

Meeting agenda

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Office of the CEO

Meeting details	
Meeting title	VCGLR/Crown – meeting with new Crown Resorts CEO
Date	23 June 2021
Time	10am
Location	12 Shelley St Richmond

Attendees	Title and business unit/branch
Ross Kennedy	Chair, VCGLR
Catherine Myers	CEO, VCGLR
Stephen McCann	CEO, Crown Resorts
Steven Blackburn	Chief Compliance and Financial Crimes Officer, Crown Resorts
Adele Elasmr	Senior Executive Officer, VCGLR (minute taker)
Helen Coonan	Executive Chair, Crown Resorts

Item	Subject	Speaker
1	Welcome	RK
2	Communication Protocol reminder	CM
3	Introduction of Stephen McCann	HC
4	Update from Stephen McCann	SM
5	Other matters – Crown	
6	Close	RK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting started at 10am.

Ms Helen Coonan joined via teams.

Item 1 / 2: Welcome and Communication Protocol Reminder

Ms Coonan started the meeting by commenting on today's Tax headlines in the media. She wanted to make it clear that what the articles were implying, are not correct. Important for VCGLR to know.

VCGLR CEO interrupted and made it clear to attendees and Ms Coonan (Item 2 – Communication Protocol Reminder) that under the VCGLR Communication Protocols they are unable to discuss matters that are before the Royal Commission. The CEO advised Ms Coonan while I appreciate that she wants to be open and transparent, in the absence of lawyers being present in the room, then it would be inappropriate to discuss this matter.

Ms Coonan agreed and wanted to just assure VCGLR they can trust her.

Mr McCann advised Ms Coonan that an agenda had been put together which she may not have seen, and he read out the agenda items so Ms Coonan was aware.

Comments were made that the communication over the last few months between Crown and the VCGLR have been regular, open and transparent as committed to by Ms Coonan's to the VCGLR.

Item 3 / 4: Introduction of Stephen McCann

Mr McCann introduced himself, spoke about his work background and what he plans to bring to the team at Crown:

- How I see the current environment and challenges ahead of us.
- Helen & the board and what has been happening- still more to do
- Right structure / culture / governance and do right by the stakeholders.
CEO of Lendlease for 12 years
- Investments banker prior to this role
- Lawyer at Freehills
- Worked in tax also
- Helen approached him about Crown role, prior to Blackstone big being lodged
- Wants the opportunity to put into practice what he has learnt as CEO
- Exciting challenge and can bring to the table his knowledge.
- His priority is to address all the concerns raised through ILGA process / WA
- 20,000 people working at crown – good people, decent, honest – need direction from the top though. Need systems in place to enable them to do that. Make sure they can come to work and respect the values and culture. (short term achievement vs long term shift)
- He will ensure he is across all regulation
- Harsh news in the media regarding crown
Want to demonstrate to the general public Crown take the matter very seriously
- Given information to VCGLR – Scott May has followed up

- Auditing all their data
- Current position they have overpaid federal tax so need to look into that
- Accusation that crown has not paid their fair share of state tax... needs to be looked at.
- Lock in time lines by end of financial year to work through these

Item 5 – Other Matters:

Mr Blackburn offered to meet with the VCGLR to walk through the Reform Program, a copy which has been sent to the CEO. He was pleased that the Plan he has developed has been endorsed by the Crown board and he is excited about the delivery of the Reform program.

The CEO advised that VCGLR is reviewing the information and will be responding in writing with comments and questions. The CEO and the Chair commented that the framework looked robust.

VCGLR CEO informed attendees that while the RC will be looking at specific matters, there will be matters that arise as a result of the evidence at the RC that the regulator will look into further. This may involve looking at previous disclosures or completed matters. That's the job of the regulator and while these matters can be challenging the CEO doesn't want this type of action to affect the type of open and communicative relationship between Crown and the regulator. The CEO also advised that Xavier Walsh and herself have discussed establishing a regular meeting but that can be tricky with the Royal Commission underway.

Mr McCann commented on stories coming out in the media.

- Tax has been heavily spoken about in the media. Trying hard to correct that. He advised that they are committed to providing the regulator with more information but they are currently getting their accounts audited and it appears they may have overpaid Federal tax and the quantum of potential underpayment of state tax is not what is being reported in the media. He advised that they also need to navigate the GST component and when they have completed this work they will be in a position to provide more information.

He said the tax matter is also a matter he needs to address with Shareholders / banks. He said he has to find ways to get knowledge out there that doesn't offend the Royal Commission.

VCGLR CEO commented she has heard Four Corners is working on a story. As they have ran a story on Sydney there will also be a story about Crown Melbourne and the Regulator.

Comments were made from Ms Coonan, Mr McCann and Mr Blackburn about a few Crown people being approached for interviews – all declined. The CEO advised that she had also declined an interview.

General comments were made acknowledging about the independent review being conducted by Deborah Cope Review. Ms Coonan asked the CEO if the VCGLR would be obtaining a copy of the review. The CEO advised that it would be unlikely that the regulator would be provided with a copy, however the VCGLR had made a submission to the review

VCGLR Chair commented that they do not have any control about who gets a copy and it will be a report for Government within the politics of making decisions given the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

There was a brief discussion about possible 'disruption' if there are changes. The VCGLR Chair noted that changes wouldn't be immediate given the need for legislative reform.

Ms Coonan stated that Crown's general position will be to accept recommendations and work through how we can make them work.

Mr McCann told the VCGLR they need to convince the regulator / commission they can imbed good culture. The VCGLR said that one of the benefits that has come out of the Bergin Inquiry and the Royal Commission is the willingness of Federal agencies such as AUSTRAC to be more engaged with the state based regulator

Mr Blackburn offered to help facilitated engagement with AUSTRAC given his previous roles.

The VCGLR CEO briefly spoke about the engagement with AUSTRAC, their attendance at the ACGR Forum, her correspondence with the CEO of AUSTRAC and the proposal to facilitate a workshop with AUSTRAC, state gambling regulators and law enforcement agencies. She thanked My Blackburn for his offer but said she had it well in hand.

The Chair thanked everyone for their time.

Meeting closed: 10.40am