



Corporate Responsibility

Today all organisations need to consider how their actions affect their stakeholders, including their employees, the community and the environment. Fail to meet the standards of corporate responsibility and your organisation could face reputational damage, financial hardship and a clouded future.

With the help of our team, your corporate responsibility efforts can help improve your bottom line – not just your image.

We advise clients on:

- Corporate responsibility policies
- Legal compliance strategy
- Risk management
- Corporate governance, environmental law and workplace relations
- Boardroom and executive education
- Advice on Global Reporting Initiatives, ISO 18000 and 14000
- Corporate responsibility developments around the globe

CAPABILITES

Our crucial risk management tool is a comprehensive assessment of how your organisation is tracking against corporate responsibility standards in areas including:

- Employment policies and practices
- Supply chain management
- Health, safety and environmental practices
- Practices relating to human rights and diversity
- Transparency and corporate governance
- Directors' duties
- Misleading and deceptive conduct
- Directors' and officers' (D&O) insurance

KEY CONTACTS

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Publications

GIR Insight: Asia-Pacific Investigations Review 2021

15 October 2020

DLA Piper has contributed a chapter on internal investigations in Australia to the recently released GIR Asia-Pacific Investigations Review 2021. Our chapter provides a brief overview of the key considerations relevant to conducting an effective Australian internal investigation and sets out some strategies to achieve a prompt and robust outcome.

NSW Government response to the Legislative Council's Standing Committee inquiry into the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW)

29 September 2020

Since its enactment, the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) (NSW Act) has been shrouded in conjecture and uncertainty as to if and when it will commence due to conflicting provisions with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) (Commonwealth Act). On 24 September 2020, in response to a report by the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee, the NSW Government sought to put to the debate to rest by conditionally committing to commence the NSW Act by 1 January 2021. While the NSW Government remains reluctant to commence a regime that is inconsistent with the Commonwealth Act – with particular regard to reporting thresholds – it has declared that it will engage in discussions with the Commonwealth Government with a view to achieving a harmonised modern slavery regime. To the extent that the NSW Act compliments and is not inconsistent with the Commonwealth Act, we can expect to see the regime in force in early 2021.

The Final Findings: ALRC's Report on Criminal Corporate Responsibility in Australia

8 September 2020

The Australian Law Reform Commission's (ALRC) Final Report on Corporate Criminal Responsibility was tabled in the Federal Parliament last week.

The Final Report advocates for broad reform in the definition, regulation, and prosecution of corporate offences. It delivers a focused concentration on misconduct and individual accountability for those involved in the management of corporate entities that engage in wrongdoing.

Against the backdrop of the Financial Services Royal Commission's findings, the ALRC has endeavoured to understand why there are so few prosecutions against corporations in Australia, particularly relative to the prosecution of individuals. In doing so, it has examined the fundamental principles underpinning the regulation of corporations, and the proper role of the criminal law to denounce particularly egregious conduct, in order to make **twenty reform recommendations** that it considers will provide clarity around criminally prosecuting corporate wrongdoing and will make corporations less likely to view civil penalties as merely a 'cost of doing business'.

Claim against Commonwealth Government highlights climate-related corporate governance risks

18 August 2020

A class action has launched in the Australian Federal Court suing the Government for failing to disclose climate-related risks when issuing Treasury bonds. This will (and should) cause ripples in the wider business community. The claim is evidence of a growing movement where investors and consumers are demanding more accountability from companies on climate change. In the post-Hayne Royal Commission environment, directors and boards should seriously consider climate-related risks and whether disclosures need to be made, or if actions must be taken in accordance with applicable guidance and frameworks. This article also considers how companies can manage the variety of climate-related risks.

Events

Previous

WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Perth

27 February 2020
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020
Perth

WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Melbourne

20 February 2020
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020
Melbourne

WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Brisbane

19 February 2020
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020
Brisbane

WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020, Sydney

18 February 2020
WIN In-House Counsel Day 2020
Sydney
