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Setting the record straight in the face of a deceitful campaign against Crown

CROWN IS A HIGHLY REPUTABLE AUSTRALIAN OPERATOR

Crown is one of Australia's largest and most recognisable entertainment/tourism operators, with over 18,000 people working at its Australian resorts.

Crown operates in one of the most highly regulated industries in Australia and takes its responsibility to comply with its obligations very seriously. Crown works closely with all regulatory agencies, including State and Federal law enforcement bodies.

DECEITFUL REPORTING

The '60 Minutes' programme and related articles in the Fairfax Press have unfairly attempted to damage Crown's reputation with unbalanced and sensationalised reporting, based on unsubstantiated allegations, exaggerations, unsupported connections and outright falsehoods.

There are numerous examples of poor and misleading journalism, a few of the key examples include:

- (1) **THE JET:** Fairfax Press continue to infer that the Chinese President's cousin was found on Crown's private jet by Australian law enforcement authorities, when in fact the jet they identified was not owned or chartered by Crown. Crown had no association with this jet or charter;
- (2) **CCTV FOOTAGE:** CCTV video footage from 2012 was also aired, showing a person alleged to be receiving a plastic bag of cash at a vegetable market, but there was no mention of the fact that the individual was excluded from the casino by Crown acting on its own volition more than six years ago;
- (3) **ACIC ANNOUNCEMENT:** Fairfax Press wrongly inferred that a 'new' investigation had been launched into the Casino, stating; "the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) has launched an investigation into the significant risks of money laundering through casinos"¹. Subsequently, a spokeswoman from ACIC told The Australian Newspaper that this investigation "was not new and was a longstanding ACIC board approved determination"²;

- (4) **VISA PROCESSING:** despite Fairfax's allegations, Crown has not sought to circumvent visa requirements or compromise any process of identification or verification for immigration purposes. 'The Department of Home Affairs this week publicly confirmed it had "stakeholder arrangements" with a number of large international organisations for the quick processing of short stay visas, but insisted there was no special treatment given to applicants'³;
- (5) **THE COMPANY:** there were extensive references in the '60 Minutes' programme to alleged criminal connections of an organisation said to be called 'the Company'. Crown has had no dealings with or knowledge of any organisation of that name or description;
- (6) **JUNKETS:** there was a failure to convey in the '60 Minutes' programme or in subsequent media reporting that junkets are independent business entities and an established and accepted part of the operations of international casinos; and
- (7) **FACTS OVERLOOKED:** no reference was made to the following facts:
 - i. SunCity, a large Macau-licensed junket, arranges customer visits not only to Crown, but to other major casinos in Australia and New Zealand and at least 15 other reputable casinos globally;
 - ii. Crown does not now deal with any of the other junket operators or players mentioned in the programme, apart from one local player, and none of the international players mentioned have gambled at Crown venues for at least three years.

As Nine/Fairfax would be aware, Crown is bound by non-disclosure provisions in legislation relating to anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing, and by privacy considerations. Crown is therefore constrained in responding to many of the unfounded allegations made in the media reports relating to various individuals/organisations, or in disclosing details of matters it has reported to AUSTRAC or to other investigative/enforcement authorities.

Crown works very closely with law enforcement agencies and encourages any person who, or organisation which, has cogent evidence of unlawful or improper conduct, to present that evidence to the relevant authority.

1. Source: The Age, 1 Aug 2019

2. Source: The Australian, 1 Aug 2019

3. Source: ABC News, 30 July 2019

This message has been authorised by Crown Resorts Limited

