MEDIA STATEMENT

7th August 2018

Matter of Dawson

Statement from Lloyd Babb SC, Director of Public Prosecutions NSW

The Australian newspaper has sought my response to a series of questions about the request from NSW Police Force for legal advice on the sufficiency of current evidence regarding the disappearance of Lynette Dawson in 1982.

The matter has been re-investigated by the NSW Police Cold Case Unit. A brief of evidence was provided to my Office together with a request for review.

Such a request for advice is covered by legal professional privilege that vests in the NSW Police Force and accordingly cannot be disclosed by my Office. In this case, however, the referral to my Office has been made known and legal professional privilege has thereby been waived.

The Australian has reported that Mrs Dawson's husband and his brother taught at a Sydney high school where I was a student in the 1980s, and raised this issue, which is legally known as a conflict of interest.

My conflict of interest in relation to this matter was addressed in the proper way when the matter was referred to my Office. I declared the conflict of interest in 2011, when I wrote the then Attorney General, Mr Greg Smith SC, and said:

I have found it necessary not to play any part in the consideration of this matter myself for the reason that I am acquainted with the suspect in that he was a school teacher at my high school and my rugby league coach in about 1983.

For this reason this matter has been considered by Mr Chris Maxwell QC, Acting Deputy Director.

The matter has been referred to Deputy Directors during my time as DPP.

I have had no contact with Paul Dawson or Chris Dawson since I finished school in 1984.

I have had no involvement in this matter. I have not read the brief, nor have I had any contact with the investigating police officers, or the NSW Coroner.

The matter is currently being reviewed by a Deputy Director. Advice will be provided to NSW Police when that review has been finalised. I will have no involvement in that process.

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