

Moira Deeming

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Transcript – Meeting between John Pesutto, Moira Deeming and Georgie Crozier

Parties: John Pesutto (JP); Moira Deeming (MD); Georgie Crozier (GC)

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JP: How you going?

MD: Good.

JP: Alright so we've got a huge problem.

MD: Mm.

10 JP: The media wanna tear us up big time over the stories in the Herald Sun today and the stuff in the
media recently. Um we've got Danny Pearson on the ropes but that's now been washed away.
Um I suppose I wanted to have an initial conversation to see how we're going to deal with these
15 serious issues because I know that there are deeply held views and I've said to you and said to
others that I'd never ask anybody to change their views but this is what we're gonna get hit with
every time we go out. I can't send anybody out now without issues around you coming up. Just
went out there yesterday to smash Pearson um and the press conference immediately or very
soon turned to you. I've gotta go out today and I've gotta face a press pack where I would have
liked to have been talking about Danny Pearson resigning. I'm gonna have to put that off. Um so,
20 I know we all come in here with views and I would never ask anyone to change their views and I
mean that but we're gonna have to work out how we do this in a way which allows the party to
reach out broadly across the cross section of the community and win elections. We just can't do
it. We we will just get smashed and I can't see if if we don't have a way of working through these
issues I just don't see how we're gonna do it in a way where we can win seats across the board
and form government. Um so I wanted to have an initial chat because I think what I'm gonna get
25 attacked with today is that um we hate and I know you'll have something to say on this but the the
line they're going to run is that we support harmful speech, we hate same sex transgender
people, we hate transgender people, we you know we're um we're fiercely opposed to um anyone
in that community. Now I know you have views on that but we're gonna, we're gonna need to
come up with something because um I'm gonna get torn apart and and not just me everyone is.
30 No shadow will be able to go out there and face the media on issues that we actually want to talk
about until we find a way just to say okay people are entitled to their views um---

MD: I would very much like it if none of you would let it stand when they say what do you think about
Moira's anti-trans views. I don't have anti-trans views I don't have homophobic views. No one
has ever been able to come up with any evidence that I do and yet I'm labelled with those words.

35 JP: Yeah they're certainly picking apart, I mean I I haven't had a chance to go through all the emails
um---

MD: Which emails?

JP: Uh the emails that are referred to in the Herald Sun um---

MD: I have.

40 JP: Yeah I, I haven't had a chance to---

MD: There's nothing in there.

JP: Yeah. Um I guess the issue is gonna be though um what do, what do we say and um do we want
to assure the Victorian community that we can be a voice for everyone no matter what your
background no matter what your sexual preference is?

45 MD: Yes.
JP: Yep.
MD: So you say.
JP: So I think, I think we need to put something out like that to calm it down because um they're, they're in a---
50 GC: frenzy
JP: ---the media pack. Um it's almost like I, I wish I could cancel question time 'cause they're not gonna be the slightest bit interested in what we asked about this and so um I think that---
MD: We have a good argument and it's better than Moira has those views. I don't have homophobic or transphobic views.
55 JP: Okay. We---
MD: There is no evidence that I have those views. All they have got is me asking questions about what does the law mean and me saying can we not find a different way to balance the laws so that we can look after transgender people as well as protect single sex rights. That is all I've ever done and also I have questioned the, the automatic affirmation processes. They've been, they have been questioned all around the world. There's gonna be an inquiry coming whether anyone likes it or not. Now in terms of whatever you wanna say on those issues agree or not I would never let it stand. I would never let it stand. If they say what do you think about her transphobic views and you say oh well she has views that are different to mine that will enrage me at no end. I don't have transphobic views and you should defend me. I've never said anything transphobic or
60 hateful I've never said anything homophobic. My biggest fans are gay people and trans people. They were in my audience.
65 JP: Yeah. Um look---
MD: Jess' answer yesterday saying oh well you know Moira has her views but I support them that's such an own goal.
70 JP: Yeah I---
MD: You, but even for you even not defending me it's like you're admitting there's someone in our party with transphobic views and we can't get rid of them because of free speech.
JP: But Moira you know how this debate is it's feverish. People take signals. So right now unless I go out there and assure people they are gonna think things and I, I---
75 MD: What would your vision of ins-, like reassuring people be?
JP: That no matter who you are because they don't think that about you. No matter what you say they don't think that about you.
MD: That's nice---
JP: You're being defined...
80 MD: ---but I'm wondering what you're going to say.
GC: But Moira look what's happened in the House. RV[?] had a go at you and she had a go at you today. They're going to have a go at you every single day.
MD: They can.
GC: Yeah but that, don't you understand---

85 MD: I think they're gonna do it because they smell blood in the water because no one's coming up with a strong response. If we just bit back and said actually, not a single homophobic or transphobic thing was said. You name the one thing that was said. They've got nothing. I said nothing bad.

GC: In their eyes though it is being that, in their eyes as John said it is, it is one dimensional. They're not, they're not taking on board. I mean I haven't read the 100 emails but I'm getting emails.

90 MD: I'm getting emails of support.

GC: Well that's alright I'm not. I'm getting the others where the 100 emails to Council [?]

MD: Yeah because they want you all to fold and act like it's homophobic and transphobic just to care about single sex spaces which is absurd and internally incoherent. They are, the trans and the gays they're opposed. They're telling lesbians that they have to date biological men it's rape culture. You can easily win this argument you can easily turn it back against them. It's up to you whether you're going to.

95 JP: Yeah. I, I don't accept that. I think you've gotta live in in the real world Moira and we, I, I just don't think you see what a train yeah coming our way. We will not be able to define ourselves as anything other than a party focused on these issues and I, I've, I've never said that I wanted anyone to change their views but I've gotta tell you that's all we're gonna get defined as.

100 GC: This is a really difficult position for John.

JP: We will not be able to talk about any other issues.

GC: We need to be talking about Pearson. We need to be talking about cost of living.

MD: I'm just curious what you're going to say about one of the people in your team. Are you gonna to actually give the impression that you agree that I'm transphobic or homophobic? Is that what you're going to do to me?

105 GC: No no no.

JP: I, before I go out I've gotta look at some of the [?].

MD: Because that's what Jess Wilson did to me.

110 JP: Uh I will need to go through and get a bit of a, ah specifically about some of the things you've written and said and then I, I've gotta tell you I am [?]

MD: Well don't get it from the newspapers.

JP: Oh the actual emails, the FOI I understand there's the emails [?].

MD: It's like this thick, I've gone through it. I told you what was in it.

115 JP: Yeah. Um---

MD: I offered to send it to you. That was weeks ago. You said someone from the media team would call me nobody called me.

JP: Yeah.

MD: You know before I even did my maiden speech I said can we have a meeting so that when I speak about these issues it's in a way that we're all happy with and you didn't follow that up either.

120 JP: Yeah well um you know you do have a lot of, you know we're dealing with a lot of things Moira and um you know if someone didn't get back to you I'm apologising for that but um---

MD: It's okay. I'm just saying you know. I, I'm b-, I have been trying.

125 GC: There's just not only John in the leadership team, I'm there I've been reaching out. We're here to help we need to support you. You could have come to Matt or me.

MD: About what?

GC: About this, about this because you know---

MD: About?

130 GC: What you've just asked John about I'm gonna say this in my maiden speech. At least then we could have, if John was too busy dealing with a million things at least somebody in the leadership team could have perhaps supported or guided you as you requested. So there's, there's more than just, he's, obviously John's the leader but there's more than John in the leadership team.

MD: Well that was just in general it wasn't specifically about the maiden speech.

135 JP: Yeah I mean I, you know our position on that bill too uh we neither you or I were in the Parliament but the position that the party took, the parliamentary party took at that time was to oppose the penalty side. Uh the review as I understand it is around the penalties. Um so we have to go back over and look at what the party's position was. It's not, we're not bound by it in the sense we're in a new Parliament but uh that was the position the party took. Um now you're not actually in shadow cabinet so you know you're not bound by that I, I understand that but um that was the position the party took. Um so I, I---

140 MD: I mean they're---

JP: ---in terms of what I was saying---

MD: ---they're saying that I went against a party position. All I did was ask for a review.

JP: Um the, the review goes beyond what the party's position was though in 2021.

145 MD: Well we didn't know then what we know now. I'm just saying it had nothing to do, I didn't say anything about our policy.

JP: Yeah.

GC: Yeah we, we knew that there was a review it's in the legislation.

150 MD: No but I mean you know based on all the stuff that's come out lately all around the world all the other gender clinics getting shut down and and you know restricted blah-di-blah , they're rolling back the laws everywhere else except here because it's legislated. On, just for your information that was not uh from my perspective anything to do with us. That was to do with the law they made. Now there's new information they need to have an open inquiry. Anyway, whether or not you agree I'm just giving you that information that was not about our policy.

155 GC: I am, I am across and I know all the issues and I have raised the issues about the gender clinic at the Children's. I'm all over the Tavistock. I have spoken to psychologists, the AMA and I went hard on this very issue in that bill. What the government did was combine the two on purpose---

MD: Yeah I know yeah.

160 GC: ---to absolutely wedge us. So the conversion stuff was just like well who in their right mind is gonna to support that but there are people out there that do. But you know that's my view that's my view.

MD: Yeah 'cause they don't understand.

165 GC: Well that's your view and I had a view and I have a strong view about medical intervention on children and I made that very clear in my debate. However, we're at this point where we've got a very big issue for our party as John has said and that's what we need to work through now.

MD: I don't know what you're asking of me and what you're telling me that you're going to do.

JP: Well I've still gotta formulate my language because it's gonna be one mean press conference. They are going to try to tear me to shreds um and they're gonna use it as my test on whether the party's a broad based party and this and that. It doesn't matter what we might finesse in here they are going to try and tear not just me the party.

170 GC: Oh all of us.

JP: In a week where we had pear-, we'll, we'll see what happens. The government is all putting all guns blazing into making that press conference. Andrews has come out calling on me today.

MD: I can get you not today but you know like I can get you a row of lesbians to stand around you and back you up in a press conference. I can get you a bunch of parents like I'm just saying.

175 JP: Yeah. So Moira what I'm going to do is I'm just gonna do a bit more planning um and I might need you just to come and have a chat so I can go over what I'm gonna say or propose to say um but we've just gotta be in communication this afternoon. Um these things aren't as simple as just putting someone out here or someone had to stand with it. It, it's as you well know you've been around politics now a while uh it doesn't quite work like that. Um they've got a narrative they're trying to validate and they're going to try---

180 MD: And I think that if you even by implication validate that at all, give any room to the idea that I am transphobic---

JP: No I, I, I---

185 MD: ---I think that will just---

JP: ---I can say---

MD: ---destroy us as a party.

JP: I can say that I've had a number of conversations with you and that um you um are strongly of the view you're not transphobic I don't think you know unless you've spoken to Moira I can, I can put that in um but I'll probably get, and this is why I'm, I, I just don't have the bandwidth to go through but um I'm just thinking um if they do go through and pick out little bits selectively out of context and throw them at me at the presser---

190 MD: So I can tell you is that that sex work lobby group they did an FOI on a basis of words, they did not have the full threads they have no context. They have documents that are unauthored um they don't know if I wrote them or someone else wrote them and the ones that they tried to get me on in that phone call turned out I didn't even write them.

195 JP: Mm.

MD: Crazy people sent them to me and I was like please don't send this to me on my councillor address blah-di-blah. Um and there's one, and the one I tried to tell you about was my speech my speech where they were going someone tr-, a journalist just asked me about it. I said what are you talking about what, what document and he sent it to me and he's like you know this was a you know a \$100,000 donation and I was like it says we, it clearly says we, this is why it didn't go anywhere open and shut. It was already investigated and shut. It's ridiculous. That's the evidence that exonerated me that he just gave to me like so that's dead in the water.

200 JP: Mm.

MD: But that's it. There's no other contro-, do you know what's controversial in those FOIs that at Melton City Council children were at risk. You know it's, there's huge scandals in there but it's not about me. And there's nothing homophobic, there's nothing transphobic. I say repeatedly in the emails can't we just look after both groups properly because I don't wanna send you know biological males who identify as female into a toilet with men. I get it. That would be dangerous.

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I don't wanna force them to do that. Can we look after them in addition to instead of by destroying women's rights and sex based places. Why can't we have both. That was my whole question.

JP: Mm.

215 MD: And the government didn't answer. They still haven't answered. We can't, Melton City Council can't even work out their own policies for toilets and change rooms because the government has refused to answer. I have video footage which I'll give to you of the Gender Equality
220 Commissioner telling me because I said what if I have a Muslim women swim only session, Muslim only swim session you know for women and a man comes in you know a biological male identifies as a woman and says I am a woman and I'm a Muslim. I said whose rights are ascendant there and she said well you know blah blah blah I don't know either but you should be encouraging your Muslim residents to be more tolerant. And I said are you telling me to tell my Muslim residents how to practice their own religion and she's like I didn't say that. I've got it on film. They're insane these people. Anyway whatever you do you'll do but you're also not really being very explicit about what you want me to do.

225 JP: Well um this was the first chat and I think we're gonna need another one uh before I go out. Um and I just wanted to get your sense of things. And [?]

MD: My sense of things is you are not as vulnerable as you feel that you are. You think they're gonna find something. There's nothing.

JP: It's not just that. This is, this is narrative shaping stuff [?].

230 MD: I get that bit but I'm just saying there's no smoking gun is all I want you to know.

JP: Yeah.

MD: There's literally no smoking gun. They've got one thing where I said you know yes thanks be to God whatever I got preselected something like that. Who cares, everyone knows I'm religious.

JP: I'm not---

235 MD: I'm just saying---

JP: ---I'm not worried about [?]

MD: No I, I actually think that's the worst thing in there. There's, like everything else. On City, on Melton City Council all the staff got behind me because of those emails that they have been seeing like they're just they're not the smoking gun like don't be afraid that that's a smoking gun. I
240 know you have to go out today. I would tell you if there was a massive smoking gun.

JP: It's not just that Moira, it's you know you're part of a team and again we all bring our own experiences and viewpoints they're all valid. Uh we all have experiences we bring but you know we're trying to sh-, to define the government and we had a---

MP: And they couldn't be defined as anti woman---

245 JP: ---[?]. And I was gonna call on a minister today to resign in less than an hour about an hour I was gonna call on a minister to resign which I wouldn't and don't ever plan to do lightly. And I'm, well that's actually [?] 'cause the press pack just don't wanna talk about it they're not interested, they're interested in us. Um and you know what I, what I just wanna do is try and shift us as a team onto the issues that are gonna win us the seats where we need to win and then we can you know
250 implement an agenda that we can be proud of but if I'm going out there every day talking about these things I can tell you all ministers shadow ministers or any of us we're gonna find that really hard. And you know Labor has 56 seats so we've got a big job to state the obvious. So look---

MD: And that is why, that is why I wanted to reach out early.

255 JP: Yeah. No you did call me. Um uh I'm gonna do a bit more work with the team just to try and get prepped on uh what they might throw and then I might come back to you on it. I think we'll need to just come back to you before then um and---

GC: And I'm going out with John so I'll come back into that.

JP: Yeah. So we'll just make sure that we confer before we go out um and yeah I'll just probably need to try and anticipate the sorts of things [?].

260 MD: I hope you'll at least consider going on the full frontal attack.

JP: Yeah I, I don't want the debate I don't wanna go into the debate on that today when I wanna try and keep the focus on Pearson. Um uh and then on a couple of other ministers we wanna target as well but---

MD: Even the one liner's like well lesbians don't, lots of lesbians don't agree and move on ---

265 GC: Well we know. We've had Holly Lawford-Smith. We stood, she stood with us. We've been through this.

MD: I know I'm just saying, you just---

GC: You know so we've had that but they're not, the media and the feeding frenzy are not you know that---

270 JP: They don't care.

GC: ---they didn't buy it then. They're buying the, they're buying the other rhetoric and we just can't afford to be distracted by their rhetoric when we've got this piercing [?]

MD: That's fine. I just think you're talking to people behind the media not the media. Of course the media are against you.

275 GC: Well they're the reporters so.

MD: I know but I'm just saying it's the people behind it.

GC: That's what's come up.

MD: Anyway that's fine you'll do what you do. I'm just saying I hope that uh I would be very honest if there was something in there that would genuinely be a smoking gun. There's not.

280 JP: Mm.

MD: The worst most embarrassing thing in there was that thing about God because there was some really, really religious person. I was like yes yes thank God. I don't even speak like that normally. I found it---

285 JP: Oh they will ask me if, if we are going to uh, it, it kind of doesn't matter in a way. I know this sounds really unfair but it kind of doesn't matter what's in there. They're gonna say so John do you think uh do you support or will you allow Victoria's reproductive laws to be changed uh will you go beyond to---

MD: What's that got to do with anything?

JP: No but they'll do---

290 MD: No but like---

JP: ---they're gonna say [?] uh abortion---

MD: ---what do you mean?

JP: They're gonna [?]----

MD: Oh. I didn't even mention abortion.

295 JP: I know.

MD: It's not even---

GC: Is that what you, but you all, they're gonna ask John that because you're perceived, that's, that's your views. They know that and they're gonna say---

JP: [?]----

300 MD: No they don't.

JP: ---you're a public figure.

MD: Just wait for it, just wait for it. I've never, I've written twice on abortion in my whole life. They were directed at pro life people and I was criticising them for not um, like I was blaming them that if they want less abortions in the world then they need to persuade people that they're there to help them and love women. Yes yes we don't agree with it. Yes yes you can lobby all you like. Yes yes we think it's evil well that's nice. I was, I've only ever spoken about it to pro lifers I've never lectured people that are not pro life. I'm not like Bernie. I don't speak about it from there because I---

305 JP: I'm not---

MD: I'm just saying---

310 JP: ---judging you. [?]----

MD: ---but I don't have a legislative agenda. I've never said anywhere what I would do and I've told---

JP: [?] asked them.

MD: I know but you can just say Moira's never ever said anything about changing laws 'cause I haven't. All I've said is that pro lifers if they want less, yes they can lobby yes they can do all that like everyone else in a free country but what I was recommending that they did was like William Wilberforce which was just persuade people. Pro lifers don't like my view on abortion because I would never send a woman to jail for it. I would never. Bernie told me that if he got in he was, this was before he got booted, he was gonna have day one he was gonna you know do an overturn on abortion. I said I wouldn't support that Bernie. They're assuming a lot.

315 JP: Yeah. But you're, you're a public figure so you have a persona---

MD: I know. I'm just, I'm just saying.

JP: ---and a persona doesn't always match exactly the [?] model. So again I'm not just [?]----

MD: Well if they compare me with Bernie Finn you can say you know you need to stop. She's her own person don't compare her to him whatever.

325 JP: Yeah.

MD: I'm just saying. They---

JP: Yeah. Look let me keep [?] the terms. I'm conscious I've got question time and then we're gonna go out a little bit after it but we'll need to have some kind of chat after before I go out. So it'll probably be I think I'll need to go out at about 3:30-ish I think um depending on what time you'll leave the chamber.

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GC: Well that'll be better because I've, well I've got the racing bill. Um um we'll start that probably I think Lee's just told me we've got this one it'll take 15 minutes in committee. So that's 2:00 to 2:15 and then we'll start the racing bill. So I should be free yeah I think we'll be still, yeah that is right.

335 JP: So Moira we'll have a bit of a chat just so I can tell you where we've landed and what we're, what we're expecting and all that from the gallery but um yeah let me just work with the team and I'll have to come back to you. If you don't [?]

MD: You know it's true that the Muslim community is absolutely devastated by this.

GC: They're still voting for Labor.

340 MD: They voted for, I almost had them in the West and when people went, when David Southwick went on Joy FM and said no no no we're not gonna do that he made it, he made me into a liar and Labor were promising the same thing we were on you know giving schools their rights. I do have lots of new Muslim members in the West. We can win them over but you have to have a united front on these basic freedoms that's my opinion. Anyway.

345 JP: Andrews manages to walk both sides of the street which is what I'd like to do to be able to appeal to both, he appeals to both.

MD: He's a liar.

JP: [?] he appeals to both---

GC: He is a liar.

350 JP: ---and he wins seats.

MD: He's a liar.

JP: He wins seats, he wins seats in the East where there are strong church communities, he wins seats in the West where there are strong church, and how does he do that because he's able to speak a series of positions which I can articulate just as better just as good if not better than him but we kind of get ourselves caught in this no man's land and we lose both so and he's able to win both. We lose both. But anyway that's a discussion for another day.

355 MD: I don't think we've gone out to get them before.

JP: Well I think you can. I mean that's why I came out the other week uh because I actually think it's possible to do that if you can articulate [?]

360 MD: It absolutely is.

JP: ---but yeah.

MD: They will come back once they're [?].

JP: I can uh try [?] this afternoon but [?].

GC: It's gonna hurt. They're gonna hurt on other issues. They're going to hurt on cost of living. They're going to start to understand that the petrol prices, power prices, their mortgages, their rents are all gonna go up. Those issues are going to hurt Andrews more.

365 MD: Yep I don't deny it. I don't deny it. I don't know. I, I, I think---

GC: That's where we can get them.

MD: I think having schools lie to the parents about their children is where you will win that's my opinion. Everyone will throw and burn everything down.

370 GC: We need to get in. We need to get in---

MD: I'm not gonna, I'm not trying to dictate to you giving you---

GC: ---to sort all that out. I couldn't agree with you more. Do you reckon I'm happy with what's
375 happening over in the health department and what all they're doing with all their garbage over there? It is just unbelievable but we need to get in to clean it out.

MD: Yeah well there's nothing in my speech. I literally say in my speech there must be a way where we can look after trans-, the dignity and whatever rights of trans people without trampling on the rights of women and girls.

JP: Uh I've, I've always, and I maintain it today, I don't know why some in the party think that we've
380 got a view one side of it. I'm actually perfectly comfortable being able to articulate freedom of religion can be protected as can equality [?]. It's possible to do. Um it's where you---

MD: I think a critical---

JP: ---would like to [?]

MD: ---thing is to say that asking those questions and saying things like that are not transphobic and
385 not hateful. That is absurd. That is an absurd and hysterical defamatory thing to say about what I said and any of the things that I've ever said.

JP: Mm. So what we'll do then is um, as I said let me do what [?] at question time and then we might have a chat before I go. So we'll have question time in the meantime from 2:00 to probably 2:45, it'll be pretty messy today I expect uh but uh 2:45. We might tentatively aim for about 3:00 if you can free yourself up Georgie 'cause I have to go out pronto after that I think but we'll need to have another chat. And I wanna run through [?]

MD: Just before you go with it, so I'm just trying to make sure that you know 'cause you won't get a chance to look through all those FOIs. There were three issues right? I wanted a review of whether or not people, I called it the rezoning of sex work law so you shouldn't have children inside brothels at all ever anywhere and sex work should not be happening in front of children. That's it.
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GC: But they, but they don't. It's under 18. That's, that's what they've said. That's not quite right.

MD: What do you mean it's under 18?

JP: You've gotta be over 18.

GC: Sorry. Yeah you've gotta be over 18.
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MD: No you can be up to, you can be a newborn up to 18 months old to be taken into a bro---

GC: What for breastfeeding?

MD: It doesn't matter. You shouldn't be taking a baby into a brothel.

GC: Well if you're breastfeeding a baby---

MD: I don't agree.
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GC: Well there, that's the point. You've got a view. Somebody else has got a view doing it [?]

MD: I'm not gonna argue on views. I'm just saying that's all I said right---

GC: Right.

MD: ---that I don't think that, I mean just 'cause your breastfeeding you wouldn't take your baby into a chemical plant, you would deal with it another way. Other women work it out. Um uh so there's that. Again nothing that was just a survey. The trans stuff was to do wi-, it wasn't even trans stuff actually. All these people at Melton City Council complained, they were Muslims complaining about having to have the rainbow flag on their name. They said they don't mind having it
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415 anywhere at Council. They don't want their, under their personal name like on their email
signature. And I said and it was a lovely email could we maybe replace it with words which mean
the same thing. You could have gender, gender identity, sex, religion and then like it wouldn't be
so bad. Um and then he forced, that CEO forced everyone to have it under their name, made it a
420 rule because they put it on their names without telling them made it a rule. Anyway that CEO got
flipped and sacked by everyone. They'd never had so many complaints in their life. He lost his
job over that when he came and that was his own fault right? That's the other thing.

GC: You mean in the signature block?

MD: Yeah, he was forcing Muslims and Christians and people who just don't wanna talk about politics
to have it under their name. That's in there and all I said was can we replace like either just have
the three flags that we're supposed to have and words. Can you just have a sentence? What can
425 you do to help these you know Muslims just like not have their own name attached to that, that's
like not they're not happy and the last one is, so the sex work the flags, I mean, that's it---

JP: Was there a third or?

MD: Oh yeah so the email about my preselection speech, which Gino Potenzza tried to say that I said
one single donation of \$1,000, sorry \$100,000 and I said I'll just send you my speech shall I,
430 which I did and then it put that complaint in the trash and it's been dead for like whoever knows
how long, that's it that's all that's in there, those are the three things you can be brought up on.
The other things I've got in there are actually scandals from Melton City Council because they
were running programs um for ten year olds saying you can come here and we will not tell your
parents from the ages of 10-25 and you can talk about your sexuality and I was like what the frick
435 is that, you don't have a mandate to be speaking to ten year olds without their parents'
permission, especially---

GC: Where was that from?

MD: Melton City Council, they were running these programs all of that's in there and I was like, when I
was talking to the first journalist I was like, you've got a scandal and if you had any integrity you
would go after the scandal that is in there which I didn't go to the news with because we have a
440 good CEO and I was like I'm not trying to get clickbait can you please have some child safeguards
in there, they love me over there and they were like yes, yes, yes we'll fix it, and that's the only
other thing that's in there, there's nothing in there John.

JP: Mm okay

MD: I would be very happy to read the whole lot out because it would do nothing but exonerate me
that's it. So what they do is they've resaved the documents under different names, they've given
them titles that don't exist, which is why that first journalist, she she ran away, cause I was like
you've got no authors and you've only got four documents that's it.

JP: So sorry what, they've given what the new names, the?

MD: So all the document dump right, when they've given them, when they sent them to this woman
they renamed them like Moira says...

JP: They gave them, like the file..

MD: That sex lobbyist they changed the name of the files right because obviously there just a string of
emails that happened to come out from a word thing. And I was like what do you mean document
blah blah blah, I was like I don't say that, oh that's right because someone had sent notes from my
455 preselection practice, oh this is the other thing but don't worry it's not bad, to my Councillor email
address and then I was like don't do that again but what they had in there was that someone said
oh abortion is your major issue what do you say to that? And my answer is---

GC: Oh the preselector?

460 MD: Well it was like a practice round right, and my answer is that I understand there is no social support for overturning abortion laws. It's not my major issue at all, something like, I can't remember what I said but she thought because the title was 'abortion is my major issue...'

GC: Because they've taken that to mean--

465 MD: Right, and she didn't run with it. Because I said to her, I was like, I thought you were a liar but yes it's in there but don't you see, cause you can see it, it's questions and answers and I literally, I was like, my answer which I knew you were lying because I've said it everywhere is that it's not my major issue. I have never said that. I've said against that over-- I've said repeatedly that's not how you deal with abortion.

JP: So, in the lead up to the meeting--

470 MD: I'm on the record.

JP: It would be good if you could think in the meantime between now and when we catch up again, it will help me--

GC: --a line--

475 JP: --to be able to say on a few things: 'No, Moira doesn't, Moira's position as I understand it-- now I don't want to verbal so we've got to be careful that you're happy for me to say. I've got to try to shut it down, and move the hell on.

MD: Yep. And you'll be able to say 'Moira's been on the record repeatedly-- you can say 'you're cherry-picking'-- 'Moira's been on the record repeatedly, anyone who knows her knows and her view on abortion is that you deal with that culturally by persuading people, that's it, move on.

480 JP: And okay, I'm not here to verbal I understand these have to be yours but if I can say something like--

MD: Yeah no, I understand, I'm helping.

JP: No Moira ... doesn't support, or isn't campaigning for that, she's told me she's not campaigning, if that's correct, if there's something I can say like, no Moira believes that everybody should be loved no matter what your background. Can I say something like that?

485 MD: Yes, but that's ridiculous you know,

JP: I'm not dealing with it rationally.

GC: He's talking--

MD: --I know, I know, I'm just--

490 JP: So have a think because if I can say these things: No Moira's actually-- in my time working as a Parliamentarian--

MD: ...what you can say Moira is actually concerned for people, you know, for transgender people. She's concerned for their safety and she wants to look after them as well as women.

GC: That's a bit different. That's--

495 MD: Oh whatever I'm just saying--

JP: Just generic stuff, and I can, try and...I mean we'll see how it goes but we'll, we'll talk about it.

MD: Yes. I'm just saying there are lots of good things that you... give me a list of topics that you want something on I'll get you a sentence.

JP: Well--

500 GC: Just those ones.
JP: I think abortion they'll talk about. They'll talk about transgender--
GC: Transphobia.
MD Yep. And homophobia, I can answer that.
JP: Homophobia...
505 MD: And what about transing kids or something?
JP Want to try to stay out because then they'll start going down into the weeds--
MD: I know I'm just saying if they bring it up you'll want a one-liner, like, just transing kids.
GC: And just, and just the emails I think you need a line on the emails in terms of what you're saying--
JP: Say something like, I haven't been briefed on them in specifically--
510 MD: But that group has already tried to peddle those to another journalist, who worked out that they had been manipulated and she didn't run the story. Cause that's true.
JP: We're trying to get to the bottom of what... we understand it could change--
MD: Cause they've only got 100 number one, I mean I tell you, it's that thick. And what he did with her, was he gave her like not... he doesn't even have the full thread this sex worker lobby guy number
515 one, I do, but even the bits that he gave her were not the full thread like he's a total filthy little liar.
JP: Yeah so he's changed the contents of what was, what was described--
MD: He has, he has picked and choosed which parts of things that he's gonna disclose and he didn't even have the full context of the... he didn't even have threads of emails he had random pieces of things that were in my inbox, because he did a word by word search. He didn't say I want all
520 emails from this date to that date, he said I want anything with this particular word, this particular word, this particular word and so he just got a random--
GC: [?]
MD: I know, I'm just, just so, for you to know.
JP: Yeah ok. Have I think. I better get--
525 GC: Yeah you're on, you're up in a minute.
JP: Just gotta grab something, after [?].
MD: Yep.

530

[End of recording]