

## Alumni Newsletter



Herbert Geer has grown significantly over the last year to meet the expanding needs of our clients. As a result we have become one of the fastest growing law firms in Australia.

You have been an important part of our foundations and we would like you to continue your connection with the firm through our alumni program.

Our quarterly newsletters will bring you profiles of your alumni colleagues, inside stories from our current people and thought leadership articles to help you navigate your way through today's challenges.

We would also hope you would direct others from the Herbert Geer family to register with us through our website, or directly by email or phone.

Below you will find some of our selected thought leadership pieces of this year. I hope you will find them of interest.

As 2009 draws to a close, the Partners and staff at Herbert Geer wish you all the very best for a happy and safe New Year.

### **OHS HARMONISATION — IMPLICATIONS OF THE DRAFT EXPOSURE BILL FOR BUSINESS**

#### **FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS TEAM**

What will be the real impact of the proposed model occupational health and safety (OHS) Act for business?

Widespread attention has focussed on the nature of the duty, onus of proof, a union's inability to prosecute, and how these changes are significant

steps forward in New South Wales and Queensland in particular. However, like so much in the field of OHS, the real impact of the model Act will depend on how it operates in practice.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

<http://www.herbertgeer.com.au/Content/Common/pg-EWR-OHS-Harmonisation-Implications-of-the-draft-exposure-bill-for-business.seo>

### **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW — NEW GOVERNMENT REPORT ON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**

#### **FROM THE PLANNING, GOVERNMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM**

On 26 October 2009, the House of Representatives Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts Committee released its inquiry report into climate change and environmental impacts on coastal communities, *Managing our Coastal Zone in a Changing Climate: the Time to Act is Now*. The report calls for new governance arrangements for Australia's coastal zone and makes recommendations to improve management of climate change and environmental impacts on the coast.

The inquiry generated a high level of interest from the Australian community, with over 100 written submissions and 180 exhibits. The Committee heard from over 170 witnesses at 28 public hearings held around Australia and undertook 9 site inspections of coastal areas known to be vulnerable to climate change.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

<http://www.herbertgeer.com.au/Content/Common/ns-The-time-to-act-is-now.seo>

### **THE FAIR WORK INFORMATION STATEMENT RELEASED**

#### **FROM THE EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS TEAM**

The Fair Work Information Statement (Statement) has been released. From 1 January 2010, all **employers** covered by the national workplace relations system will have an obligation to provide this Statement to each new employee.

The obligation is one of the ten National Employment Standards (NES) that employers must comply with under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). The Statement must be provided before, or as soon as possible after, the employee begins employment. Employers are not required to give the Statement to employees employed prior to 1 January 2010.

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

<http://www.herbertgeer.com.au/SiteMedia/w3svc1089/Uploads/Documents/PDF%20Update%20-%20Fair%20Work%20Information%20Statement.pdf>

## HERBERT GEER WEBSITE

As part of the launch of Changing Geer there is now a section of the website dedicated to our Alumni.

We would love to know what you are up to now and the journey you have taken since leaving Herbert Geer so email us some details to [marketing@herbertgeer.com.au](mailto:marketing@herbertgeer.com.au)

## 2010 SEMINAR SERIES

### DON'T MISS OUT ON INVITATIONS TO OUR KEY 2010 SEMINARS

Our 2010 seminar program will include topics of relevance to our Alumni, so please email us at [marketing@herbertgeer.com.au](mailto:marketing@herbertgeer.com.au) to register your interest.



#### ANDREW BUCHANAN, PARTNER

##### Property

Andrew Buchanan is the newest partner to join Herbert Geer and is part of the Property team in the Sydney office.

Andrew has extensive experience of property and infrastructure projects having worked in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. His areas of expertise include property development and joint ventures, commercial, industrial and retail leasing, property related disputes, planning and environmental law.

#### FIND OUT MORE

<http://www.herbertgeer.com.au/Content/Common/pg-Andrew-Buchanan.seo>



#### SAM JOHNSON, SPECIAL COUNSEL

##### Planning, Government and Infrastructure

Sam Johnson has recently been appointed by the Queensland Department of Infrastructure and Planning as a General Referee for the Building and Development Tribunals.

"This appointment will be a great opportunity to get a very hands on experience with different aspects of planning and building law that I don't normally get involved with" said Samantha.

"It will also give me an insight into the role of a judge as I will be required to prepare judgments for disputes" she said.

"I am going to make the most of this opportunity to assist, and to make a difference to those who need an affordable, timely and accessible non-court based dispute resolution service" said Samantha.

#### CONTACT SAMANTHA

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This article was produced by Herbert Geer.  
It is intended to provide general information in summary form on legal issues.  
The contents do not constitute legal advice and should not be relied upon as such