

# Court hears of missing woman's last phone call

The last phone call Susan Christie made was to the home of a complete stranger, crown prosecutor Troy Sweeney told the Supreme Court this week.

And the last known people to have seen or heard from her were a neighbour, her best friend and a taxi driver as the night of Thursday, November 15, 2001, unfolded.

Earlier in the evening, Mrs Christie had spoken to Louise Henley, her close friend and neighbour who lived in the unit above hers in Currie Street, Daglish.

Louise Henley said she had gone to Mrs Christie's flat to repay \$100 she owed her.

She asked Susan for a drink from the bottle of bourbon she knew she had.

"Susan said: 'I've been seeing someone'," Ms Henley told the court.

He had been visiting that day and had drunk the whole lot.

She confirmed that her visitor was a doctor she had met at a party thrown by Kelli Budrikis in Darlington.

"She said: 'And like all doctors he's a piss-tank'," Ms Henley said.

"She said Kelli was going to put her and the doctor together, or Sue liked him or something like that."

She agreed she had told police that Kelli

was trying to match-make Susan and the doctor.

Just before 10.30 on the Thursday night, Ms Henley saw Susan Christie at the front gate of their units, arriving from a taxi with a bottle of wine.

"She said: 'The doctor is coming back over. I don't know how he's getting here because he is too pissed to drive - he'll get a taxi'," Ms Henley said.

She agreed she had told police in a statement: "Sue was quite excited about a man who's coming back around tonight."

"She was drunk, but happy drunk."

She said she told Susan to make sure she had safe sex.

Ms Henley said she never saw Susan Christie again.

At around 10pm, Mrs Christie had a phone conversation with Mrs Budrikis, who lived in Darlington.

They had discussed plans for a trip to a beach house in the South-West on Boxing Day.

Mrs Christie then went by taxi to the Wembley bottle shop and returned at 10.28pm with a bottle of white wine.

A white wine bottle with most of it consumed was later found in Mrs Christie's fridge.

Phone records show that at 10.34pm she attempted to phone the home of a couple named Barry, whom she did not know, and they did not know her.

The crown surmised that Mrs Christie had been trying to locate the phone number of Peter Finn, a man she had met at the Wembley Hotel. The Barrys had the same surname as a



Defence lawyer Ian Farquhar.

relative of this man.

Mrs Christie, a compulsive user of the phone who sometimes phoned her first husband 20 to 30 times a day and night, never made another phone call.

Her upstairs neighbours, Louise Henley (28), Warwick Fisher (34) and a man named Greg who they had contacted through a magazine for group sex, told police they had heard muffled thuds during the night in Mrs Christie's unit.

Ms Henley told the court she heard a couple of "carpet-like bumps" from the flat below between midnight and 1am, about one second apart.

Ms Henley said she said: "There's that alcoholic bitch falling over again."

Susan and Warwick did not like each other.

Mrs Christie had called Warwick a low life and a junkie, the court was told.

When he offered her a bottle of bourbon as a peace offering, she told him to "shove it up his arse".

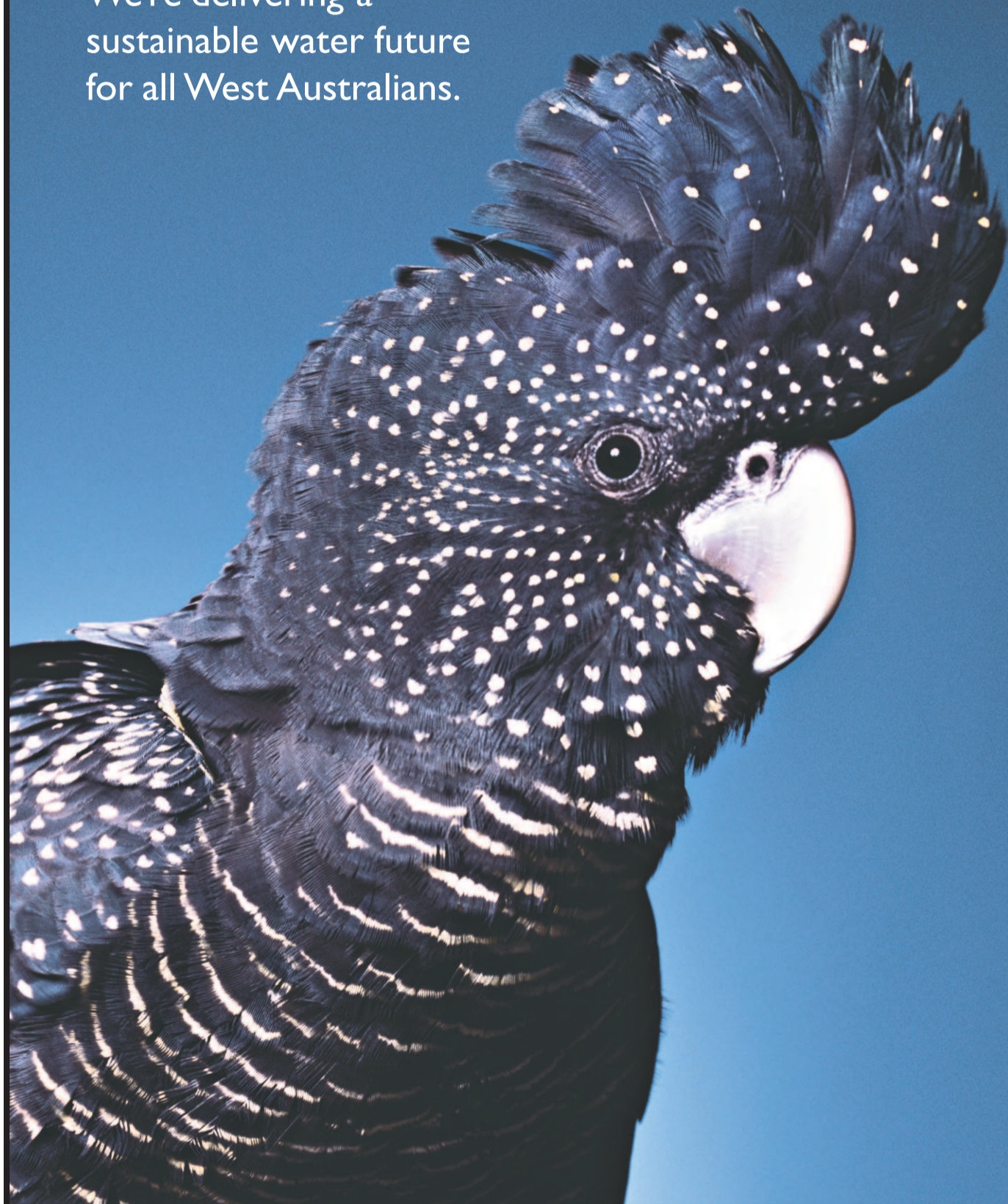
Ms Henley denied that she had invited Mrs Christie to join in group sex with her and

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Defence lawyer Tom Percy QC.

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## TOWN OF CAMBRIDGE

### Naming of Rights of Way

The Council has decided to name all Rights of Way (ROW's) in the Town. The reason for this is that the lack of names for Right of Ways has created a serious impediment to the enforcement of the Town's Local Laws, particularly those local laws relating to the control of vehicle parking, or obstructions and dumping of refuse in ROW's.

The Council has decided to use a common theme for the naming of ROW's. The theme will be the surnames of service men and women who enlisted in the Armed Services during World War 1 or 2, who were born in, or residents of, West Leederville, Floreat, Wembley and City Beach. Each name will have the suffix "Lane".

All 122 Right of Ways have been named, using:

- names obtained from those listed on the Cenotaph at the Leederville Town Hall,
- names extracted from "The Western Command" Xmas Number 1941 and
- names extracted from the World War Two Nominal Roll produced by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Canberra.

All names have been assessed and approved by the Geographic Names Committee in terms of their Criteria for Location Names.

GRAHAM D PARTRIDGE  
Chief Executive Officer

