

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA
COMMERCIAL COURT
GROUP PROCEEDINGS LIST

S ECI 2025 02037

BETWEEN

**IAN WEATHERLAKE (AS TRUSTEE FOR THE IAN
WEATHERLAKE FAMILY TRUST)**

Plaintiff

- and -

PALADIN ENERGY LIMITED (ACN 061 681 098)

Defendant

ORDER

JUDGE: The Honourable Justice Watson

DATE MADE: 28 October 2025

ORIGINATING PROCESS: Writ filed 16 April 2025

HOW OBTAINED: Application heard 27 October 2025

ATTENDANCE: F K Forsyth KC and K J Browne of counsel for the plaintiff
P W Collinson KC and J Page of counsel for the plaintiff (**Ms Chaudhri**) in proceeding S ECI 2025 03814 (**Chaudhri proceeding**)
A N McRobert of counsel for the defendant

OTHER MATTERS:

- A. To resolve the overlap between the present proceeding and the Chaudhri proceeding, orders were made for the filing of materials in respect of a carriage contest by the Honourable Justice Delany on 28 July 2025 (**Multiplicity Orders**).
- B. Pursuant to orders 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 of the Multiplicity Orders, the plaintiff filed materials over which he seeks confidentiality orders, being:
 - a. Statement of Position (15 August 2025);
 - b. Revised Statement of Position (20 August 2025);
 - c. Ian Weatherlake's affidavit (4 September 2025);

- d. Nathan Rapoport's affidavit (5 September 2025);
 - e. Submissions (16 September 2025);
 - f. Nathan Rapoport's second affidavit (7 October 2025);
 - g. submissions in reply (16 October 2025);
 - h. Nathan Rapoport's third affidavit (24 October 2025)
- (Multiplicity and GCO Materials).**

- C. The parts of the Multiplicity and GCO Materials in respect of which confidentiality orders are sought are indicated by highlighting, in accordance with order 14(a) of the Multiplicity Orders.
- D. There are no confidentiality orders sought in respect of any part of Mr Weatherlake's affidavit.
- E. An explanation for each instance of confidentiality redaction sought is provided in the schedule exhibit to Mr Rapoport's third affidavit.
- F. This order is signed by the Judge pursuant to r 60.02(1)(b) of the *Supreme Court (General Civil Procedure) Rules 2025* (Vic).

THE COURT ORDERS THAT:

Confidentiality

- 1. Pursuant to rules 28.03.3(1) and 28.05(4) of the *Supreme Court (General Civil Procedure) Rules 2025* (Vic), the highlighted parts of the Multiplicity and GCO Materials are confidential and those parts are to be redacted in the versions of those materials kept on the Court file.

Amendment

- 2. The plaintiff has leave to file and serve:
 - (a) an amended writ altering the description of the group indorsed on the writ filed on 16 April 2025;
 - (b) an amended statement of claim, filed and served as a 'proposed' amended statement of claim pursuant to order 1 of the Multiplicity Orders.

Group Costs Order

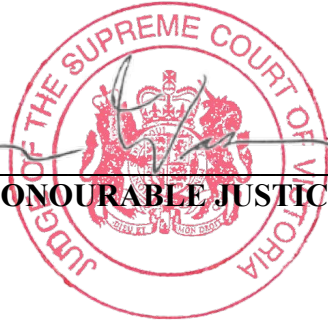
3. Pursuant to section 33ZDA(1) of the *Supreme Court Act 1986* (Vic):
 - (a) the legal costs payable to the solicitors for the plaintiff and group members, Slater and Gordon Limited, be calculated as a percentage of the amount of any award or settlement that may be recovered in the proceeding, that percentage being (inclusive of GST):
 - (i) for such part of any settlement or judgment up to \$60,000,000, 27.5%;
 - (ii) for such part of any settlement or judgment that exceeds \$60,000,000 but does not exceed \$120,000,000, 21%; and
 - (iii) for such part of any settlement or judgment that exceeds \$120,000,000, 14%; and
 - (b) liability for payment of the legal costs pursuant to order 3(a) is to be shared among the plaintiff and all group members.
4. In respect of the plaintiff's application for a group costs order:
 - (a) the plaintiff bears his own costs of the application; and
 - (b) the defendant's costs of the application and any costs of the application for a group costs order in the Chaudhri proceeding (which shall be treated as costs in this proceeding) be reserved.

Multiplicity

5. Ms Chaudhri have leave to appear in this proceeding in support of her application that the proceeding be stayed (Chaudhri stay application).
6. The Chaudhri stay application is dismissed.
7. In respect of multiplicity issues:
 - (a) the plaintiff's costs are reserved; and
 - (b) the defendant's costs, including any costs incurred in relation to the resolution of the multiplicity issue in the Chaudhri proceeding, which shall be treated as costs in this proceeding, be reserved.

DATE AUTHENTICATED:

28 October 2025



THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE WATSON