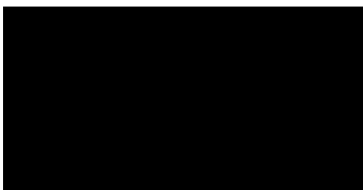


If calling please ask for: [REDACTED]  
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Reference: ESS-18-2170



**METROPOLITAN  
FIRE  
SERVICE**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

99 Wakefield Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

GPO Box 98  
Adelaide SA 5001  
South Australia

Tel +61 8 8204 3600  
Fax +61 8 8204 3838

[www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)

ABN 26 897 550 904

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in relation to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act) in which you requested access to the following documents:

*"All documents relating to the fires that occurred at Endota Spa franchises in South Australia, including but not limited to incident reports, photographs, notebook entries, investigation reports, witness statements and fire logs.*

*The details of the fires are as follows:*

- 1. Fire on 23 February 2017 at the Endota Spa located at Office 1B, Mawson Central 9-15 Main Street, Mawson, Lakes.*
- 2. Fire on 16 September 2014 at the Endota Spa located at 118 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide."*

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, may be published in the agency's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at <http://dpc.sa.gov.au/what-we-do/services-for-government/premier-and-cabinet-circulars>.

Please note that in regard to your request for documents relating to a fire on 23 February 2017 at the Endota Spa located at Office 1B, Mawson Central 9-5 Main Street, Mawson Lakes (point 1 of your application), there is no record of a fire on that date at that address. A search was also conducted for 22 and 24 February with no results.

A search of files has been conducted, with regard to point 2. of your application, and five (5) files were located that are within the scope of your application. The documents are identified in the attached schedule.

In respect of each document, I have determined as follows:



**Government  
of South Australia**

### **Documents, 1, 2, 4 and 5**

I have determined that these documents should be released in full.

### **Document 3**

I have determined that this document should be released in part.

In regard to this document, the parts to which I have not granted you access is the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building.

- (i) The document contains the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building.
- (ii) It would be unreasonable to disclose the name and phone number of the owner of the building, but not the other information in the document.
- (iii) The name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building is exempt from disclosure under clause 6 (1) of the FOI Act which reads:

*"A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."*

- (iv) In my view, it would be unreasonable to disclose the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building because:
  - (a) Disclosure under the FOI Act is "disclosure to all the world". (Re Sunderland and Department of Defence, (1986) 11 ALD 258; Re Williams and Registrar, Federal Court of Australia, (1985) 3 ALD 814; Re Anderson and the Australian Federal Policy, (1986) 11 ALD 355.)
  - (b) Re Chandra and Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, (1984) 6 ALN N 257, which has been applied in South Australia, says that I should consider "... all the circumstances including:
    - The nature of the information disclosed;
    - The circumstances in which the information is obtained;
    - The likelihood of the information being information that the person concerned would not wish to have disclosed without consent; and
    - Whether the information has any current relevance: (aN259).

The matters outlined in (a) to (b) above lead me to conclude that it would be unreasonable to disclose the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building under the FOI Act.

It is practicable to delete the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building and release the remainder in accordance with subsection 20(4) of the FOI Act, I have done so. Accordingly, please find enclosed a copy of this document with the name and mobile phone number of the owner of the building deleted.

**Appeal Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your rights of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Accredited Freedom of Information Officer.

**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer**

22 June 2018

## SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Freedom of Information application by [REDACTED] – “All documents relating to the fires that occurred at Endota Spa franchises in South Australia, including but not limited to incident reports, photographs, notebook entries, investigation reports, witness statements and fire logs.

*The details of the fires are as follows:*

*1. Fire on 23 February 2017 at the Endota Spa located at Office 1B, Mawson Central 9-15 Main Street, Mawson, Lakes.*

*2. Fire on 16 September 2014 at the Endota Spa located at 118 O’Connell Street, North Adelaide.”*

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Determination</b>
1	Initial incident report	Document released in full.
2	Endota Spa layout plan	Document released in full.
3	Fire Investigation Notes	Document released in part – name and mobile phone number of owner exempt under clause 6 (1) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act
4	Fire Investigation Report	Document released in full.
5	Photographs – North Adelaide	Documents released in full.

# INITIAL INCIDENT REPORT

Caller Name:  Caller Details/Other:

Who Raised Alarm:	31 - TRAVELLER, PASSER BY, NEIGHBOUR	Incident Name:	NORTH ADELAIDE
Method of Notification:	71 - 000 (ENHANCED 000, PAGERS)	Daily Incident No:	8
Type/Task:	STRUCTURE COMMERCIAL	Incident/Task No:	1070534
Premises:		Shift:	B
No./Address/St Type:	<input type="text"/> OCONNELL ST/GEORGE ST <input type="text"/> STREET	Time:	4:05
Location:	NORTH ADELAIDE	Date:	16/09/2014
Grid Reference:	-34.9052894729121,138.595	Postcode:	5006
UBD Reference:	ADL 118 D 2	Delayed Arrival:	
Risk:	C	Stop:	16/09/2014 05:38
Level:	2	Incident Completed:	16/09/2014 07:46
First Arrival Officer.:	<input type="text"/>	Reduced Attendance:	
Arrival Code.:	K99	Condition/Class:	COMPLETED - WAITING FIRE REPORT   1
		Region:	MFS
		Group/Unit:	SOUTHERN

## Fire Alarms Info

Installation No:	<input type="text"/>	Primary No:	<input type="text"/>	Circ No:	<input type="text"/>	Detector:	<input type="text"/>	Type:	<input type="text"/>
Area of Call Origin:	<input type="text"/>				Lvl of Call Origin:	<input type="text"/>			
Management Name:	<input type="text"/>				Type of Alarm System:	<input type="text"/>			
Mechanic Name:	<input type="text"/>				Charge:	<input type="text"/>			
Situation Found:	111 - BUILDING FIRE - STRUCTURE & CONTENT								
Action Taken:	13 - EXTINGUISHMENT, SALVAGE AND								
Address Correction:	<input type="text"/>								
	<input type="text"/>								

## Attendance:

20 ADELAIDE	04:06		

Information/Remarks:

# INITIAL INCIDENT REPORT

Date	Time	C/Sign	Condition	Remarks	TG
16/09/2014	04:05	302436	NONE	==SMOKE COMING FROM GARAGE OF ENDOTA SPA	
16/09/2014	04:05	302436	NONE	** LOI search completed at 16/09/14 04:05:25	
16/09/2014	04:06	302436	NONE	** Recommended unit ADL202 for requirement 1_BB_SAFIRE_PUMP_ATT(BA)_MFS (3.07	
16/09/2014	04:06	302436	NONE	km)	
16/09/2014	04:06	302436	NONE	** Recommended unit PPT371 for requirement 1_BB_SAFIRE_PUMP_ATT(BA)_MFS (3.19	
16/09/2014	04:06	302436	NONE	km)	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	** Event Location changed from "GEORGE ST, NORTH ADELAIDE" to "OCONNELL	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	ST/GEORGE ST, NORTH ADELAIDE" at: 16/09/14 04:09:10	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	** >>>> by: [REDACTED] on terminal: safeppw07	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	** LOI search completed at 16/09/14 04:09:11	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	SAPOL MSG\$154	
16/09/2014	04:09	302882	NONE	SAPOL ON SCENE	
16/09/2014	04:11	302882	NONE	SAAS NOTIFIED BY SAPOL	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Alarm level updated to 2	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit ADL201 for requirement 1_BB_SAFIRE_PUMP_ATT(BA)_MFS (3.07	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	km)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit ADL2011 for requirement 1_BB_SAFIRE_PUMP_ATT(BA)_MFS (3.07	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	km)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit ADL206 for requirement 1_BB_SAFIRE_BA_TENDER_MFS (3.07 km)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit CAR40 for requirement 1_BB_MFS_CMD_MGR (11.32 km)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit S1_ [REDACTED] for requirement 1_BB_MFS_OC_CMDR_1 (3.07 km)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	** Recommended unit SMGMTGRP for requirement 1_BB_MFS_SEN_MAN_GRP (*****)	
16/09/2014	04:14	302882	NONE	TA: S1_ [REDACTED] turned out while at 20 on F1409160008	
16/09/2014	04:15	301785	NONE	[REDACTED] FIRE SHOWING REQ 2ND ALARM	
16/09/2014	04:16	301785	NONE	INC DESK OPEN	
16/09/2014	04:16	302882	NONE	INCIDENT DESK ESTABLISHED 0415HRS CH156	
16/09/2014	04:17	302153	NONE	** Cross Referenced to Event # F1409160009 at: 16/09/14 04:17:06	
16/09/2014	04:17	302153	NONE	** >>>> by: [REDACTED] on terminal: safeppw04	
16/09/2014	04:18	302882	NONE	1 X HP IN USE DISC CUTTER BEING USED TO EFFECT ENTRY	
16/09/2014	04:18	302882	NONE	SAPN REQD TO ISOLATE POWER	
16/09/2014	04:19	302882	NONE	AERIAL REQD	
16/09/2014	04:19	302882	NONE	STAGING OCONNELL STREET	
16/09/2014	04:21	301785	NONE	[REDACTED]	
16/09/2014	04:24	302882	NONE	REQ 1 FURTHER GP FOR BA RELIEF	
16/09/2014	04:25	302882	NONE	FIRE CAUSE REQD	
16/09/2014	04:26	302153	NONE	** Cross Referenced to Event # F1409160011 at: 16/09/14 04:26:05	
16/09/2014	04:26	302153	NONE	** >>>> by: [REDACTED] on terminal: safeppw04	
16/09/2014	04:28	302882	NONE	ON CALL ACFO NOT REQD AT THIS STAGE	
16/09/2014	04:29	302153	NONE	TA: F1_ [REDACTED] turned out while at 20 on F1409160008	
16/09/2014	04:31	302882	NONE	360 SIZE COMPLETE	
16/09/2014	04:32	302882	NONE	POWER AND GAS STILL CONNECTED	
16/09/2014	04:35	302882	NONE	CHANGE OF CMD [REDACTED]	
16/09/2014	04:36	302882	NONE	SITREP: BLDG HEAVILY SMOKE LOGGED 1 CREW OCONNELL ST 1 CREW GEORGE ST DEFENSIVE	
16/09/2014	04:36	302882	NONE	TACTICS	
16/09/2014	04:36	302882	NONE	ACFO NOT REQD	
16/09/2014	04:36	302882	NONE	SEPARATE CH FOR BA OPERATIONS REQD-CH153 ALLOCATED	
16/09/2014	04:41	302153	NONE	MFS SNR MGT PAGE SENT	
16/09/2014	04:50	302882	NONE	SITREP: CREWS COMMITTED 2 SEATS OF FIRE KNOCKED DOWN BLDG STILL HEAVILY SMOKED	
16/09/2014	04:50	302882	NONE	LOGGED	
16/09/2014	04:50	302882	NONE	PREMISES NAME: MATCHA HOUSE 118 OCONNELL ST	
16/09/2014	04:55	302882	NONE	(GEORGE ST SECTOR) FIRE HAS NOT BREACHED ROOF SPACE	
16/09/2014	04:58	301785	NONE	FCI [REDACTED]	
16/09/2014	05:02	302882	NONE	SITREP: FIRE LOCATED AND EXTINGUISHING. VENTILATION IN PROGRESS. SAPN ON SCENE	
16/09/2014	05:02	302882	NONE	AND ISOLATING PWR	
16/09/2014	05:04	302882	NONE	FIRE WELL UNDER CONTROL OR ALMOST OUT. STILL SOME SMOKE. GAS ISOLATED	
16/09/2014	05:11	302882	NONE	FIRE WELL UNDER CONTROL OR ALMOST OUT. STILL SOME SMOKE. GAS ISOLATED	SITR

# INITIAL INCIDENT REPORT

Advised:	Msg:	Time:	Advised:	Time:	Advised:	Time:	Advised Other:	Time:
SA Police	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	SA Ambulance Serv.	<input type="text"/>	Reg. Duty Officer	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SAMFS		<input type="text"/>	St. John	<input type="text"/>	DSC	<input type="text"/>		
DEH-NPWSA		<input type="text"/>	ETSA Utilities	<input type="text"/>	Media Liason Officer	<input type="text"/>	Signature:	
Forestry SA		<input type="text"/>	SES	<input type="text"/>	SMAPS/Spam	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="incidentsummary"/>	
SAGASCO		<input type="text"/>	Housing Trust	<input type="text"/>	FCI	<input type="text"/>		
EPA		<input type="text"/>	TAC	<input type="text"/>	DO	<input type="text"/>		
Safety 1		<input type="text"/>	Safety 2	<input type="text"/>	On Call CMDR	<input type="text"/>		

# INITIAL INCIDENT REPORT

## Movements:

Call Sign	Dispatch Time	Turnout Time	Chg of Quarters	Arrived	Diverted	Return to Service
ADL202	16/09/2014 04:06	16/09/2014 04:08		16/09/2014 04:12		16/09/2014 07:08
PPT371	16/09/2014 04:06	16/09/2014 04:07		16/09/2014 04:54		16/09/2014 06:22
SMGMT	16/09/2014 04:14				16/09/2014 04:14	
ADL201	16/09/2014 04:14	16/09/2014 04:15		16/09/2014 04:17		16/09/2014 06:08
ADL201	16/09/2014 04:14	16/09/2014 04:16		16/09/2014 04:22		16/09/2014 05:38
ADL206	16/09/2014 04:14	16/09/2014 04:18		16/09/2014 04:22		16/09/2014 05:48
CAR40	16/09/2014 04:14	16/09/2014 04:18		16/09/2014 04:22		16/09/2014 06:01
S1_TRE	16/09/2014 04:14	16/09/2014 04:21		16/09/2014 04:38		16/09/2014 07:46
ADL205	16/09/2014 04:20	16/09/2014 04:23		16/09/2014 04:27		16/09/2014 05:30
WDV243	16/09/2014 04:24	16/09/2014 04:25		16/09/2014 04:35		16/09/2014 05:38
F1_HOG	16/09/2014 04:29					16/09/2014 07:46




2013				BY
DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION		BY
REVISIONS				

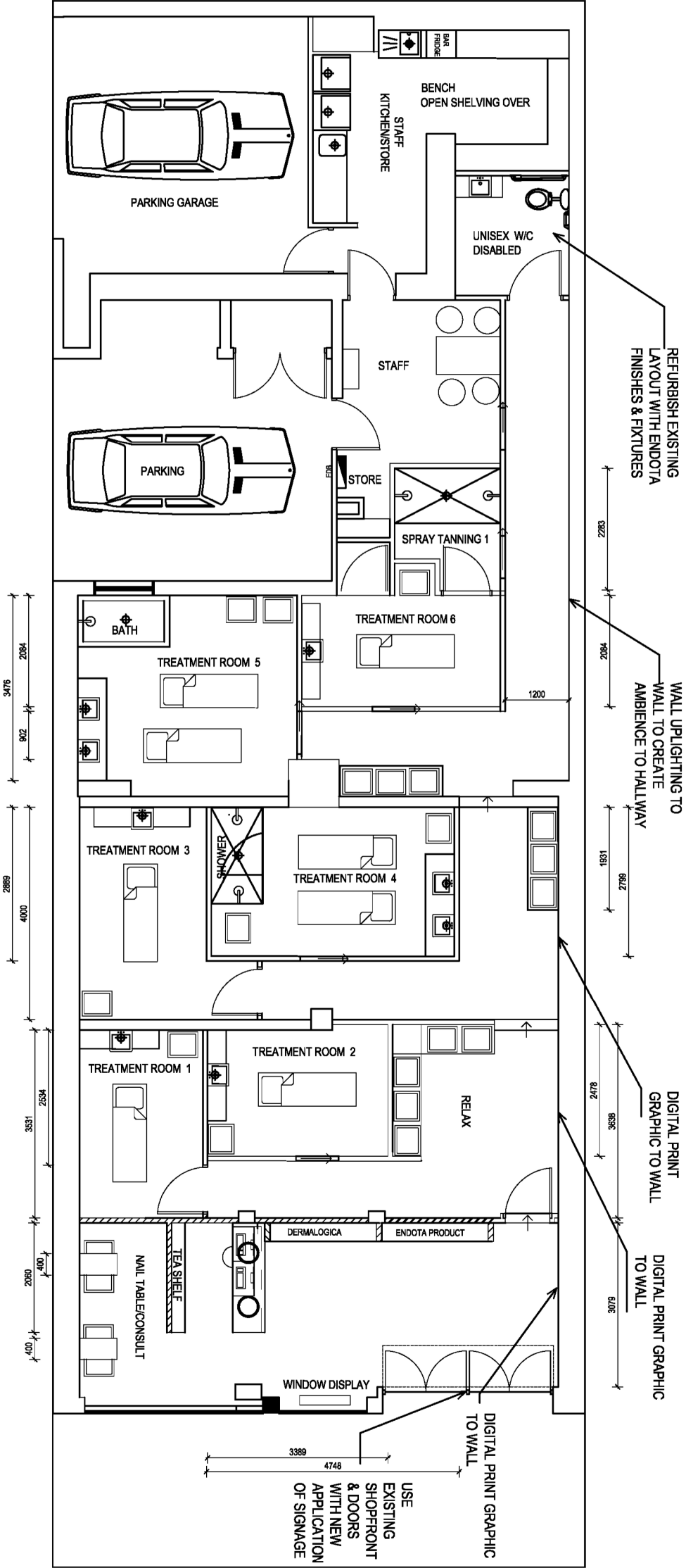
**boud**  
DESIGN SOLUTIONS

ARTIAL & COMMERCIAL DESIGN  
BRANDING & LOGO DESIGN  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & TENDERS

685 DULWICH AVENUE PLANTING SA 5005  
P 08 8332 6666  
M 0419 030 8990  
E [sue@boudesign.com.au](mailto:sue@boudesign.com.au)  
W [www.boudesign.com.au](http://www.boudesign.com.au)

SCALE:	DRAWING:	
AS SHOWN @ A2 SIZE	SH	
PROJECT NUMBER:	DATE:	
6514	JULY 2013	
LOCATION: 114-118 O'CONNELL STREET NORTH ADELAIDE		
CONCEPT	TENDER	CONST.
		

**FOR APPROVAL**



## Call Notification Details

MFS DIN # 08

Date	16/9/14	Day	TUES	FCI #	1415-34
Call Time	0405	1st App Arrival time	0412	AIRS #	1070534
Stop Time	0538	No of Apps	6	No of personnel	24
Time notified	0429	Time left home/office	0500	Time arrived on scene	0512
Finished on scene	0730	Booked off job	7.55	TOIL	3
Premises	118 COMMERCIAL		Type	6	
Address	ENDOTA SPA CNR O'CONNELL ST / GEORGE ST NTH ADELAIDE				
Owner	?		Ph:		
Occupier	ENDOTA SPA		Ph:		
Occupied building	Yes/No		Occupied at the time of fire?	Yes/No	
Last on Property	[REDACTED]		When	8pm	
Station Attending	CFS/MFS	HQ			
1st Arrival Officer name	S/O [REDACTED], 201, 'B' SHIFT				
Classification	Undetermined	Accidental	Suspicious	Non suspicious	Deliberate
Cause	TOWELS WITH CARBAMIC OIL CONTENT, SPONT. IGN. AFTER BEING DRIED & LEFT IN DRYER				
Estimated damage \$\$	\$200K.				
Estimated \$\$ saved	\$400				

## Call notification details:

H	ENDOTA SPA
[REDACTED]	15/6 201
[REDACTED]	
2 STAFF	COMMERCIAL 2 STAFF SENT / FIRE
\$400	

# Fire Scene Notes

SAPOL FCI Investigator		
Fatality/Injury Details	No. Age(s): / Sex: M / F	
Insurance	Yes/No Yes/No	Contents: Building:
Mains Power Isolated	Yes/No	ETSA Called? Yes/No
Gas Isolated	Yes/No	ETSA Fuse pulled? Yes/No
Solar Panels Installed	Yes/No	Inverter Isolated? Yes/No
Solar Panel Details	Panel Brand:	Inverter Brand:
Weather		
Rain/weather:	Nil/Light/Steady/Heavy/Torrential	Clear/Cloudy/Overcast
Temperature °C:	0-5/5-10/10-15/15-20/20-30/30-35/35-40/40+ Approximate	
Wind:	N/S/E/W Strength: Calm/Light/Moderate/Strong/Gale	
Injuries/Fatalities	(names/sex/location/cause/details)	
INTERVIEWS / STATEMENTS		
Interviewee		
TENANTS. FENDATA SPA.		
118 O'CONNOR ST.		
LAST ON SITE. 6.30pm → 8pm MOR NT		
cleaning.		
≈ 15 TOWELS & SUEET. IN DRIVER		
DRIVER OFF @ 8pm.		
GAS DRIVER. ELECTRICIAN WORKING ON WIRING.		
HOT TOWELS OUT @ 7pm. PUT IN BUCKET ON RIGHT OF DRIVER.		
OILS - mostly OILS - organic. - MECHANICAL. }		
UNRECOGNIZED. }		
MAYBE CO. RANG @ 4am.		

Fire Investigator S/O



## Examination (Exterior/Interior)

FRONT (ext)

NO VISIBLE FIRE DAMAGE.

GLASS ALONG ENTIRE FRONT IN MET EXCEPT

GLASS DOWN FORECAST 15-1 WKS.

OFFICE.

MINOR SCOTING ONLY.

THAT WAS NOT AROUND

'Breeze', 'cannon', 'whining', 'honey', 'cannon', 'dream', 'believe' & 'unhappy'.

all materials to heavy smoke to working.

Barren @ east end of hall - heavy smoke working.

ceiling collapsed to SE end 1m<sup>2</sup> (wall damage)

(P'Box) EXPOSED CAUSING SAME REVEAL

chopped timber to underside of floor above.

Kitchen @ rear - heavy smoke logging down.

~~then~~ ceiling collapsed to SE end 1m<sup>2</sup> (wall damage) to drying room @ rear.

heat cracking & windows.

Door forced by WTS

New Drying room - Room of greatest fire damage.

ceiling collapsed down but with total collapse of ceiling joint @ rear room, in air @ entrance way; but closed.

✓ Burn & P'Box collapse: ✓ in rear wall.

for water damage.

## Examination (Exterior/Interior)

Deep cleaning to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor flooring above dryer.  
Strong odour of marijuana type oils from towels in dryer.  
Towels in washing machine & machine tub in ok  
condition - not powdery powdery concerned.

Dryer above washer (commonly common)

No door, contents charred like out - deep red fire  
in towels & sheet. <sup>not</sup>

✓ Portion on ~~front~~ <sup>SIDE</sup> of washer/dryer for front section.  
to upper over - fire in front of dryer - plastic deep  
down.

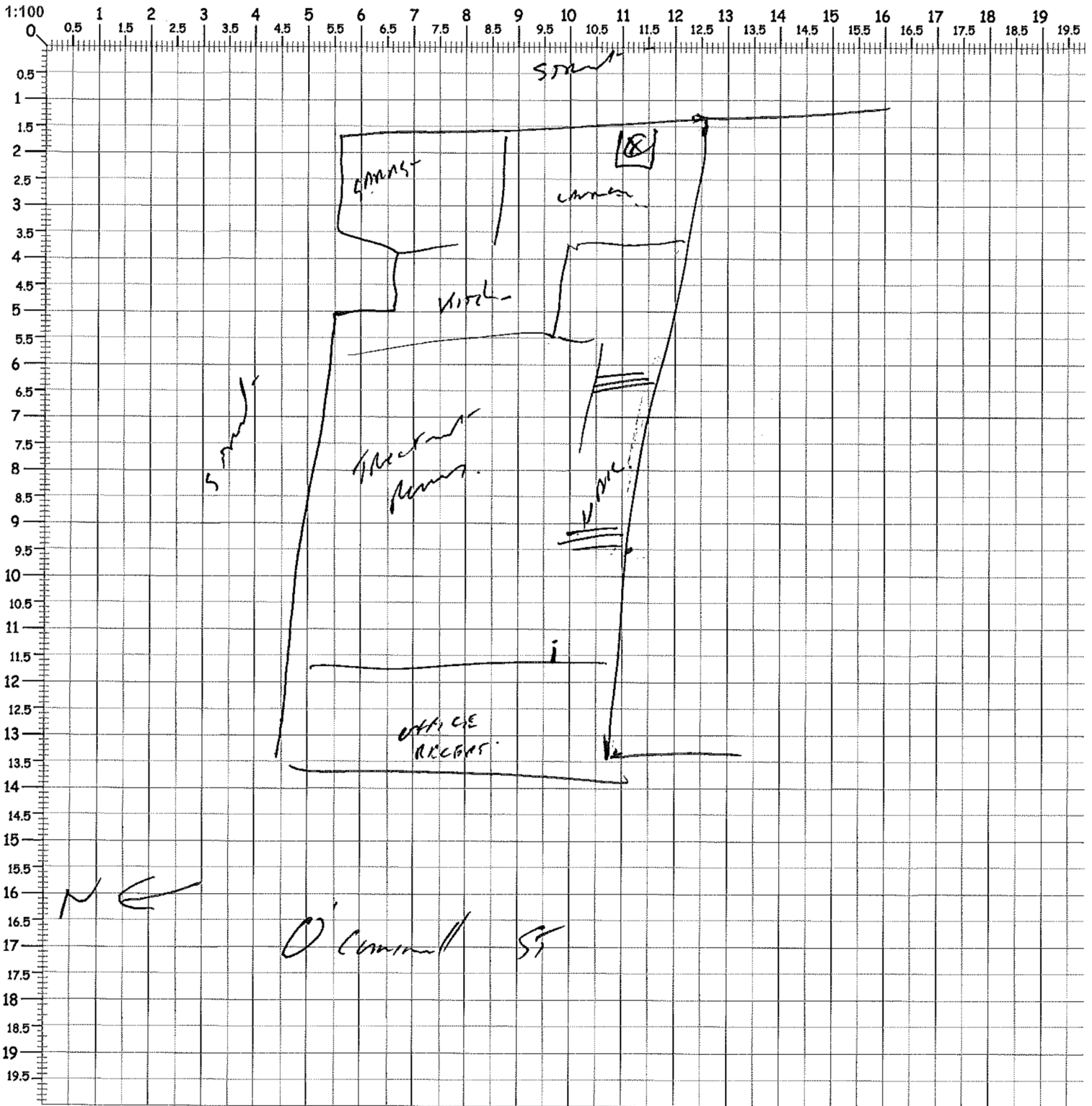
electrical panels of unit destroyed - some plastic  
coating left in wiring - not powdery.

CHS<sup>2</sup> SPENT. CONS of towels with organic oil content  
in dryer.

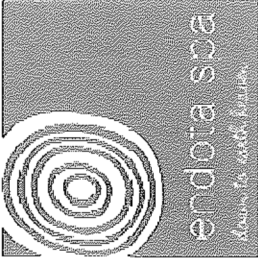
Drying cycle stopped 10 min sooner of complete cycle @ 8pm.  
Door left open, machine disconnected.  
Time spent for hot dryer to cool down.

Number of Seats & Locations	/
Area of Origin (AOO)	Heat/V Patterns/Depth of Char/fire burn patterns/Overhead damage/lowest level of damage/Floor penetrations/Fire Travel.
Rear Room of business, ground floor. (Drying & Laundering room).	
GREATEST FIRE DAMAGE -	
Point of Origin	Heat/V Patterns/Depth of Char/fire burn patterns/Overhead damage/lowest level of damage/Floor penetrations/Fire Travel.
MAYING GAS FIRED DRYER, WASHING MACHINES COMBO.	
POU - DRYING MACHINE - TOWELS IN DRYER	
SUMMARY	SPONT. COMB. TOWELS WITH OIL CONTENT.
	IGN. AFTER HEATING IN DRYER.
CAUSE:	ACCIDENTAL

LOWDOWN







NORTH ADELAIDE SA

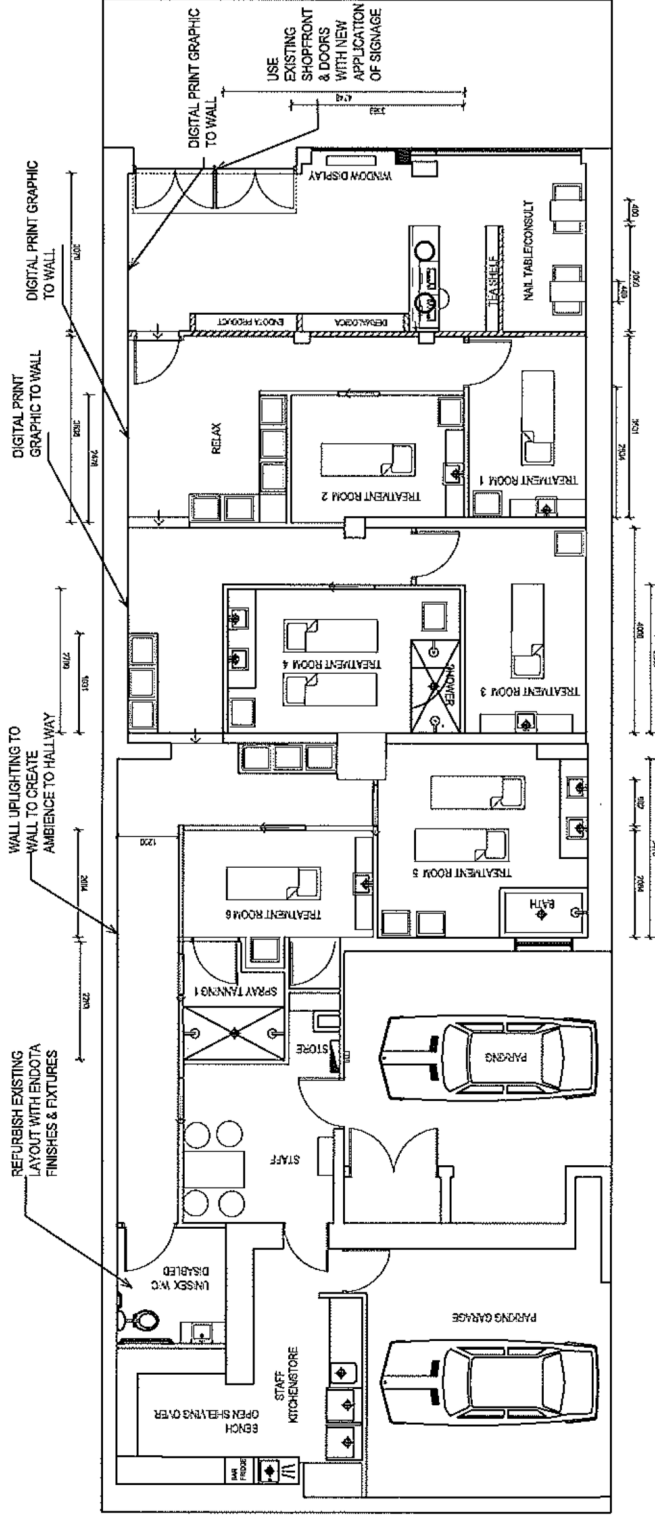
DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	BY
20.7.13			
REVISIONS			
DESIGNER			

**bud**  
DESIGN SOLUTIONS  
RETAIL & COMMERCIAL DESIGN  
BRANDING & LOGO DESIGN  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & TENDERS  
6/65 CHURCH STREET SUITE 101/102  
M: 08 131 010 160  
E: info@budesign.com.au  
W: www.budesign.com.au

Contractors are to verify all dimensions and levels on the job before commencing any work or making shop drawings. Priced dimensions shall take precedence over scaled dimensions and any discrepancy shall be reported to the designer immediately.

SCALE:	DRAWN:
AS SHOWN @ A2 SIZE	SH
PROJECT NUMBER:	DATE:
6514	JULY 2013
LOCATION: 114-118 O'CONNELL STREET NORTH ADELAIDE	
CONCEPT	TENDER
CONST.	

LAYOUT PLAN  
D.101



# METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE

Fire Investigator  
99 Wakefield St  
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone

Fax



## FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT

<b>FCI No.</b>	1415-034	<b>AIRS Incident No.</b>	1070534
<b>Incident Date.</b>	16/09/14	<b>Call Time.</b>	0405hrs
<b>Arrival Time.</b>	0412hrs	<b>FCI Attendance.</b>	0512hrs
<b>Premises.</b>	Commercial	<b>Type.</b>	Spa treatment
<b>Address.</b>	118 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide		
<b>Owner.</b>	Not confirmed		
<b>Occupier.</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>State Of Property.</b>	Endota Spa Occupied		
<b>Last On Property.</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Date &amp; Time.</b>	15/9/14, 8pm		
<b>Station Attended.</b>	Adelaide 201		
<b>1st Arrival Officer.</b>	[REDACTED]		
<b>Classification.</b>	Accidental		
<b>Cause.</b>	Towels with organic oil content, spontaneously ignited in dryer at the rear of the premises after dryer stopped prior to completion of full drying cycle and left in the drum. Fire spread to surrounding linen and adjacent furnishings and into the wooden floor of the vacant room above. Smoke damage throughout the treatment rooms and kitchen.		
<b>Estimated Damage.</b>	\$200,000		
<b>SAPOL Investigator.</b>	[REDACTED]		

<b>Housekeeping</b>	Good
<b>Structural Details.</b>	Two storey stone building containing multiple tenancies. Timber floor and beams at the rear of this tenancy between the ground and first floor.
<b>Area Of Origin.</b>	Rear, eastern most room on the ground floor, utilised as a laundry area for the business.
<b>Indicators.</b>	Area of greatest damage with no fire spread indicators supporting fire ignition was external to this room.
<b>Point Of Origin.</b>	Towels in the drying machine drum of the 'Maytag' washer/dryer combo machine.
<b>Indicators.</b>	Internal damage to contents of the dryer. Fire spread indicators supporting the point of origin. Deep charring to the bottom of the pile of towels within the dryer.
<b>Fire Spread.</b>	From the towels within the dryer, to the plastic dryer components, adjacent combustibles and up into the timber flooring of first floor above.
<b>Structural Damage.</b>	Ceiling collapse had occurred in the rear room with fire spreading to the timber flooring above. Plasterboard wall linings throughout the rear room had collapsed throughout.
<b>Security.</b>	The premises was secure when fire crews arrived.
<b>Ignition Source.</b>	Heat from the dryer.
<b>Fuel Ignited.</b>	Towels within the dryer.

## INTRODUCTION

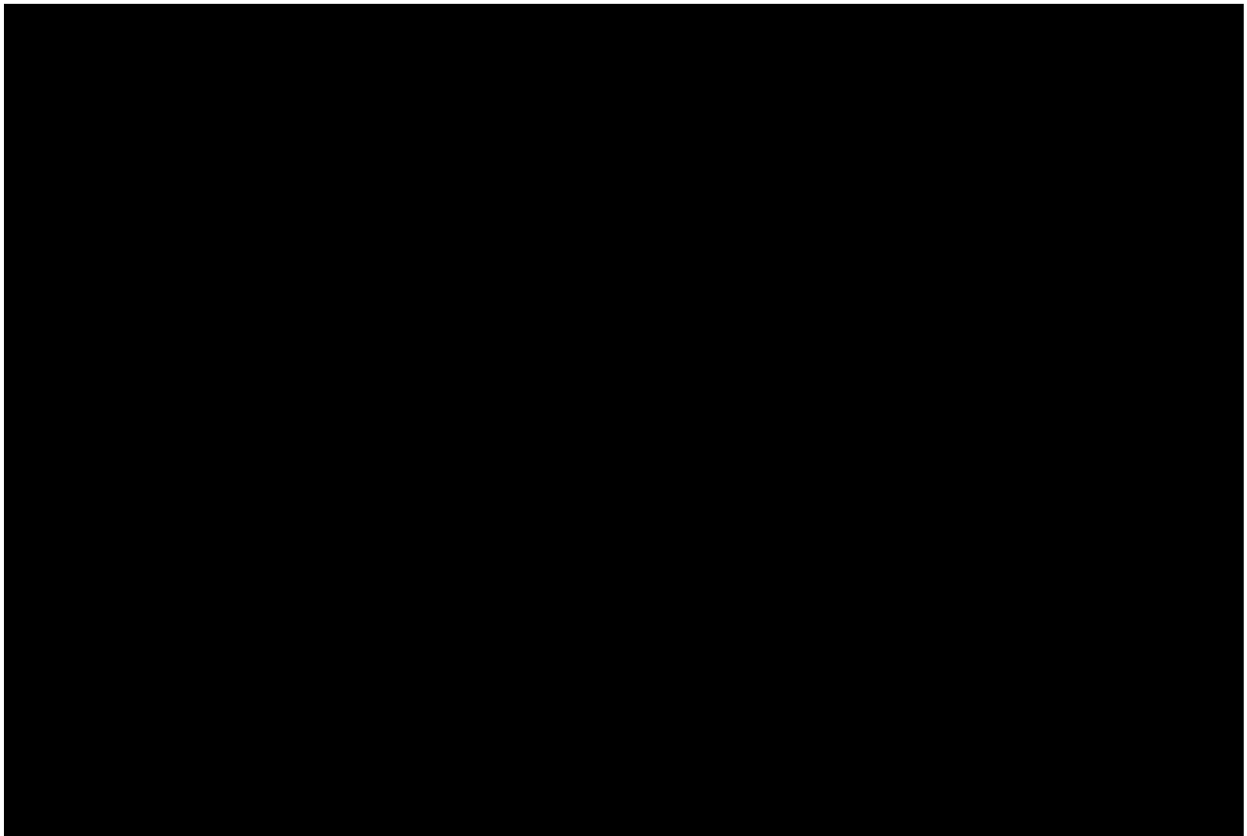
At 0429hrs on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014, I, [REDACTED] Fire Investigator with the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) was notified of a fire that required investigation at Endota Spa, 118 O'Connell Street, North Adelaide. I liaised with SA Police (SAPOL) Fire Investigator [REDACTED] and we attended the scene at 0512hrs.

The building was a two storey stone building housing multiple business tenancies, with Endota Spa business occupying the ground floor northern most tenancy. At the rear of the tenancy on the second level, a vacant room was located, with timber flooring on timber joists with corrugated iron walls. This room was directly above the laundry room of Endota Spa.

Discussions with the business owners, [REDACTED] revealed the following information:

- [REDACTED] was the last known person in the tenancy, cleaning between 6.30pm and 8pm the previous evening, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September.
- He put approximately 15 towels and a sheet in the dryer.
- At 8pm he turned the dryer off, opened the dryer door and left the building.
- The dryer had not completed its' full cycle and had approximately 10minutes to run. He left the towels and sheet in the drying tumbler drum with the door ajar.
- The spa business used organic oils, including macadamia and lavender oils.

*Figure 1: a treatment room showing towel placement that supports they would be in contact with oils used during treatments.*



## **INVESTIGATION**

An **external** examination was conducted and the following fire damage was noted:

### **Front, western aspect:**

Minor smoke staining was the only visible fire damage from the front of the business that opened onto O'Connell Street.

### **Northern aspect:**

This aspect ran along George Street. Minor smoke staining was visible to the painted brickwork above the rear garage door. An inverted 'V' cut had been made by fire crews into the roller door, to gain access to the rear of the building during fire-fighting operations.

### **Southern aspect:**

The southern side of the tenancy adjoined the neighbouring business within the building.

An **internal** examination proceeded from the area of least damage towards the area of most damage (area of fire origin). This commenced from the front of the business.

### **Front of the business**

Fire damage to the front of the business was limited to smoke damage which increased in severity toward the rear of the premises. The office and front reception area suffered minor smoke staining. The glass front door had been forced open by fire crews during fire-fighting operations.

The treatment rooms: 'Breathe', 'Clarity', 'Harmony', 'Calm', 'Dream' & 'Believe' all suffered moderate smoke staining along with the hallway and waiting room.

The bathroom at the eastern end of the hallway suffered heavy smoke sooting. Partial ceiling collapse had occurred to the south eastern corner through water damage. The exposed ceiling space revealed charring to the flooring timbers above.

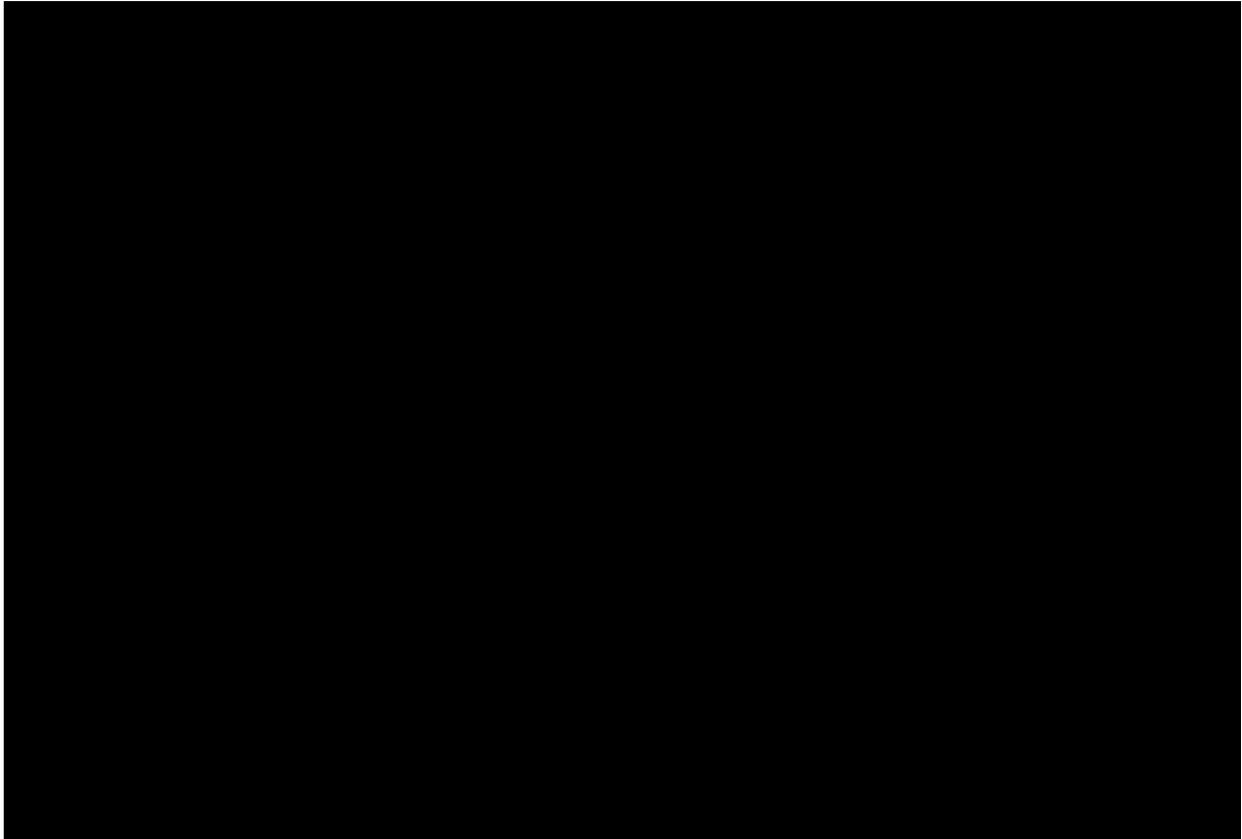
The kitchen/dining area at the rear of the business suffered heavy smoke staining throughout. Paint blistering was evident to the ceiling at the north eastern corner above the hallway leading through to the drying room at the rear of the building. The windows were heat cracked and the rear door had been forced open by fire crews to gain access to the rear of the business.

The rear drying/laundry room suffered the greatest fire damage. Ceiling collapse had occurred throughout with total consumption of ceiling joists at the rear of the room. Charred ceiling joists remained in situ at the entrance to this room. A 'V' burn pattern was noted on the rear wall originating at the washer dryer. The collapsed ceiling revealed deep charring to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor timber flooring and joists above the dryer.

**Area of fire origin:**

Rear ground floor room of the tenancy, utilised as a laundry/drying room.

*Figure 2: Area of origin.*



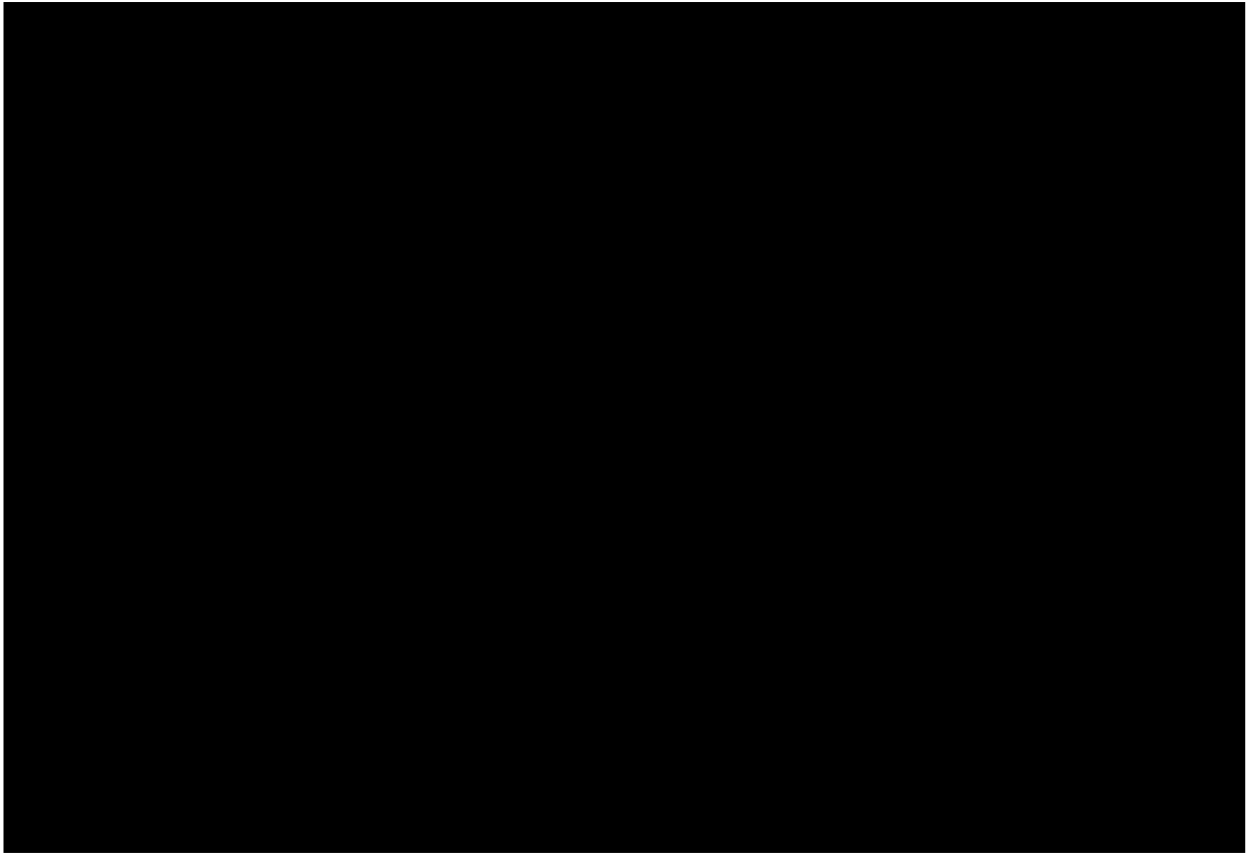
The area of origin was examined to determine the point of origin.

The fire damage radiated out from the Maytag combination washer dryer located against the back wall of the room. The appliance configuration had the front loader washing machine on the bottom underneath the gas fired dryer. Both machines had suffered significant fire damage with both doors being destroyed and the electronic control panels also destroyed by flame and heat. An inspection of the contents of both machines revealed the towels in the washing machine to have been singed on the exposed top surfaces which insulated the fabric beneath the top layer. The towels and linen in the dryer were burnt through to the bottom of the drum, consistent with a fire origin within the pile of towels (and sheet) left inside the drying drum when the cycle was stopped, (refer *Figures 3a & 3b*)

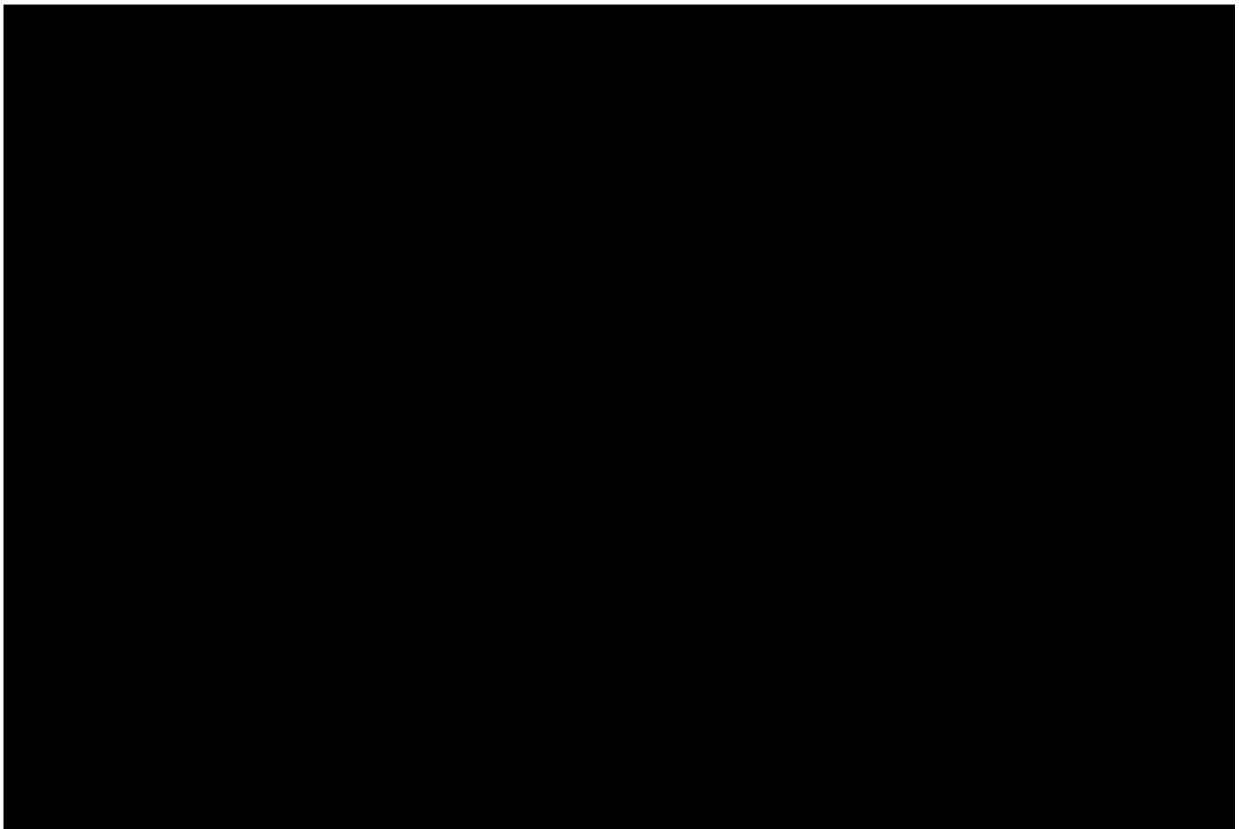
Fire spread patterns were consistent with a fire origin within the dryer, spreading to surrounding linen (towels/sheets), cabinetry and up into the ceiling space.

**Point of fire origin:**  
Towels left inside the dryer.

*Figure 3a: Internal view of the clothes dryer drum.*



*Figure 3b: Internal view of the clothes dryer drum, with linen removed.*



## Summary

Fire damage and fire spread indicators were consistent with a fire originating in pile of towels (& sheet) left to cool inside the dryer drum prior to the dryer completing its full drying cycle. Towels, with a high probability of containing residual organic oils from the spa operations, self-ignited assisted by the drying process and insufficient cooling following this process.

**Cause:**                **Accidental.**

## I HAVE CONSIDERED

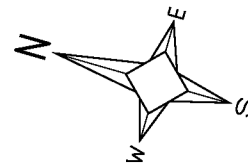
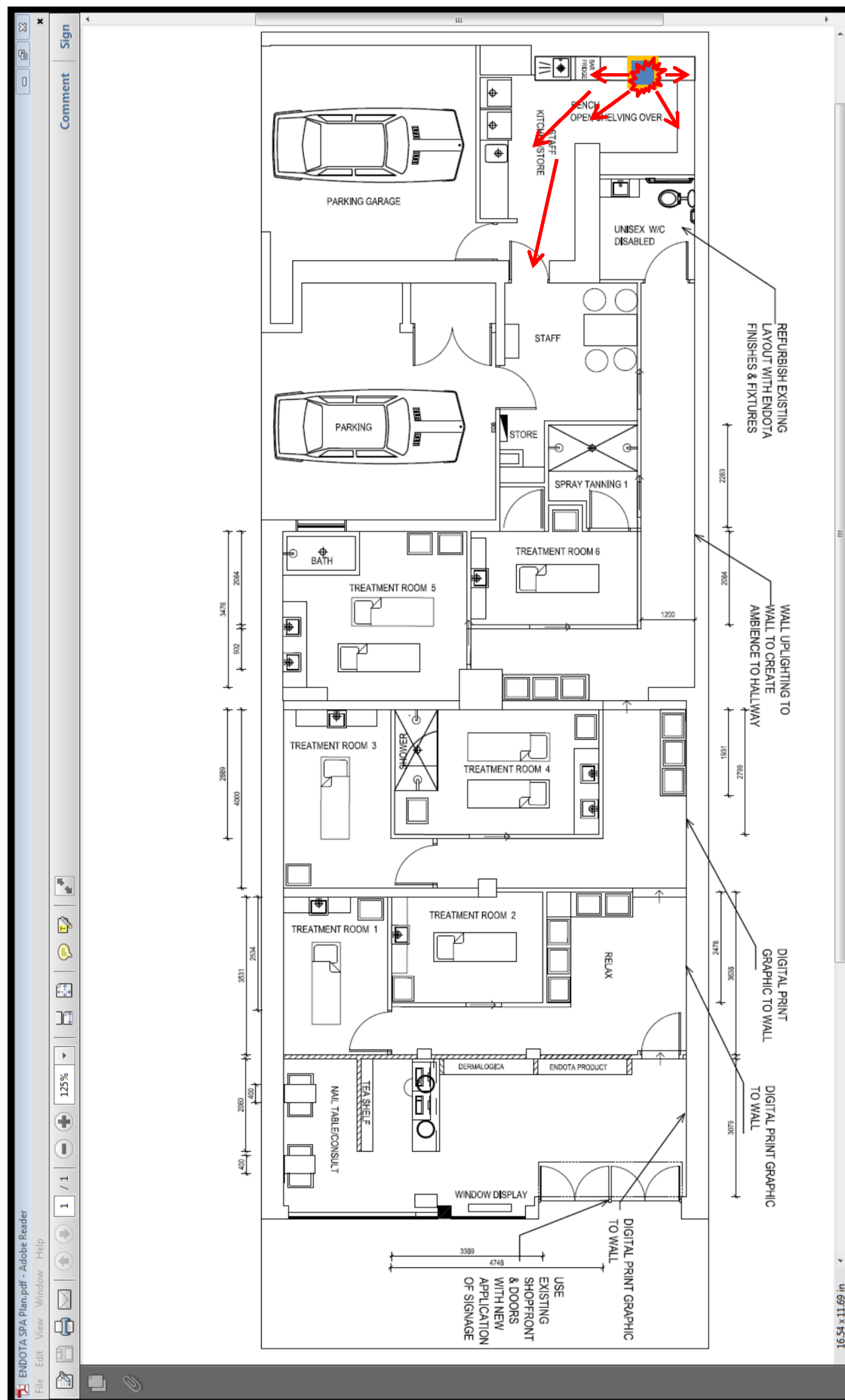
- Deliberate Ignition
- Misuse of heat of ignition
- Misuse of material ignited
- Mechanical failure or malfunction
- Design, construction, or installation deficiency
- Operational deficiency
- Natural condition or event
- Other possible accidental ignition factor

This report does not preclude other possible sources of ignition given the production of additional factors or evidence after the date of this report.

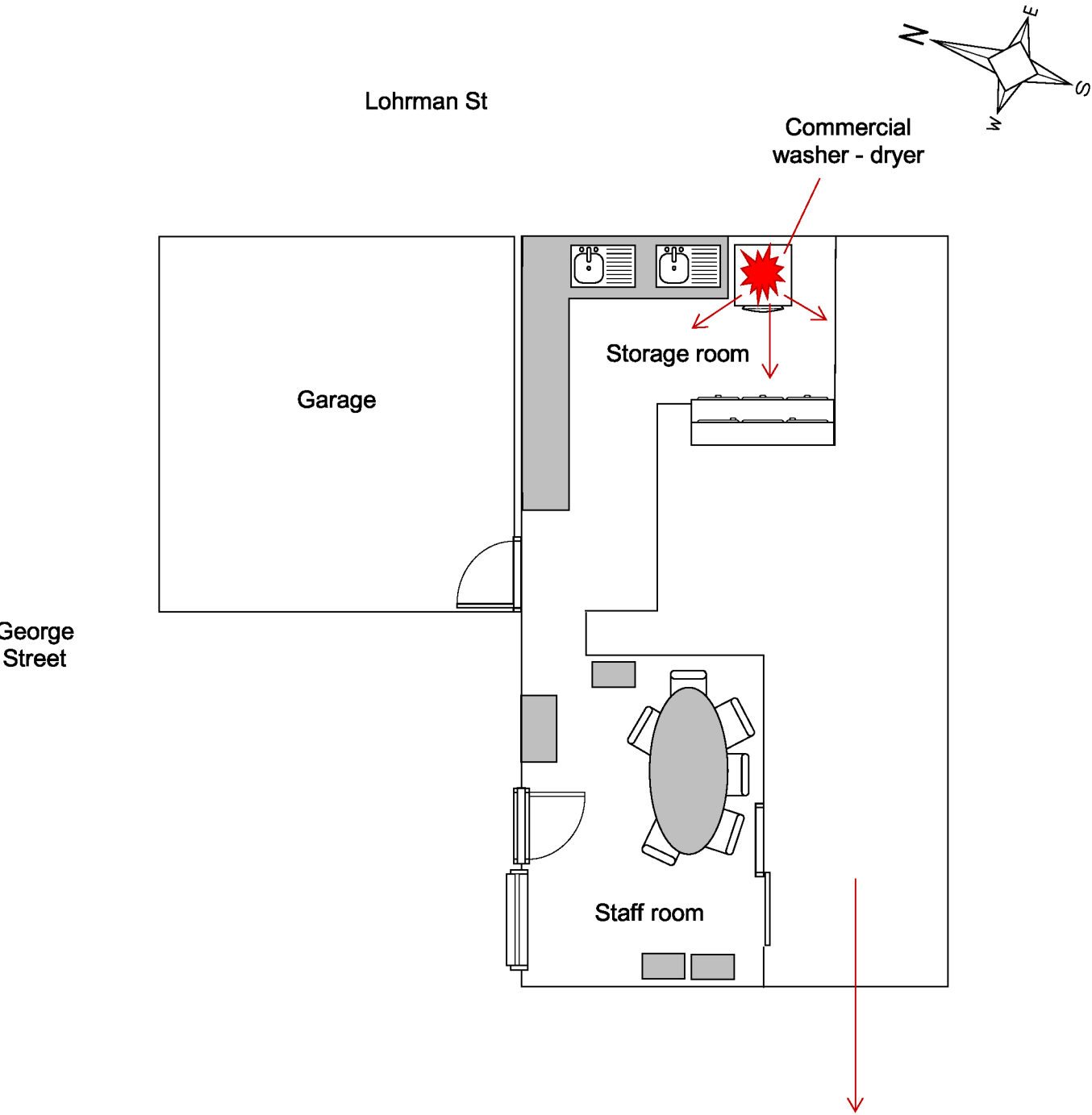
Station Officer [REDACTED]  
SAMFS FIRE INVESTIGATION



# Appendix A: site plan



Appendix B. Area of origin



SKETCH PLAN OF: The rear of premises at 118 O'Connell Street, NORTH ADELAIDE	Not to scale		
	DRAWN BY:		
Minor detail not shown. Furniture, utilities and fittings shown are symbols only.	DATE:	16/09/2014	WORKFILE FR232839