

SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

ANNUAL CORPORATE LAW CONFERENCE

What is the Future of the Australian Business Corporation?

2019 Conference

Tuesday, 29 October 2019 at 1.15pm

Banco Court, Supreme Court of New South Wales,
Level 13, Queen's Square, Sydney

1 MS ESPINOSA: Good afternoon, everybody.

2

3 May I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora
4 nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which
5 this honourable court stands. I pay my respects to the
6 elders past, present and emerging.

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8 It is my pleasure as President of the Law Society of
9 New South Wales to open this conference. I must say that I
10 have just been taken a little bit aback. I was originally
11 asked to speak from there, but I have just been invited to
12 sit on the bench, so I am a little bit excited.

13

14 The Annual Conference for Corporate and Commercial Law
15 is co-sponsored by the Supreme Court of New South Wales,
16 the Law Society of New South Wales and the Ross Parsons
17 Centre for Commercial, Corporate and Taxation Law of the
18 University of Sydney Law School.

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20 Please allow me to welcome some wonderful people that
21 are joining us here today: Her Excellency, the Honourable
22 Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales; of
23 course, to my right is the Honourable Justice Tom Bathurst
24 AC, Chief Justice of New South Wales; the Honourable
25 Justice James Edelman, High Court of Australia; the
26 Honourable Justice Dr Andrew Bell SC, President of the
27 Court of Appeal; the Honourable Justices of the Supreme
28 Court of New South Wales and the Federal Court of
29 Australia; the Honourable Justice Lea Armstrong, President
30 of the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal;
31 the Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth, Supreme Court of
32 Queensland and, please, distinguished guests and our four
33 speakers who are each leaders in their fields.

34

35 Community unease about whether corporations are to be
36 trusted has been growing during the 21st century,
37 particularly after the global financial crisis in 2008. A
38 consensus is emerging internationally, extending to
39 business itself, that fundamental changes are needed to
40 restore community trust.

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42 The conference today has invited the leader of the
43 British Academy's important project on the future of the
44 corporation to explain the ideas underlying that project,
45 and distinguished Australian speakers will respond to those
46 ideas from the legal, the boardroom and the regulatory
47 perspectives.

2 I would like to sincerely thank the Chief Justice for
3 agreeing to host today's event inside this court and call
4 upon him to deliver some welcoming remarks on behalf of the
5 three sponsors and to develop some themes regarding the
6 conference program itself.

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8 It is my pleasure and privilege now to hand over to
9 the Chief Justice.

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