, for the reasons outlined below) would tend to reinforce the 'company line' and (intentionally or not) to send a message to other police officers about the investigation of LGBTIQ hate crimes. There was no 'company line' to undermine anyone in these strikes forces whilst investigating these matters. I never saw anyone try to steer away an investigation from certain lines of inquiry.
53. I refer to paragraph 782 and deny that there was any attempt to avoid or negate the consequences of the TARADALE Inquest or attack Mr Page. This is a baseless accusation made by Counsel Assisting which is offensive. Strike Force NEIWAND was a re-investigation of the matters.
54. It is important to note that in all my years in the New South Wales Police Force, I have had to engage with members of the LGBTIQ community as victims, witnesses and offenders. I have always acted in a professional manner with these persons without fear or favour when conducting my investigations.
55. Of significance is that in my various positions in the New South Wales Police Force, I have worked with many members of various ranks who identify as LGBTIQ. In particular, I worked with the first transgender person in the New South Wales Police Force. When I was stationed at Newtown Local Area Command, the Newtown area had a significant LGBTIQ community

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that myself and my colleagues dealt with on a regular basis. In my policing career, I have never seen any bias towards the LGBTIQ community.

**Submission**

56. In conclusion, it my respectful submission and hope that this Special Commission will endeavour to firstly, remove the unfair accusations labelled against police attached to the investigations of Strike Force MACNAMIR, Strike Force MACNAMIR 2 and Strike Force NEIWAND. These strike forces were led professionally and all team members undertook their duties seriously. Any allegation of bias by the New South Wales Police Force's Unsolved Homicide Team in relation to LGBTIQ matters are false and should be condemned by this Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes.
57. Secondly, it is respectfully anticipated that this Special Commission will restore confidence in the community with regard to the New South Wales Police Force's Unsolved Homicide Team. Over the years which Strike Force MACNAMIR 1 and 2, and Strike Force NEIWAND were conducted, there has been significant unfair media criticism of these investigations and the police involved which has sadly influenced the wider public perception. It is in the interest of all residents of New South Wales that they have a complete confidence in their police force to investigate such serious matters.

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