

BILLIONAIRE'S EX-LOVER

Investor expected sex: entrepreneur

Michaela Whitbourn
Legal affairs

A Sydney beauty entrepreneur locked in a court dispute with one of Australia's richest men, tech founder Richard White, has claimed he expected her to enter into a sexual relationship in exchange for investing in her business.

Affidavits filed in support of Linda Rogan's Federal Court bid to set aside a bankruptcy notice, issued to her by White on August 15, set out her account of the disintegration of her relationship with the WiseTech co-founder.

Rogan, a former Real Housewives of Sydney contender, claimed White bought a \$18 million Vaucluse mansion in September 2022 for her to live in with her children. The bankruptcy fight relates to \$92.123 allegedly paid for furniture for the upmarket property.

White asked Rogan to hire a decorator and a builder for renovations for the property and told her she would live there "forever even if I'm not with you", she said.

But Rogan claimed White's girlfriend, former criminal defence lawyer Zena Nasser, found out about the clandestine relationship in October 2022, and she never moved into the Vaucluse home. Nasser reportedly welcomed a child with White in July this year. It was Nasser who introduced



Linda Rogan (left), Richard White, Zena Nasser. Photos: Nick Moir, Oscar Colman

the pair, Rogan claimed. She said Nasser contacted her via Instagram in June 2022.

Screenshots of Instagram messages, annexed to Rogan's affidavit, appear to show Nasser messaged Rogan and said she was "stunning" and asked where she got the top she was wearing in a post.

Rogan, owner of laser clinics in Double Bay, Cairns, and New Zealand, said she met Nasser at her upmarket clinic Bionik Wellness in Rose Bay in July 2022. Rogan said she sold her stake in Bionik Wellness in February this year.

"At the meeting Zena Facetime'd Richard White, who I understood to be her partner and introduced me to Richard over Facetime," Rogan said in her affidavit dated September 12.

"In August 2022, Zena invited me to dinner with Richard and herself... During dinner Richard said words to me to the effect of, 'I'm an entrepreneur. I have a company,

WiseTech. I'm a billionaire.'" Rogan said that she and White began to exchange text messages after that dinner.

"When I met Richard, I genuinely believed he was interested in investing in my business. I was separated from my husband, caring for three children and my teenage son had only recently suffered a devastating brain injury. After a few weeks I realised Richard was pursuing a sexual relationship," Rogan said.

"On 17 September I travelled to New York at the request of Richard. Richard arranged my flights. When I arrived at the Park Lane Hotel to check in, I was informed that only one suite had been arranged.

"I realised that Richard expected me to enter into a sexual relationship with him to fulfil the deal did not identify."

White's estimated fortune is \$11.6 billion, according to The Australian Financial Review's 2024 Rich List. Rogan was touted last year as a potential cast member on The Real Housewives of Sydney, but the TV deal did not proceed.

Rogan said in the affidavit that she separated from her husband in 2017, but they remained living together to raise their children and had not separated their assets.

She alleged White took an interest in her Bionik Wellness business from the start but told her words to the effect of, "I invest in founders, not businesses" and "we need to get your partners out", including her husband.

Rogan said she had dinner with White in August 2022 and White told her that he had "purchased an apartment for Zena to live in. I can purchase a property for you and your children to live in too.

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His lawyer, Stan Howell, said the man had twice tried to kill himself. He had since undergone therapy.

Howell asked the court to suppress his client's identity and any photographs for five years, citing the NSW District Court last year.

LifeLine: 13 1114

'Paedophile' ex-bureaucrat can't be named

Perry Duffin

A man who held senior posts in the NSW government has confessed to being a paedophile after child abuse material was found on his phone.

He cannot be named, however, after a court suppressed his identity because of his mental health.

Australian Border Force stopped the man in his 40s at Sydney's international airport in August 2023.

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State takes control of 'delayed' rezoning proposals

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Sutherland Shire Council said the government had "called in" the proposal due to its complexity, and the council would retain an advisory and advocacy role. Former Liberal mayor Carmelo Pesce, who was re-elected last month as an independent, said the proposal would have a massive impact and it was vital the state government consulted the community.

The new policy says the assessment process will involve consultation and engagement with the relevant council and agencies, while legislation requires the department to exhibit the proposed rezoning for public comment.

The 11 key sites across Sydney and NSW

- Blackwattle Bay
Fitzwilliam St, Parramatta
Redmond Place, Orange
Central Place Sydney
Coffs Harbour Jetty Foreshore
Riverstone Town Centre
Marsden Park North
West Schofields
Parramatta Road Urban Transformation Strategy (Inner West Council)
Kurnell Peninsula
Tuggerah Gateway Site

Also on the list is stage 1 of the "Parramatta Road corridor" project in the inner west, referring to three separate sections of the highway slated for renewal under a 2016 state government strategy. The government will take control after claiming the Inner West Council

"has not yet considered the results of the public exhibition".

It was Transport for NSW which in 2024 raised concerns about the rezoning because of long-term draft plans to widen Parramatta Road for rapid transit. But Roads Minister John Graham quickly

scotched those plans when the Herald revealed them in May, and the council lodged its rezoning proposal for approval later that month.

Labor mayor Darcy Byrne said yesterday that the government should just get on with making it law. "The constant delays and competing objections from various state agencies, as has happened in Parramatta Road, is one of the central causes of the housing supply crisis," he said.

The council would consider supporting a statutory Parramatta Road authority "to cut through red tape and force state agencies to get on with the job of delivering desperately needed new housing."

In Coffs Harbour, the state government will take control of 62 hectares of waterfront land, where it has battled to develop a new tourism precinct, including 250 homes and 200 short-stay units.

In April, the Herald reported the plan was causing an uproar, with the then-mayor saying it would "destroy the place", and the community divided between young and old. It was a major issue at September's council election. The City of Coffs Harbour conducted a poll asking voters if they supported "multi-level private residential development" on the land. Sixty-nine per cent rejected the plan.

More locations will be added twice a year, in March and September.

Definitely, definitely: Oasis reveals Australian tour dates

Kate Lahey

Britpop super band Oasis have confirmed dates for the Australian leg of their hugely anticipated world tour in 2025.

"People of the land down under," the band declared on X yesterday, in a nod to the 1980 anthem by Men at Work. "You better run - you better get your cover... We are coming. You are most welcome."

The band revealed they would play at least two shows, the first in Melbourne on October 31 next year, and another in Sydney on November 7. With a week between the two dates, there is scope for additional concerts.

In Melbourne, the band will take over Marvel Stadium, while Sydney fans can see them at Accor Stadium. Tickets will go on sale on Tuesday, October 15, at 10am in Melbourne and midday in Sydney.

Fans can also register for a pre-sale ballot.

Fifteen years after breaking up in one of pop's most infamous and well-documented feuds, brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher today announced in August that they would reunite and tour, starting in the UK and Ireland - including four nights at Wembley Stadium - from next July.

"The guns have fallen silent. The stars have aligned. The great wait is over. Come see. It will not be televised," the band said at the time.

Oasis were one of the biggest rock bands of the 1990s and 2000s, and part of the Britpop movement alongside bands including Pulp and Blur. But in 2009, Noel walked out on the band, just hours before a planned performance at French festival Rock en Seine, after an argument with Liam.

"I simply could not go on working with Liam a day longer," he said later that night.

Their reunion has even sparked a revival of mod haircuts. But ticket sales for the UK and Ireland dates created hours-long online queues, and fans were frustrated by the dynamic pricing model used, in which some standing tickets double in price, sparking calls for an investigation into Ticketmaster.



Liam and Noel Gallagher will play at least two shows, with more possible.

A tour representative told the Herald there would be no dynamic pricing for Sydney and Melbourne tickets, and that a statement the brothers made last week for their North American shows applied to Australia as well.

"It is widely accepted that dynamic pricing remains a useful tool to combat ticket touting and keep prices for a significant proportion of fans lower than the market rate and thus more affordable," the band said on social media. "But, when unprecedented ticket demand (where the entire tour could be sold many times over the moment tickets go on sale) is combined with technology that cannot cope with that demand, it becomes less effective and can lead to an unacceptable experience for fans. We have made this decision for the North America tour to hopefully avoid a repeat of the issues fans in the UK and Ireland experienced recently."

When Oasis released Definitely Maybe in 1994, it became the fastest-selling debut album in British history. They've sold more than 75 million albums, all seven reached No.1 in the UK.

In Australia last month, they re-entered the ARIA charts (at number 29) with their highly successful second album (What's

The Story) Morning Glory? which features some of their biggest hits including Wonderwall, Don't Look Back In Anger, Roll With It and Champagne Supernova.

Noel toured Australia in 2019, supporting U2 with his band High Flying Birds.

When do tickets go on sale? The Oasis Live '25 fan pre-sale will run on Monday, October 14 from 12pm-10pm for Melbourne and 2pm-10pm for Sydney. General public tickets will go on sale for Melbourne on Tuesday, October 15 at 10 am, and 12pm for Sydney.

How do I register for the fan pre-sale? Registration for pre-sale ballot began at 8am yesterday and will run until 8am this morning. According to Ticketmaster, if you are selected to get access to pre-sale you will receive a unique code via email to use to register to the email address you signed up with.

How many tickets can I buy? There will be a limit of four per person. Tickets will only be released closer to the show date. Ticketmaster will email ticket holders.

Labor moves to keep NBN in public hands

EXCLUSIVE

David Crowe
Chief political correspondent

The national broadband network will be kept in public ownership under a new federal law to be put to parliament this week, in a surprise move by the government to assure 8.5 million customers their service will not be privatised.

The law will force a debate in parliament on the fate of the NBN and challenge the Coalition to say whether it would try to sell the network after taxpayers funded the \$51 billion project over more than a decade.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese took the plan to the Labor caucus meeting yesterday morning to clear the way for the bill to be put to parliament today, according to sources who spoke anonymously to discuss party deliberations.

The move will heighten a dispute over the future of the NBN and the impact on broadband prices after years of concern that selling the network would reshape competition, especially if Telstra emerged as the leading bidder.

Coalition communications spokesman David Coleman has blamed the government for letting the NBN increase its prices this year, setting up an election fight over broadband as part of the wider political dispute over the cost of living.

In putting the bill to parliament, Labor will lay the ground for a political attack on Opposition Leader Peter Dutton if he leaves any room for the privatisation of the NBN in the future.

NBN Co, the government-owned company that runs the network, increased its revenue by 10 per cent to \$5.5 billion last financial year and is counting on customers upgrading to higher speeds to keep revenue growing over the next decade.

But it posted a net loss of \$1.4 billion, compared to \$1.1 billion the previous year, because of the high cost of investing in the network. NBN Co had \$42.5 billion in liabilities on its balance sheet at the end

of June, including \$26.9 billion in debt it took on to build the network. It also received equity investments from the federal government to cover the construction cost.

Albanese went to the last election with a promise to keep the network in public hands but the policy was never put into law.

Communications Minister Michelle Rowland wrote to NBN Co chair Kate McKenzie in July 2022 to set out the incoming government's expectations for the network.

"The government has stated that it will retain NBN Co in public ownership for the foreseeable future [and] expand full-fibre access to cover the construction cost of consumers and facilitates productivity," she wrote.

Industry analyst Paul Budd, an expert on the broadband market, cautiously backed the idea of privatisation with strict controls to protect consumers. He said the sale would depend on a decision by the government to write off the cost of the network.

"We are reaching some sort of maximum growth in telecoms ... profits and revenues are declining and cost-cutting is the only way to stay profitable," he said yesterday.

"All of this will have a major impact on a potential sale of the NBN. It will be nearly impossible for the government to recoup all of its money under such market circumstances, so delay is the only political way forward. A financial failure with privatisation would damage their position."

The Coalition warned in July that families were paying too much because the government would not prevent NBN Co raising its prices.

"What the government wants to do is push people up on the higher-cost plans or higher-speed plans, so they can say they've increased the speed of the NBN, but the people who are actually paying for it are the majority of families," Coleman said in July. "Some people are switching away from the NBN because of the price increases."

Farnham breaks his long silence with book release

Thomas Mitchell

He boasts one of the most recognisable voices in Australian entertainment history, but after several high-profile health battles, John Farnham has fallen silent - until now.

The 75-year-old's voice has been heard publicly for the first time since he was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2022, when doctors removed a tumour from his mouth and reconstructed his jaw.

Farnham has voiced the audiobook of his memoir, The Voice Inside, to be released later this month, with publisher Hachette Australia releasing a short audio sample to preview the book

chronicling his life and legacy. "I don't enjoy talking about myself, I really don't. Don't get me wrong, I'm an egomaniac," he says in the audio clip. "But dredging up the past and picking through what has and hasn't been is just not something I've ever really enjoyed. I'll try to share as much as I can, but that's not easy because I've never really been that open. I guess there are reasons for that. Reasons for my reluctance."

The memoir was co-written with Poppy Stockell, the creator and director of documentary Finding the Voice, also about Farnham's career. The book charts Farnham's upbringing in Melbourne in the 1960s, the 1986



John Farnham (right) with his son Rob at his wedding in 2019.

release of Whispering Jack, the highest-selling Australian album of all time, as well as his diagnosis of mouth cancer and the death of his mother, Glenn Wheatley.

Farnham's wife, Jill Farnham, wrote two chapters and will narrate them in the audiobook herself. In a release provided by Hachette, Farnham said narrating the audiobook was a roller-coaster ride.

"There are more than a few laughs and some tears, but it made me realise how lucky I've been," he said. Publisher Vanessa Radnidge, head of literary at Hachette Australia, said Farnham's surgery meant his role as narrator was never a guarantee.

"Earlier this year, when we

announced John Farnham was writing his memoir, many fans eagerly asked if he would record the audiobook himself," said Radnidge. "At the time, we could not provide an answer, and I honestly did not think it would be possible."

Radnidge credits Farnham's dedication to his fans as the reason he was able to get back in the studio. "Despite the challenges posed by surgery and radiation, John dedicated many hours in the studio to record his book in his own voice," she said. "Now, I cannot imagine anyone else narrating it. Listening to him is such a delight - the heart, emotion and showmanship are all there."

