

HWL EBSWORTH LAWYERS PUBLIC LAW TEAM

HWL Ebsworth Lawyers is a full service commercial law firm providing expert legal services at competitive rates, while focusing on client outcomes.

The firm comprises 1,357 staff including 265 partners, 725 other legal staff and 367 support staff across offices in nine locations: Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Norwest (North West Sydney), Perth and Sydney.

HWL Ebsworth's Public Law Team comprises **64 lawyers** across all levels around Australia. Led by **Michael Palfrey, Lex Holcombe** and **Sophie Given**, the team offers expertise in all Practice Areas including administrative law (including challenges to decision-making, financial frameworks, and regulatory issues); freedom of information, privacy and public interest disclosure; human rights and discrimination; and dispute resolution and litigation. Our team is bolstered by the foremost authority in public law, Emeritus Professor Dennis Pearce AO FAAL.



HWL Ebsworth advise administrative decision-makers on the discharge of their statutory functions, including delegations, procedural fairness, decision-making, written reasons and internal/external review. We also advise on the interpretation and operation of legislation, provide drafting instructions for legislative amendments and draft legislative instruments.

OUR EXPERIENCE

Department of the Environment and Energy

Acting for the Minister and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Federal Magistrates Court and AAT challenges to statutory decisions made in relation to dredging and the dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Acting in the coronial inquest into a death in Antarctica, and acting for the Department in the FC and FFC in respect of a decision of the coroner regarding the giving of evidence while parallel criminal proceedings are on foot.

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Several AAT matters involving challenges to decisions made under the 'R&D tax incentive' scheme which involve expert and lay witnesses and complex evidentiary and legal issues.

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Acting for the Commissioner in five AAT, two Federal Court and two Full Federal Court proceedings concerning privacy determinations under the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Acting in Federal Court judicial review proceedings and AAT merits review proceedings relating to FOI decisions.

Department of Home Affairs

Representing the Minister for Immigration in over 750 matters involving migration, protection obligations, character cancellations, Fast Track decisions, urgent injunctions, removals and seizure of identity documents in the Federal Circuit, Federal and High Court. Our partners have undertaken this work for over 15 years and they have demonstrated expertise in civil prosecutions/penalties, citizenship, character and migration agent matters, compensation and associated ADR claims.

Various Entities

We have conducted over 50 Privacy Impact Assessments for entities such as the Departments of Health, Services Australia, Social Services, Finance, Agriculture, Education and Training, Defence, and IP Australia.

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