



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

### Statement of Neil Champion

9 August 2023

1. My name is Neil Champion. My address is known to the Special Commission of Inquiry.
2. I am retired. I previously was employed as a managing director.
3. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”) as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

#### Contact with the Inquiry

4. On 14 January 1990, I provided NSW Police with a statement regarding my discovery of clothing and other possessions at Gap Bluff, Sydney on 11 January 1990.
5. In July 2023, I received a letter in the mail from the Inquiry inviting me to a conference at the Inquiry.
6. On 26 July 2023, I attended a teleconference with members of the Inquiry’s Legal Team and provided them with the information contained in this statement.

#### Discovery of Simon Blair Wark’s clothing

7. As at January 1990, I was working as a civil engineer contractor. I had received tender documents for the construction of a pathway at Gap Bluff. I was at Gap Bluff scoping out the work when I found the pile of clothes on the ground.
8. I recall that I was concerned when I found the clothes, especially because of how neat and tidy they were in the pile. The clothes were folded. They didn’t look as though they had been taken off and thrown around. They also weren’t hidden; they were sitting in front of the rock.

9. I would estimate that I had walked between three to five minutes along the track before I found the clothes, although it may have been further. I remember that I had walked up some steps to get to the clothing.

#### Location of the clothing

10. I cannot definitively recall where it was at the Gap that I found the clothing, especially as it relates to how the Gap looks now.

11. I recall that the clothes were located in or near the area known as 'Gap Bluff', which is circled on the map annexed to this statement as **Annexure 1**.

12. I have marked out on an image of Gap Bluff from Google Maps where I think I may have found the clothing. This image is annexed to my statement as **Annexure 2**. I would estimate that the location was around the mark on the map or within 50 metres to the north-east of the mark.

13. I recall that the location had a lower rock platform and a higher rock platform, with the clothes in front of it. I would say that the clothes were within three metres of the cliff edge. There was a fair bit of vegetation around the area at that time too.

14. I cannot remember any fencing at the location where the clothes were. I think that the works were an extension of the fence section; in that there was some low fencing (about one metre or less) in the area, but that at the point where the clothes were, that fencing had stopped.

#### Contact with police

15. No police officer ever accompanied me to the location where I found the clothing or asked me to mark the location on a map.

Signature:



Name: Neil Champion

Date: 9 August 2023

## Annexure 1



Map showing Gap Bluff. The area circled in red is the location shown in Annexure 2.

## Annexure 2



Photograph of map of Gap Bluff, marked with my estimated location of the clothing.