

28 JUNE 2021

ISSUE 113



## PUBLIC SECTOR NEWSLETTER - NEW SOUTH WALES

### IN THE MEDIA

**The HRLC: Australia's whistleblowing laws must be overhauled as Witness K returns to court**

"This case reinforces the pressing need for Australia's whistleblowing laws to be overhauled. The Morrison Government must urgently reform the Public Interest Disclosure Act to ensure everyday Australians feel safe and supported when they do the right thing and call out wrongdoing. <https://www.hrlc.org.au/news/2021/6/17/australias-whistleblowing-laws-must-be-overhauled-as-witness-k-returns-to-court>.  
[Jun 18, 2021 Sentencing of Witness K a dark day for democracy in Australia](https://www.hrlc.org.au/news/2021/6/17/australias-whistleblowing-laws-must-be-overhauled-as-witness-k-returns-to-court)

**The brand battle CMOs must fight in the face of data breaches and cybersecurity attacks**

Fresh cyber attacks and data breaches across Volkswagen, Audi, McDonalds and Electronic Arts highlight the growing cybersecurity and data threat. So what can marketing leaders do about preventing and reacting to these crises. <https://www.cmo.com.au/article/689157/brand-battle-cmos-must-fight-face-data-breaches/>

**New report offers corporate guidance on preventing workplace sexual harassment**

The Australian Human Rights Commission has released a new report offering guidance to corporate boards and investors on preventing and responding to workplace sexual harassment, in partnership with the Australian Council of Superannuation Investors (ACSI). <https://humanrights.gov.au/about/news/new-report-offers-corporate-guidance-preventing-workplace-sexual-harassment>

**OAIC publishes second COVIDSafe privacy report**

The OAIC has released its second six-month report on the privacy protections that apply to the COVIDSafe system. <https://www.oaic.gov.au/updates/news-and-media/oaic-publishes-second-covidsafe-privacy-report/>

**Extraordinary Meeting of Attorneys-General**

An extraordinary Meeting of Attorneys-General progressed a number of key reforms focused on the Respect@ Work report, coercive control and criminal justice response to sexual assault. <https://www.attorneygeneral.gov.au/media/media-releases/extraordinary-meeting-attorneys-general-16-june-2021>

**Governments to consider consistent electronic document execution**

The Law Council of Australia is fully supportive of the decision by Commonwealth, state and territory Treasurers to work together towards a common approach for electronic document execution. The Law Council looks forward to working with the government to ensure that fidelity and veracity of the process for the execution of electronic documents is maintained. <https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/media/media-statements/governments-to-consider-consistent-electronic-document-execution>

**LCA: Secret trials need reform**

At the hearing before the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), the Law Council of Australia emphasised that trials involving national security need to strike a balance between secrecy and open justice. The hearing forms part of review into the operation of section 22 of the National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004 (Cth) (NSI Act). <https://www.lawcouncil.asn.au/media/media-releases/secret-trials-need-reform>

**NSW**

**Legal profession supports diversionary measures**

The NSW Government's decision to extend funding for an advocacy service that helps people with a cognitive impairment navigate the criminal justice system has been welcomed by the Law Society of NSW. <https://www.lawsociety.com.au/legal-profession-supports-diversionary-measures-people-cognitive-impairment>

## Law society welcomes funding boost eight new magistrates

In welcoming the additional funding slated in the 2021-22 State Budget, President of the Law Society of NSW, Juliana Warner, praised the Attorney General, Mark Speakman SC MP, for increasing resources to one of the country's hardest working jurisdictions, the Local Court of NSW. <https://www.lawsociety.com.au/law-society-welcomes-funding-boost-eight-new-magistrates>

## New Permanency Taskforce to increase open adoption and guardianship

Vulnerable children in out-of-home care will be provided permanent and loving homes sooner and with more support, as part of a plan to turbocharge the open adoption and guardianship process. <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/new-permanency-taskforce-to-increase-open-adoption-and-guardianship>

## \$90-million budget boost to support women and children impacted by domestic violence

More women and children experiencing domestic and sexual violence will be supported by a \$60 million funding boost to frontline services over two years from the NSW Government. The Government will also commit an extra \$32.5 million over four years to expand the Staying Home Leaving Violence opens in new window (SHLV) program. [https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/page-header/\\$90-million-budget-boost-to-support-women-and-children-impacted-by-domestic-violence](https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/page-header/$90-million-budget-boost-to-support-women-and-children-impacted-by-domestic-violence)

## IN PRACTICE AND COURTS

### [AIJA Newsletter June 2021](#)

The Institute's newsletter, AIJA News, is designed to keep members informed of the Institute's activities and also to bring its work to the attention of a wider national and international audience.

### [Gazette Registration - Annual Federal Courts and Tribunals Fee Increases from 1 July 2021](#)

The fees payable in the federal courts and tribunals will increase from 1 July 2021 to reflect changes to the consumer price index over the past financial year. This is an automatic increase provided by the relevant fee regulations. Find the notice published in the Government Notices Gazette on 17 June 2021 setting out the new fees payable.

### [Commonwealth Parliamentary Review now open for submissions and interviews: Sex Discrimination](#)

The AHRC is inviting contributions for its [Independent Review into Commonwealth Parliamentary Workplaces](#), accepting written contributions from groups covered by the [Review's Terms of Reference](#).

The Review aim is to ensure all Commonwealth Parliamentary workplaces are safe and respectful and that our national Parliament reflects best practice. Make a written submission via [humanrights.gov.au/cpwreview](https://humanrights.gov.au/cpwreview). Submissions on the Consultation Paper close on 9 July. View the Consultation Paper at this [PS News link](#).

## Attorney General Consultations

### [National Register of Enduring Powers of Attorney](#)

Closing date 30 June 2021

Attorneys-General from each Australian jurisdiction have agreed to consult on possible arrangements for a National Register of Enduring Powers of Attorney. We have prepared a consultation paper to seek your views National Register of Enduring Powers of Attorney.

### [Law Council Update - 10 June 2021](#)

The Law Council produces a fortnightly newsletter which highlights the Law Council's important activities and advocacy, along with any relevant media and events stakeholders would be interested in.

### Law Council of Australia Submissions

10 June 2021— Law Council

[Transition to strengthening client verification](#)

07 June 2021— Law Council

[Migration Amendment \(Clarifying International Obligations for Removal\) Act 2021](#)

07 June 2021— Law Council

[Aged Care and Other Legislation Amendment \(Royal Commission Response No. 1\) Bill 2021](#)

### [AAT Bulletin - Issue No. 12/2021, 15 June 2021](#)

The AAT Bulletin is a weekly publication containing a list of recent AAT decisions and information relating to appeals against AAT decisions.

## OAIC Consultations

### [National Health \(Privacy\) Rules 2018 review](#)

The closing date for submissions is 4 June 2021.

### [OAIC: Our FOI disclosure log](#)

The information described in our disclosure log has been released by the OAIC under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act): updated May 2021.

## Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

### [Operation and management of the Department of Parliamentary Services](#)

On 11 May 2021, the reporting date was extended to 30 June 2021.

## Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

### [Family Law Amendment \(Federal Family Violence Orders\) Bill 2021 \[Provisions\]](#)

The deadline for submissions to this inquiry is 18 June 2021.

## Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media

### [Foreign Interference through Social Media](#)

Select Committee on Foreign Interference through Social Media to inquire into and report on the risk posed to Australia's democracy by foreign interference through social media. The committee is to present its final report on or before the second sitting day of May 2022 The closing date for submissions is 31 October 2021.

## NSW

### [Amendment to the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules - Amendment to Rule 50.18](#)

On 7 June 2021, the Uniform Rules Committee approved Amendment No 97 to the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules. The amendment is to rule 50.18 – Defendants in an appeal. The amendment increases from 10 to 12 the age at which a child is a defendant to an appeal against a care decision in respect of the child. The amendment aligns the rule with provisions of the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 which establishes rebuttable presumptions as to capacity.

### [Drug Misuse and Trafficking Regulation 2021](#)

The NSW Department of Communities and Justice is seeking comments on the consultation draft of the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Regulation 2021 and Regulatory Impact Statement. There are two documents that you can read to understand the proposed changes: [Proposed Drug and Misuse and Trafficking Regulation 2021](#) and [Regulatory Impact Statement](#). Submissions can be made by email to [policy@justice.nsw.gov.au](mailto:policy@justice.nsw.gov.au). The closing date for submissions is 16 July 2021.

### [IPC NSW June 2021 Bulletin](#)

It includes updates on the IPC's recent activities, resources and guidance, links to new case notes, information about upcoming events, and other relevant issues and developments in information access and privacy.

### [Costs Disputes – Uniform Law - Indexed Amounts](#)

Sections 291, 292 and 293 of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (NSW) relate to costs disputes. The amounts were increased as a result of indexation for the financial years 1/7/2019 - 30/6/2020 and 1/7/2020 - 30/6/2021. The amounts have again been indexed for the financial year 1/7/2021 - 30/6/2022.

### [Personal Injury Commission - Hearings during COVID-19](#)

The President of the Personal Injury Commission has advised the NSW Bar Association that the PIC will continue to apply Procedural Direction 10 until further notice. Procedural Direction 10 provides that, during the currency of the COVID-19 pandemic and until further notice, the Commission will, wherever possible, list matters for hearing by audio link or audio-visual link..

### **Decisions before the High Court**

The Court of Appeal maintains a list of decisions of the New South Wales Court of Appeal or Court of Criminal Appeal appealed to the High Court. The list is updated regularly. View the latest publication here: [NSWCA Decisions before the High Court as at 18 June 2021](#)

### [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#)

The NSW Government believes that the NSW Government can use AI to benefit the community and is taking actions to ensure that AI is used safely, ethically and effectively. We have an AI Strategy(External link) that outlines our vision for the use of AI, and ensures transparency, fairness and accountability. Have your say to 31 December 2021.

### [ICAC: Prosecution briefs with the DPP and outcomes](#)

The tables on this page each provide information on prosecution briefs that are currently with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), and the outcomes of DPP advice and prosecutions. Last updated 16 June 2021.

### [NCAT Digitisation of warrants for possession](#)

From 24 May 2021, all warrants for possession issued by NCAT will be electronically transmitted to the Office of the Sheriff. The new process is part of NCAT's strategy to increase digitisation of its services.

## **PUBLISHED - ARTICLES, PAPERS, REPORTS**

### [COVIDSafe Report November 2020-May 2021](#)

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC): 17 June 2021. The OAIC received 14 enquiries about COVIDSafe between 16 November 2020 and 15 May 2021. Ten enquiries raised general issues or concerns about COVIDSafe and four related to a request to download or use the app. The OAIC did not receive any complaints or data breach notifications in relation to COVIDSafe.

### [Equality Across the Board: Investing in workplaces that work for everyone](#)

Australian Human Rights Commission: 17 June 2021  
The report's recommendations offer a blueprint for Australia's largest corporations to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment in their workplaces and build safer, more equal workplaces. Follows a survey and series of interviews with ASX200 companies. It makes a suite of recommendations for corporate boards and executive leadership, as well as investors.

### [Statement-by-the-Commonwealth-Ombudsman-on-the-current-investigation-relating-to-the-National-Health-and-Medical-Research-Council'](#)

Ombudsman Industry updates: 07 June 2021  
Review of the evidence for the effectiveness of homeopathy commences.

### [Regulation of Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Permits and Approvals – Follow-up](#)

ANAO Report No 44: 17 June 2021:  
The audit objective was to examine the effectiveness of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's regulation of permits and approvals.

### [Australian Federal Police's Use of Statutory Powers](#)

ANAO Report No 43: 08 June 2021  
The objective of the audit was to assess the effectiveness of the Australian Federal Police's framework to ensure the lawful exercise of powers in accordance with applicable legislation.

### [Responding to Non-Compliance with Biosecurity Requirements](#)

ANAO Report No 42: 07 June 2021  
The objective of the audit was to assess the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's effectiveness in responding to non-compliance with plant and animal biosecurity requirements.

[Why did sexual assault reports spike in March 2021](#)

BOSCAR Bureau Brief No. BB155: 10 June 2021  
The number of sexual assault incidents recorded by NSW Police jumped dramatically in March 2021, up 46% from February 2021 and 65% from March 2020. The sharp increase most likely reflects a temporary increase in victim willingness to report sexual assault due to heightened public attention on sexual assault and consent (rather than an increase in prevalence).

**CASES**

[Houston v State of New South Wales \(No 2\) \[2021\] FCA 637](#)

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE – interlocutory application by respondent for summary judgment under s 31A(2) of Federal Court of Australia Act 1976 (Cth) – claim for declaratory relief that Native Vegetation Act 2003 (NSW) and Local Land Services Act 2013 (NSW) are invalid – administrative law challenge to Land Management (Native Vegetation) Code 2018 (NSW) (Code) – whether no reasonable prospects of success.  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – s 51(xxix) of the Constitution – whether s 51(xxix) extends to State legislation – whether State legislation conditioned on grant of financial assistance under s 96 of the Constitution – where applicant contends impugned legislation “embeds” Commonwealth purpose – whether s 51(xxix) extends to State legislation where no formal or informal bilateral agreement – where no invalidity of Commonwealth legislation pleaded – whether no reasonable prospects of success.  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – whether acquisition of property – whether “benefit” accrued to State or Commonwealth – acquisition requires accrual of identifiable or measurable benefit or interest of proprietary character – whether acquisition through “restriction on use” – whether acquisition through alleged requirement of positive land management – whether acquisition through diminution in value – whether no reasonable prospects of success  
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – whether proportionality or structured proportionality applies to s 51(xxix) – whether no reasonable prospects of success.  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – whether Code is ultra vires the LLS Act – where LLS Act contains broad objects and Code contains prescriptive checks and balances based on Executive policy choices – whether Code invalid due to unreasonableness or disproportionality – consideration of high threshold test for unreasonable disproportionality – where complaint directed towards merits or equity of Code – whether no reasonable prospects of success.

[Prygodicz v Commonwealth of Australia \(No 2\) \[2021\] FCA 634](#)

Summary: This is a class action brought by six applicants against the Commonwealth of Australia, arising out of the Commonwealth’s use of an automated debt-collection system between July 2015 and November 2019, intended to recover social security payments that they alleged had been overpaid, colloquially known as the “Robodebt system”.

REPRESENTATIVE PROCEEDINGS – application for court approval of settlement under s 33V of the Federal Court of Australia Act 1976 (Cth) – principles relevant to settlement approval – whether the proposed settlement is fair and reasonable as between the parties – whether the proposed settlement is fair and reasonable as between group members – whether proposed settlement distribution scheme is fair and reasonable – principles relevant to approval of applicants’ legal costs – whether legal costs proposed to be charged by applicants’ solicitors are reasonable – settlement approved.

[Zhang v Commissioner of Police \[2021\] HCA 16](#)

Police – Search warrants – Validity of warrants – Validity of orders – Where officers of Australian Federal Police (“AFP”) searched premises in reliance on warrants – Where officers of AFP seized material they believed relevant to offences against s 92.3(1) and (2) of Criminal Code (Cth) – Where officers examined and copied data from electronic devices at searched premises – Where plaintiff compelled to provide passcodes to devices pursuant to orders under s 3LA of Crimes Act 1914 (Cth) – Where warrants purported to authorise search and seizure of material relevant to offences against s 92.3(1) and (2) of Criminal Code – Where plaintiff accepted warrants severable – Whether warrants identified the substance of offences against s 92.3(1) of Criminal Code with sufficient precision.  
Constitutional law (Cth) – Implied freedom of communication about government or political matters – Where warrants purported to authorise search and seizure of material relevant to offences against s 92.3(1) and (2) of Criminal Code – Where plaintiff accepted warrants severable – Where plaintiff accepted various sub-paragraphs of s 92.3(1)(b), (c) and (d) capable of severance under s 15A of Acts Interpretation Act 1901 (Cth) – Whether appropriate to proceed to determine constitutional validity of s 92.3(1) of Criminal Code or construction of “covert”.

[Douglas v Secretary, Department of Education \[2021\] NSWIRComm 1044](#)

PUBLIC SECTOR DISCIPLINARY APPEAL – School Learning Support Officer dismissed – non-disclosure order – sustained allegations of misconduct involving a nine year old special needs student – inappropriate physical contact Douglas v Secretary, Department of Education [2021] NSWIRComm 1044.

[Dubow v Mid-Western Regional Council \[2021\] NSWSC 699](#)

CIVIL PROCEDURE – Commencement of proceedings – Summons – Prejudice to defendant arising from an extension of time for filing would not be substantial – No significant delay – Time for filing the further amended summons extended pursuant to Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005 (NSW), r 59.10  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Judicial review – Relief sought pursuant to s 69 of the Supreme Court Act 1970 (NSW) – Whether the impounding and sale of the plaintiff’s alpacas complied with the relevant statutory provisions – Power under s 116(3) does not depend on the commencement, or

result, of criminal proceedings — Proceedings in the Local Court and NCAT do not operate as an automatic injunction restraining the defendant from exercising its statutory powers against the plaintiff's alpacas - Filing a summons in this Court does not prevent the sale of the plaintiff's alpacas - Further amended summons dismissed.

#### **North Parramatta Residents Action Group v Infrastructure NSW [2021] NSWLEC 60**

JUDICIAL REVIEW Minister grants development consent to Powerhouse Parramatta original development application proposes demolition of "Willow Grove" and "St George's Terrace", local heritage items listed in the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011 development modified during environmental impact statement (EIS) submission and consideration process proposed demolition of "St George's Terrace" abandoned final proposal envisages "Willow Grove" will be disassembled and re erected at another site North Parramatta Residents Action Group challenges validity of consent adequacy of EIS interaction between cl 7 of Sch 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) extent of requirement to examine feasible alternative sites.

#### **[AQG v Secretary, Department of Customer Service \[2021\] NSWCATAD 167](#)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – Privacy – Where respondent applied for summary dismissal of applicant's application - Scope of applicant's application – Whether application sought review of conduct which was not the subject of an internal review application AQG v Secretary, Department of Customer Service [2021] NSWCATAD 167.

#### **[Coppock v Willoughby City Council \[2021\] NSWCATAD 166](#)**

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – access to government information – access application – conclusive presumption against disclosure – legal professional privilege – excluded information ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – access to government information – access application – public interests in favour of disclosure – public interests against disclosure– whether overriding public interest against disclosure.

#### **[O'Grady v Sutherland Shire Council \[2021\] NSWCATAD 165](#)**

GIPA - Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 – s. 101 – extension of time – reasonable excuse.

#### **[Mawas v State Parole Authority & Anor \[2021\] NSWSC 652](#)**

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Ground of review other than procedural fairness – Unreasonableness – Decision of State Parole Authority to revoke parole where offender had been charged with offences – Application of s170A Crimes (Administration of Sentences) Act 1999 (NSW) ADMINISTRATIVE LAW – Threshold test for procedural fairness – Regular practice – Requirements of State Parole Authority when revoking parole.

#### **[Early Childhood Education Australia Pty Ltd v Secretary, Department of Education \[2021\] NSWCATAD 161](#)**

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW - Education and Care Services National Law – review of decision to cancel provider approval - fit and proper person - breach of approval condition - alternative measures available to the decision maker - new approval conditions imposed.

#### **[Coote v Blacktown City Council \[2021\] NSWCATAD 160](#)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW – government information – access application – complaint made to Council – access to name and details of complainant- whether overriding public interest against disclosure.

### **LEGISLATION**

#### **Commonwealth**

#### **[Online Safety \(Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments\) Bill 2021](#)**

Senate 17/06/2021 - Introduced with the Online Safety Bill 2021, the bill: repeals the Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015; makes consequential amendments to 10 Acts; amends the Crimes Act 1914, Export Market Development Grants Act 1997 and Online Safety Act 2021, when enacted, to make amendments contingent on the commencement of certain other Acts; and contains transitional and application provisions.

#### **[Online Safety Bill 2021](#)**

Senate 17/06/2021 - Introduced with the Online Safety (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2021, the bill: retains and replicates certain provisions in the Enhancing Online Safety Act 2015, including the non-consensual sharing of intimate images scheme; specifies basic online safety expectations; establishes an online content scheme for the removal of certain material; creates a complaints-based removal notice scheme for cyber-abuse being perpetrated against an Australian adult; broadens the cyber-bullying scheme to capture harms occurring on services other than social media; reduces the timeframe for service providers to respond to a removal notice from the eSafety Commissioner; brings providers of app distribution services and internet search engine services into the remit of the new online content scheme; and establishes a power for the eSafety Commissioner to request or require internet service providers to disable access to material depicting, promoting, inciting or instructing in abhorrent violent conduct for time-limited periods in crisis situations.

#### **Regulations**

#### **[Maritime Transport Security \(Screening Officer Requirements\) Determination 2021](#)**

This instrument determines certain requirements for specified screening officers, thereby standardising the competency levels of specified screening officers.

#### **[Data-matching Program \(Assistance and Tax\) Rules 2021](#)**

This instrument regulates the matching of data under the Data-matching Program (Assistance and Tax) Act 1990, and provides for the monitoring of technical standards for data matching programs and establishes privacy safeguards for individuals affected by data matching outcomes.

## NSW

### Regulations and other miscellaneous instruments

[Annual Holidays Regulation 2021](#) (2021-288) – published LW 18 June 2021

[Duties Act 1997 – Notice of Adjusted Amounts Under Section 33AF of Duties Act 1997](#) (2021-290) – published LW 18 June 2021

[Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Act 2019 No 23](#) (2021-269) – published LW 11 June 2021

[Charitable Fundraising Amendment Act 2018 No 64](#) (2021-270) – published LW 11 June 2021

### Regulations and other miscellaneous instruments

[Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2021](#) (2021-272) – published LW 11 June 2021

[Oaths Amendment \(Identification\) Regulation 2021](#) (2021-274) – published LW 11 June 2021

[Government Sector Finance Act 2018 – Treasurer’s Direction TD21-02 - Mandatory Annual Returns to Treasury](#) (2021-268) – published LW 7 June 2021

[Uniform Civil Procedure \(Amendment No 97\) Rule 2021](#) (2021-279) – published LW 11 June 2021

[Victims Rights and Support \(Victims Support Levy\) Notice 2021](#) (2021-280) – published LW 11 June 2021

## Bills introduced – 11 June 2021

### Government

[Electoral Legislation Amendment \(Local Government Elections\) Bill 2021](#)

[Families, Communities and Disability Services Miscellaneous Amendment Bill 2021](#)

### Non-Government

[Anti-Discrimination Amendment \(Religious Vilification\) Bill 2021](#)

## Bills revised following amendment in Committee

[Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Amendment \(Commissioners\) Bill 2021](#)

[Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2021](#)

## Bills passed by both Houses of Parliament

[Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Amendment \(Commissioners\) Bill 2021](#)

[Mandatory Disease Testing Bill 2021](#)

[Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Bill 2021](#)

## Bills assented to

[Mandatory Disease Testing Act 2021 No 13](#) – Assented to 17 June 2021

[Law Enforcement Conduct Commission Amendment \(Commissioners\) Act 2021 No 14](#) – Assented to 17 June 2021

[Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment Act 2021 No 15](#) – Assented to 17 June 2021

For the full text of Bills, and details on the passage of Bills, see [Bills](#).

## KEY CONTACTS

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We are pleased to be able to work collaboratively with NSW Government to offer the following services (at no charge):

- advice regarding discrete and non-complex legal queries – up to 30 minute teleconference with a Partner, Special Counsel or relevant Senior Associate or, short written advice (max. 1 page);
- the opportunity to 'brainstorm' or discuss topical and complex legal issues with industry specialists – up to 30 minute teleconference with a Partner, Special Counsel or relevant Senior Associate; and
- advice regarding potential transactions – up to 30 minute

teleconference with a Partner, Special Counsel or relevant Senior Associate.

#### (Help Desk Services)

Please note that the Help Desk Services are only available in respect of any matter which is currently unallocated i.e. to this firm or any other firm.

#### Key Contact and Help Desk Process

You can access the Help Desk by:

- (a) Calling 02 8248 5810; or
- (b) Emailing [legalhelpdesk@tglaw.com.au](mailto:legalhelpdesk@tglaw.com.au)

Once relevant details are received from you (whether that be by email or over the phone) it will be directed to the appropriate Thomson Geer Partner, Special Counsel or Senior Associate. The Help Desk number and

## SUB-PANEL APPOINTMENTS

Thomson Geer are appointed to the following NSW Government sub-panels:

1(c) Major commercial matters (incl. ICT)

2(a) Commercial and contractual matters

4(a) Employment and industrial relations law

4(f) Discrimination

6(b) General litigation and dispute resolution

6(c) Debt recovery

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