Queensland Law Society

SPECIALIST PRACTICE CONFERENCE 26

7-9 OCTOBER 2026 • BRISBANE

Program – Government Law

1hr

Keynote Address: Inside the Matter: ASIC v Bekier (Star Entertainment)

This session will examine the Federal Court's landmark decision in ASIC v Bekier (Star Entertainment) and its impact on directors', officers' and in-house counsel duties. It will explore the Court's findings on risk escalation, board reporting, governance oversight, and the evolving role of General Counsel. Attendees will gain practical guidance on managing legal and reputational risks, advising boards, documenting decision-making, and meeting expectations of care and diligence in complex organisational environments. The session will provide actionable lessons for legal practitioners seeking to strengthen governance and mitigate regulatory exposure.

Presenters:

Shaun Buckton, Senior Associate, Norton Rose Fullbright

Jenna Scott-Speyers, Partner, Norton Rose Fullbright

PLE SL

1hr

Effective workplace investigations: Navigating volume, complexity and compliance

Courts, tribunals and employers are experiencing an unprecedented growth in employment-related litigation and complaints, including as a result of the use of AI. Recent decisions also remind us that workplace investigations dealing with employee complaints are open to increasing scrutiny and that investigation processes can be put under the microscope in legal proceedings. In that context, it is important to ensure that investigation processes are defensible, robust and fair, and that triage processes and other alternative responses are effective and appropriate. This session will explore key lessons from recent cases that employers and investigators should have front of mind.

Presenter: **Tamara Lutvey**, Partner, Ashurst Perkins Coie

Chair: **Jill Petrie**, Director, Legal Services Coordination Unit, Office of General Counsel, Department of Justice

PS SL

1hr

Administrative Law in action: Internal Legal's role in supporting effective decision making and lessons for external lawyers

This presentation explores how internal legal teams can empower decision-makers to make robust administrative decisions. The session will include practical takeaways to support evidence-based decision-making. Key focus areas include ensuring decisions are grounded in a proper head of power, providing guidance on human rights impact assessments, and navigating regulatory obligations. It also highlights the importance of clear departmental summaries and adherence to administrative law principles of procedural fairness and natural justice to uphold integrity and accountability in decision-making processes.

Presenters:

Celica Bojorge, Principal Legal Officer, Queensland Treasury

Andrea Alexander, Special Counsel, Queensland Treasury

Chair: **Tim Gordon**, Partner, Clayton Utz

Sponsored by Major Partner, Clayton Utz

PS SL

1hr

Navigating AI: Regulatory challenges for Privacy, RTI, and Public Records in Queensland Government

Artificial intelligence is transforming the way government entities operate, but it also raises complex regulatory challenges. This seminar will explore the implications of AI on privacy obligations, Right to Information (RTI) compliance, and public record-keeping requirements for Queensland Government entities. Attendees will gain insights into the evolving legal landscape, practical strategies for managing risks, and how to ensure compliance with existing frameworks while embracing innovation.

Presenter: **Eleanor Dickens**, Partner, Clayton Utz

Chair: **Tim Gordon**, Partner, Clayton Utz

Sponsored by Major Partner, Clayton Utz

PS SL

1hr

Navigating ethics – practical tips for government lawyers

Shane will take you through the latest updates from the Ethics and Practice Centre. This session is an interactive one, so be prepared to learn and engage. You will be asked to contribute to a detailed discussion around issues common amongst government lawyers.

Presenter: **Shane Budden**, Special Counsel, QLS Ethics and Practice Centre, Queensland Law Society

Chair: **Meredith Bennett**, Partner, Ashurst

Sponsored by Major Partner, Ashurst Perkins Coie

Presenters



Andrea Alexander

Andrea is a Special Counsel in Queensland Treasury's Legal and Administrative Review Office. Legal Services provides independent, expert legal services to the Treasury portfolio, particularly the department's fiscal, economic and commercial areas, to inform decision-making by Treasury and the Treasurer.



Meredith Bennett

Meredith is a litigation specialist with more than 20 years' experience in complex disputes. She helps clients resolve commercial and regulatory matters before State and Federal courts and tribunals, and her practice covers litigation, public law, investigations, and inquiries.

Meredith advises across every stage of a dispute, from early strategy before proceedings begin through to trial and appeal. She has particular expertise in contractual, property, defamation, and corporate disputes, as well as administrative law proceedings, and she is also highly experienced in alternative dispute resolution.

Meredith has acted for both government and private sector clients in a number of high-profile royal commissions, commissions of inquiry and parliamentary inquiries. Through that work she has gained a deep understanding of the particular challenges facing Queensland Government agencies, and she is regularly trusted to advise on the most sensitive and complex litigation matters.

Meredith is also the Ashurst Perkins Coie Client Relationship Partner for the Queensland Government



Celica Bojorge

Celica is a Special Counsel in Queensland Treasury's Legal and Administrative Review Office, with more than 25 years' experience across the Queensland, Federal and English public sectors. She provides strategic legal advice on complex fiscal, economic, commercial and policy issues. Her work supports informed decision-making by Queensland Treasury and the Treasurer on legislative, regulatory and operational matters.



Shane Budden

As a Special Counsel in the QLS Ethics and Practice Centre/QLS Solicitor Support Pty Ltd, Shane provides ethical guidance and instruction to practitioners. He contributes significantly to the QLS journal Proctor, both through his regular column and by authoring feature articles. He is also a member of the QUT University Animal Ethics Committee.

Shane was admitted in 1992 and worked in general practice with a focus on Criminal Law, before moving to in-house work, initially with the Ipswich City Council internal legal team.

Prior to joining QLS he headed up the internal legal team at the Queensland Building Construction Commission/Queensland Building Services Authority and was Chair of the Society's Government Lawyers Committee.



Shaun Buckton

Shaun Buckton is a senior associate working in the commercial litigation team in Norton Rose Fulbright Australia's Sydney office.

Shaun specialises in regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings, as well as general commercial disputes, with an emphasis on class action proceedings.



Eleanor Dickens

Eleanor Dickens practices in public and administrative law covering decision-making and review actions, statutory/regulatory investigations and inquiries, integrity and corruption and information law. She is a recognised authority in information law and has built a strong reputation advising Queensland Government departments and agencies on complex and sensitive matters at the intersection of privacy, Right to Information, and public records management. In recent years, she has focused on the regulatory implications of artificial intelligence in government processes, advising clients on legal risks associated with AI and automated decision making. Consistently recognised in Best Lawyers and Doyle's Guide for public law, Eleanor is a trusted adviser to the Queensland public sector. She brings deep expertise, practical insight, and a genuine passion for helping government navigate the challenges of integrating emerging technologies whilst maintaining compliance and public accountability.



Tim Gordon

Tim Gordon is a recognised leader in public and administrative law, with expertise in statutory interpretation, constitutional law, and human rights. He has played a pivotal role in the implementation of the Human Rights Act across the Queensland public sector, guiding government agencies through this significant legislative reform. With a deep understanding of the priorities and challenges faced by government decision-makers, Tim excels at translating complex legal frameworks into practical, actionable advice that mitigates risks, ensures compliance, and fosters accountability and transparency.



Tamara Lutvey

Tamara has over 18 years' experience in providing practical and strategic advice in complex employment, industrial relations, discrimination and work health and safety issues. Her clients cover the public and private sectors and a wide range of industries. She regularly advises on public sector employment law to various Queensland Government departments, statutory bodies and government owned corporations, including in respect of individual employee grievances, performance management, disciplinary processes, industrial action, industrial disputes, workplace investigations, managing ill and injured employees, and managing public interest disclosures and allegations of corrupt conduct. She is an experienced investigator and is skilled in conducting and advising on robust and procedurally fair workplace investigations. She also has extensive experience in conducting and managing employment-related litigation in various courts and tribunals at the State and Federal level, including before the High Court of Australia.



Jill Petrie

Jill is the Director of the Legal Services Coordination Unit, Department of Justice and Attorney-General and has a whole of Government coordination role in relation to Government lawyers. Jill is the panel manager of the whole of Government Legal Services Panel and manages the Queensland Government barristers' list. Her team coordinates the government responses to coronial recommendations directed to the Government. Jill's team also manages the Significant Litigation Directions on behalf of the Attorney-General. The Directions describe how significant litigation matters are to be managed in Queensland.



Jenna Scott-Speyers

Jenna Scott-Speyers is a specialist insolvency and restructuring lawyer based in Brisbane, with significant litigious experience in insolvency, regulatory, class action, banking and general commercial matters, as well as transactional restructuring, across geographic locations.

She has acted on significant and highly complex litigation, regulatory and insolvency matters, involving substantial documentary evidence and multifaceted lay and expert witness evidence across jurisdictions, including acting in one of only a handful of securities class actions to be litigated in Australia.

Jenna's clients include government regulators, intermediaries, all of the major Australian banks and major corporates.