NOTICE OF FILING

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Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)

File Number: NSD616/2021

File Title: WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION ABN 33 007 457 141 v FORUM

FINANCE PTY LIMITED & ORS

Registry: NEW SOUTH WALES REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF

AUSTRALIA



Dated: 13/07/2021 10:50:40 PM AEST Registrar

Sia Lagos

Important Information

As required by the Court's Rules, this Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date and time of lodgment also shown above are the date and time that the document was received by the Court. Under the Court's Rules the date of filing of the document is the day it was lodged (if that is a business day for the Registry which accepts it and the document was received by 4.30 pm local time at that Registry) or otherwise the next working day for that Registry.



Affidavit

No. NSD 616 of 2021

Federal Court of Australia

District Registry: New South Wales

Division: General

Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141

Applicant

Forum Finance Pty Limited (In Liquidation) (Receivers Appointed) ACN 153 301 172 and others

Respondents

Affidavit of: Jason Ireland

Address: Level 12, 20 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000

Occupation: Registered Liquidators

Date: 13 July 2021

I, Jason Ireland, of Level 12, 20 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000, Registered Liquidator, affirm:

- 1. I am a Partner in the Restructuring practice of McGrathNicol, a Chartered Accountant (admitted as a member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand) and a Registered Liquidator. I am a Liquidator of Forum Finance Pty Limited (In Liquidation) (Receivers Appointed), the First Respondent (*Forum Finance*).
- 2. I have over 20 years' experience undertaking complex restructuring and turnaround assignments, capital reorganisations and formal insolvency administrations.
- 3. I believe that the information contained in this affidavit is true.
- 4. This affidavit is made in connection with the Applicant's Interlocutory Application dated 12 July 2021 seeking orders that I and Jason Preston of McGrathNicol be appointed as either provisional liquidators or joint and several liquidators to the

Filed on behalf of (name & role	of party)	Forum Finance Pty Limited (In Liquidation) (Receivers Appointed), the First Respondent
Prepared by (name of person/l	awyer)	Chris Prestwich
Law firm (if applicable)	Allens	
Tel 02 9230 4000		Fax (02) 9230 5333
Email Chris.Prestwich@	allens.com.a	u
Address for service (include state and postcode)		Bank Place, 126 Phillip Street, Sydney NSW 2000 ris.Prestwich@allens.com.au and Kirsty.Prinsloo@allens.com.au cydney

- proposed fourth to seventh respondents. Katherine Sozou, Partner of McGrathNicol, has also provided consents to act over the entities the subject of this application.
- 5. Exhibited to me at the time of affirming this affidavit is an electronic bundle of documents referred to in my affidavit and marked "JI-1". Where I refer to a document by page number noting Exhibit JI-1, I am referring to the corresponding page number in Exhibit JI-1 where the document is located.

Background

- 6. By orders of this Court on 9 July 2021, among other things:
 - (a) Forum Finance was wound up pursuant to s 461(1)(k) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth);
 - (b) Jason Preston and I (*Liquidators*) were appointed as joint and several liquidators of Forum Finance.
- 7. Forum Finance is one entity in a group of corporate entities known as the Forum group.
- 8. In the time since my appointment, the steps that I have taken (or caused to be taken) as Liquidator have included the following:
 - (a) I have attended the premises of the Forum group in North Sydney and had discussions with various employees of Forum Group Pty Limited (Administrators Appointed) (Receivers Appointed) (Forum Group PL). In particular, I have engaged with Mr Craig Rollinson, who I understand to be General Manager of Operations of the Forum group;
 - (b) Taken steps to obtain Forum Finance's bank statements and reviewed in detail some of those statements for one of the accounts for the period from 1 September 2018 to 30 June 2021 and am in the process of reviewing the management accounts profit and loss statements for FY20 and FY21 as well as the management accounts balance sheets at 30 June 2020 and 30 June 2021 of Forum Finance which were provided to me by Mr Rollinson. Those management accounts include intercompany transactions involving nine Forum group entities;
 - (c) Engaged with creditors of Forum Finance, including Westpac;
 - (d) Met with David Godoy, Head of Data and employee of Forum Group PL who demonstrated the 'BMS' (Business Management System) and provided an excel spreadsheet extracted from BMS which listed Forum Finance customer

contracts (although the system recorded a number of those contracts against Forum Group PL and Forum Enviro Aust Pty Limited);

- (e) Attempted to make contact with:
 - (i) Mr Bouchahine who I understand to be the Chief Financial Officer of Forum Group PL and Forum Finance (although he was not an employee of Forum Finance). I am informed by Jason Preston and believe that he received a response from Mr Bouchahine's solicitor; and
 - (ii) Mr Papas that attempt has been unsuccessful.
- 9. As a result of these investigations, I have gained a preliminary understanding of:
 - (a) Forum Finance's transactional banking arrangements (to date I have identified that it had two bank accounts with National Australia Bank);
 - (b) The arrangements that Forum Finance entered into with financiers (primarily Westpac but also others);
 - (c) The equipment leases that Forum Finance entered into with various counterparties and how those lease arrangements were recorded;
 - (d) Some of the operational relationships between Forum Finance and other members of the Forum group, including Forum Group PL and Forum Enviro among others as well as Forum Group Financial Services Pty Limited (*FGFS*) which is not part of the Forum group;
 - (e) The book keeping arrangements and how funds were accounted for between the entities:
 - (f) The funds transferred between Forum Finance on the one part, and other entities in the Forum group on the other part; and
 - (g) The employment arrangements Forum Finance does not have any employees, with Forum Group PL being the main employing entity.
- 10. At this early stage of the liquidation, my understanding of these matters is based on the discussions I have had with employees of Forum Group PL, a review of the bank statements for the two accounts and the management accounts that I refer to at paragraph 8(b) above. I have not yet had the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the matters set out below. My understanding is based in particular on discussions with Mr Rollinson and Mr Godoy.

Arrangements between Forum Finance and financiers

- 11. Forum Finance entered into contractual arrangements with financiers. Pursuant to those arrangements, it was contemplated that:
 - (a) The financier would fund the costs of acquiring equipment;
 - (b) Forum Finance would lease that equipment to a range of third parties and arrange for the equipment to be serviced, where required;
 - (c) The payments to Forum Finance made under the lease agreements would be remitted to the relevant financier (less any fees payable to Forum Finance under the arrangements and less any servicing fee payable to the equipment servicing entity, being Forum Group PL); and
 - (d) In certain circumstances, Forum Finance would have a liability to repay the financiers.

Leases entered into by Forum Finance and the role played by Forum Group PL

- 12. Forum Finance itself does not have any employees.
- 13. Forum Group PL which has approximately 130 employees would generally undertake the following activities in relation to the leases that Forum Finance had entered into:
 - (a) Invoicing the customers (those invoices would typically be issued in Forum Group PL's name, meaning monthly leasing payments came into Forum Group PL's bank accounts as opposed to Forum Finance's bank accounts):
 - (b) Arranging for the provision of the ongoing maintenance services in relation to the leased equipment; and
 - (c) When lease payments were received by Forum Group PL from customers of Forum Finance, it would remit those payments to Forum Finance (less an amount in respect of the services it had provided) so that Forum Finance could make payments to financiers.
- 14. From my preliminary investigations and discussions, it appears that Forum Finance entered into a number of legitimate lease agreements and a number of agreements where it appears that the underlying equipment did not in fact exist.
- 15. As to the records of the lease agreements, Forum group uses a contract management system called 'BMS'. In terms of how contracts were recorded, I am informed by Mr Godoy (after he looked at the system very recently) that:

- (a) The BMS system contains a 'business as usual' method of recording the leases that were entered into; and
- (b) The leases that related to funding provided by Westpac (among others), in large part, do not appear to have been entered into the system in the same way.

Funds from Westpac

- 16. Mr Rollinson caused me to be provided with pdf copies of the Forum Finance bank statements referred to in paragraph 8(b) above. I have not been given the log in details to access the bank accounts of Forum Finance. I understand that the bank accounts of all Forum group accounts are accessed with a single log in.
- 17. In relation to the funds that were provided by Westpac in the period from 1 September 2018 to 30 June 2021 into an account titled 'Forum Finance Westlawn', at my direction Damien Pasfield a Director of McGrathNicol has undertaken an analysis of how those funds were applied. That analysis indicates the following:
 - (a) Funds received from Westpac (totalling \$340m) were paid into a bank account held by Forum Finance with the National Australia Bank (the account name was 'Forum Finance Westlawn');
 - (b) In the period from about September 2018 to approximately February 2019, those funds were thereafter paid out of the Forum Finance bank account to FGFS, Forum Group PL, certain 'Enviro' entities and various third parties; and
 - (c) In the period from about February 2019 onwards, the funds received into the Forum Finance bank account from Westpac were thereafter paid out of the Forum Finance bank account to FGFS.

A table showing that analysis is at page 1 of Exhibit JI-1. The description above refers only to the 'Forum Finance Westlawn' bank account and does not address the other bank accounts which Forum Finance operated.

- 18. I am informed by Mr Rollinson that:
 - (a) In the ordinary course, transactions were recorded in the accounting system used by the broader Forum group. However, the transfers from Westpac and on to FGFS were not recorded in that accounting system; and
 - (b) His understanding is that FGFS had its own accounting system (although he is not familiar with it).

- 19. From the inquiries I have made, it appears that the relevant transfers between Forum Finance and FGFS were made by or at the direction of certain employees or contractors of Forum Group PL or FGFS at the relevant time. At this time, I have not been able to speak to the relevant individuals (one has resigned and I am told the other is on stress leave).
- 20. I set out below two examples of the types of entries showing monies being received by Forum Finance from Westpac and Forum Finance paying those monies to FGFS:

14/04/2021	INTER-BANK CREDIT INV 001 3540624 WBC OLP FORUM FINANCE		2,121,902.00 CR	
15/04/2021	TRANSFER DEBITS FORUM GRP FS 180157868 TO FGFS	2,121,902.00 DR		9,481.44 CR
18/05/2021	INTER-BANK CREDIT WESTPAC 3462962 WBC OLP FORUM FINANCE		1,658,725.00 CR	1,685,485.55 CR
19/05/2021	TRANSFER DEBITS FORUM GRP FS 182355365 TO FGFS	1,658,725.00 DR		26,760.55 CR

- 21. I am not appointed to FGFS and do not have access to FGFS bank records.
 Therefore, at the time of making this affidavit, I have not been able to ascertain where monies transferred to FGFS went following those transactions.
- 22. I have seen an ASIC company extract in respect of FGFS. A copy of this ASIC extract is at pages 1 to 3 of Exhibit CMM-5 of the affidavit of Caitlin Murray sworn 12 July 2021. That extract shows that FGFS is directly owned by the Second and Third Respondents.
- 23. I have seen a copy of the financial statements of the Forum group prepared for the financial year ending 30 June 2020 which have been prepared on a consolidated basis for 22 entities. FGFS is not included in those consolidated accounts.

McGrathNicol forensic services

24. In acting as liquidator of Forum Finance, and any other group companies to which I may be appointed, I intend to use the services of McGrathNicol's forensic accounting and investigations team (*Forensic Team*). Our Forensic team has market leading experience in fraud and financial crime, expert witness reports, data analytics, workplace misconduct, cybercrime and digital forensics as well as incident management and investigations support.

- 25. The Forensic Team consists of 15 Partners and 65 staff and is led by Matt Fehon. Mr Fehon is a forensic accountant with more than 25 years of investigative and consulting experience. A copy of Mr Fehon's CV is at page 2 of Exhibit JI-1.
- 26. In my experience the Forensic Team investigates through steps that include:
 - (a) Working with lawyers, insolvency appointees and clients to identify and legally obtain the relevant sources of information:
 - (b) Forensically capturing electronic data and information;
 - (c) Uploading electronic data into an eDiscovery platform to facilitate the searching and review of the relevant documents and communications;
 - (d) Converting electronic document (such as bank statements) to Excel or other applications to facilitate efficient analysis and incorporate into Data Analytic proceedings to aid with transaction analysis across multiple accounts;
 - (e) The analysis of transactional data from accounting systems, financial statement, bank statements and supporting documents to understand the nature and veracity of transactions;
 - (f) Examining communications, including email, phone records and other social media and communication applications to identify relevant information; and
 - (g) To the extent that it is necessary to undertake investigations overseas, we have an alliance with Alvarez and Marsal, a global advisory firm which specialises in investigations and which has offices in locations including Athens.

27. In recent times, the Forensic Team has:

- (a) been engaged by a major Australian Bank and the NSW Police in relation to a high profile criminal investigation and forensic accounting reconstruction involving allegations of fraud and corruption involving a senior executive and an external supplier. This involved a 13 month investigation and identified significant issues of fraud, corruption, misconduct and accounting irregularities in relation to a c.\$120 million contract involving significant analysis of accounting treatment, fund tracing and quantification of alleged misappropriation;
- (b) assisted in relation to McGrathNicol's appointment as receivers and managers of a Chinese state-owned insurance company. The Forensic Team supported the Receivers in relation to the use and application of c.\$82 million in funds

- provided to a series of entities and funds. This involved a fund tracing assignment and document review to identify the beneficiaries of the funds, including any payments towards property, shares and entities;
- (c) assisted in McGrathNicol's appointment as liquidators of Community Work in relation an investigation requiring a reconciliation of c.\$44 million in Government funding provided under grant funding agreements. The Forensic Team undertook a financial investigation and funds tracing assignment into the activities of the children's home care charity; and
- (d) undertaken a forensic accounting investigation concerning the misappropriation of funds including tracing funds subject of a c.\$7.4 million fraud conducted over 14 years, the quantification of the alleged misappropriation and analysis of the various methods by which the funds were misappropriated and tracing of funds through over 20 bank accounts.

Investigation of the fraud

28. My investigations appear to show that there is a mixture of real and potentially fraudulent lease arrangements within Forum Finance. It also appears clear that the funds advanced by Westpac are no longer with Forum Finance and have been transferred to various Forum group entities and FGFS which appears to be related to the Second and Third Respondents. Some of those transfers may be legitimate but many appear not to be.

29. In my experience, for the purpose of tracing funds and investigating a fraud of the scale that is alleged to have occurred and which is the subject of this (and other) proceedings before this Court across multiple entities, it would be more efficient if my partners and I were liquidators of each group entity that received the proceeds of the fraud. That would assist with the process of tracing where those funds went to and being able to access all of the documentary records (including the book and records of those entities, emails, text messages) created at the relevant times. As Forum Finance appears to have remitted the funds to other Forum group entities, being liquidator of Forum Finance only will limit my ability to investigate the underlying circumstances of the fraud.

Affirmed by the abovenamed deponent at Sydney, New South Wales on 13 July 2021 Before me:	Jason Ireland Signature of deponent	
Kirsty Prinsloo		

Signature of witness

No. NSD 616 of 2021

District Registr	ry: New South Wales
Division: Gene	eral
Westpac Ban	king Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141
Applicant	
Forum Finance and others	ce Pty Limited (In Liquidation) (Receivers Appointed) ACN 153 301 172
Respondents	
Affidavit of:	Jason Ireland
Address:	Level 12, 20 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Occupation:	Registered Liquidator
Date:	13 July 2021
	CERTIFICATE IDENTIFYING EXHIBIT
This is the exh	ibit marked "JI-1" produced and shown to Jason Ireland at the time of affirming
his affidavit thi	s 13 July 2021.
Before me:	
before file.	
Kirsty Prinsloo	
Signature of w	itness

Federal Court of Australia

Account Forum Finance Westlaw BSB 082-080

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Sources and uses summary																																			
	Total		Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Apr-20	May-20	Jun-20	Jul-20	Aug-20	Sep-20	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21
Balance at start of period	3,458	3,458	79,758	4,705,047	49,493	21,033	7,056	11,184	60,275	9,099	26,714	3,969,798	21,531	38,858	18,779	20,396	82,625	17,368	27,838	21,668	29,789	5,034	48,465	86,082	46,788	28,086	22,657	61,735	86,734	7,586	34,951	62,133	80,860	19,630	35,908
Credits	367,516,281	21,776,939	22,633,506	8,180,905	9,500,894	731,346	8,115,392	7,989,357	13,033,769	9,883,549	22,398,112	19,954,292	6,862,726	6,585,151	12,859,019	10,544,570	12,366,438	8,788,864	12,419,868	9,035,498	15,144,189	11,897,282	13,205,652	8,903,202	6,727,049	6,755,029	9,228,801	9,809,633	11,266,288	4,385,524	10,305,490	12,010,261	6,130,212	15,312,881	2,774,593
Debits	(367,459,525)	(21,700,639)	(18,008,217)	(12,836,459)	(9,529,354)	(745,324)	(8,111,263)	(7,940,266)	(13,084,945)	(9,865,933)	(18,455,028)	(23,902,559)	(6,845,399)	(6,605,230)	(12,857,401)	(10,482,342)	(12,431,695)	(8,778,394)	(12,426,037)	(9,027,377)	(15,168,944)	(11,853,851)	(13,168,036)	(8,942,496)	(6,745,751)	(6,760,458)	(9,189,723)	(9,784,634)	(11,345,436)	(4,358,159)	(10,278,308)	(11,991,534)	(6,191,442)	(15,296,603)	(2,750,287)
Movement during period	56,756	76,301	4,625,289	(4,655,554)	(28,460)	(13,977)	4,129	49,091	(51,176)	17,616	3,943,084	(3,948,267)	17,327	(20,080)	1,618	62,228	(65,257)	10,470	(6,169)	8,121	(24,755)	43,431	37,617	(39,294)	(18,702)	(5,429)	39,078	24,999	(79,148)	27,365	27,182	18,727	(61,230)	16,278	24,306
Balance at end of period	60,214	79,758	4,705,047	49,493	21,033	7,056	11,184	60,275	9,099	26,714	3,969,798	21,531	38,858	18,779	20,396	82,625	17,368	27,838	21,668	29,789	5,034	48,465	86,082	46,788	28,086	22,657	61,735	86,734	7,586	34,951	62,133	80,860	19,630	35,908	60,214
Check value	60,214																																		
Check																																			
Sources																																			
Westpac	340,386,713	21,718,876	22,594,670	7,204,456	8,812,359	-	7,366,226	7,207,547	12,342,438	8,958,429	22,361,735	19,217,167	6,070,155	5,842,898	12,088,773	9,713,294	11,641,553	7,999,548	11,617,397	8,257,298	14,418,922	11,099,575	12,421,019	8,166,357	5,984,448	5,984,908	9,189,713	9,784,624	11,235,426	4,358,149	9,566,125	7,862,767	6,111,432	10,438,152	2,750,277
CBA	8,987,198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,128,757	-	4,858,441	-
Other credits (mainly loans from Forum Group for Westlawn rent)	18,142,370	58,063	38,836	976,449	688,535	731,346	749,166	781,810	691,331	925,120	36,377	737,125	792,571	742,253	770,246	831,276	724,885	789,316	802,471	778,200	725,267	797,707	784,633	736,845	742,601	770,121	39,088	25,009	30,862	27,375	739,365	18,737	18,780	16,288	24,316
Total sources	367,516,281	21,776,939	22,633,506	8,180,905	9,500,894	731,346	8,115,392	7,989,357	13,033,769	9,883,549	22,398,112	19,954,292	6,862,726	6,585,151	12,859,019	10,544,570	12,366,438	8,788,864	12,419,868	9,035,498	15,144,189	11,897,282	13,205,652	8,903,202	6,727,049	6,755,029	9,228,801	9,809,633	11,266,288	4,385,524	10,305,490	12,010,261	6,130,212	15,312,881 2	2,774,593
Uses																																			
FGFS	(289,043,550)	-	-	-	-	-	(7,366,226)	(7,207,547)	(12,342,438)	(8,958,429)	(18,455,018)	(23,123,884)	(6,070,155)	(5,842,898)	(12,088,773)	(9,713,294)	(11,641,553)	(7,999,548)	(11,617,397)	(8,257,298)	(14,418,922)	(11,099,575)	(12,421,019)	(8,166,357)	(5,984,448)	(5,984,908)	(9,189,713)	(9,784,624)	(11,235,426)	(4,358,149)	(9,566,125)	(11,991,524)	(6,111,432)	(15,296,593) ((2,750,277)
Veolia	(5,246,792)	-	-	(5,246,792)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HWL Ebsworth	(4,177,994)	(4,177,994)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westlawn	(1,278,549)	(635,600)	(642,949)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forum Group	(16,120,000)	(7,400,000)	(8,720,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enviro loan	(6,516,723)	(1,150,000)	(5,366,723)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enviro settlements	(13,719,829)	(1,918,935)	(2,988,535)	-	(8,812,359)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enviro deal	(1,957,664)	-	-	(1,957,664)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unidentified	(11,000,000)	(6,300,000)	-	(4,700,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan to Direct	(100,000)	-	(100,000)	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loan to Fleet	(100,000)		(100,000)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-			-		-
Other debits (mainly Westlawn rent)	(18,198,424)	(118,110)	(90,010)	(932,003)	(716,995)	(745,324)	(745,037)	(732,719)	(742,507)	(907,504)	(10)	(778,675)	(775,244)	(762,332)	(768,628)	(769,048)	(790,142)	(778,846)	(808,640)	(770,079)	(750,022)	(754,276)	(747,017)	(776,139)	(761,303)	(775,550)	(10)	(10)	(110,010)	(10)	(712,183)	(10)	(80,010)	(10)	(10)
Total uses	(367,459,525)	(21,700,639)	(18,008,217)	(12,836,459)	(9,529,354)	(745,324)	(8,111,263)	(7,940,266)	(13,084,945)	(9,865,933)	(18,455,028)	(23,902,559)	(6,845,399)	(6,605,230)	(12,857,401)	(10,482,342)	(12,431,695)	(8,778,394)	(12,426,037)	(9,027,377)	(15,168,944)	(11,853,851)	(13,168,036)	(8,942,496)	(6,745,751)	(6,760,458)	(9,189,723)	(9,784,634)	(11,345,436)	(4,358,159)	(10,278,308)	(11,991,534)	(6,191,442)	(15,296,603)	(2,750,287)





Matt Fehon AM

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SYDNEY OFFICE

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Qualifications & Memberships

- Member of the Order of Australia (AM)
- Bachelor of Business (Accounting and Finance)
- Member, CA ANZ
- Graduate Member, AICD
- Member, FINSIA
- Member, Institute of Internal Auditors
- Member, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- Certificate IV Government Investigation
- Certificate IV Government Fraud Control

Matt is a highly regarded corporate advisory specialist and forensic expert and specialises in financial crime, corporate corruption and regulatory investigations, dispute advisory, enforceable undertakings and risk advisory.

A Forensic Accountant with more than 30 years of investigative and consulting experience, Matt has built a reputation for integrity and excellence together with an ability to quickly get to the source of a problem. This is best evidenced through significant investigations he has led into fraud, international corruption, foreign interference and financial markets manipulation.

Matt has many many crisis situations and used this experience to assist clients proactively with business reordanisation and improvement assignments.

The diversity of assignments extends across most industry sectors, with particular experience in the financial services, construction, resources and government sectors.

Engagement Experience

Regulatory investigations – Financial markets investigations, release of market sensitive or confidential information, insider trading, market manipulation, financial advice irregularities and collusion.

Fraud & corruption investigations – Assisting clients with high profile matters to address serious allegations. A large portfolio of matters involving financial crime, asset misappropriation, fraud, bribery, corruption, conflicts of interest, theft of IP and false representation through to legal proceedings.

Dispute advisory – Independent Expert Witness and consulting expert, involving quantification of loss, contractual disputes, accounting treatment, allocation of costs and in fraud, bribery and corruption in civil proceedings.

Contract compliance – Examining appropriateness of charges under contract to determine whether they comply with contractual agreements.

Risk management – Foreign interference, fraud, bribery and corruption prevention and compliance assignments including development of frameworks, controls and reporting procedures to mitigate risks in Australian and foreign ventures.

Enforceable undertakings – Appointed Independent Expert to Enforceable Undertakings, engaged by clients and approved by regulators to review remediation and compensation programs, continuous disclose and conduct, processes and procedures relating to financial market participants.

Business reorganisation – Major business reorganisation projects focussing on risk, asset and human capital protection, IT and regulatory risks.

