

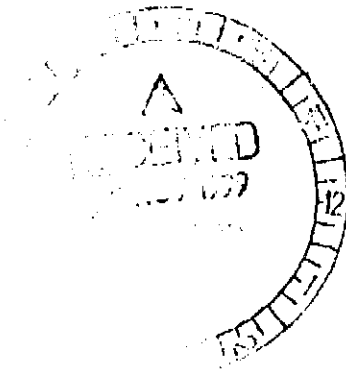
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22 November 1999

Mr. Wayne Bellew,  
Principal Solicitor  
for the Australian Government Solicitor,  
GPO Box U1994,  
PERTH WA 6845.



Dear Wayne,

**AUTO MASTERS**

I refer to our extensive conference with Mr. Stewart Smith last Friday morning.

In my Opinion on this matter I expressed the view that while the case was arguable, in the absence of more cogent evidence, it could not be described as being strong. I suggested that it would be most inappropriate to proceed with the case without first having obtained a deal more evidence in order to evaluate its strength.

The material presented by way of a submission effectively at the conference on Friday morning certainly threw light on a number of areas which had not previously been apparent.

As a starting point, I have requested Mr. Brian Lauri of counsel to make available all of the court papers that he has in relation to the proceedings in the Supreme Court of Western Australia as a foundation on which to give greater consideration to the prospects of reviewing the strengths of the case. No doubt those papers will be received shortly.

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As discussed in our private conversation following the conference, my view was that providing the allegations that were made in the conference were capable of being substantiated and proven, then the case for unconscionable conduct against Auto Masters is very much stronger. Whether the allegations can be substantiated remains to be seen.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C. Smith", written over the typed name "C. Smith".