





Welcome

....to our latest edition of ORACLE – a Delphi Partners publication, bringing you updates & insights regarding our firm, clients, deals and corporate & commercial matters.

In this edition:

- Deal Sheet we feature some of our deals & projects in the last 12 months
- Key Point we focus on contract management issues
- Mycontracts we introduce our cloud-based contracts management platform

We trust that you will enjoy this latest edition of ORACLE, we welcome and encourage your feedback.



Wayne Penning | Managing Principal w.penning@delphipartners.com.au



Below is a selection of clients that Delphi Partners has recently acted for:



























TLOU ENERGY







Below are a selection of key deals Delphi Partners has recently acted on:



Allsports Physiotherapy sale to Healthia

Sellside Legal Adviser





Suncoast Asphalt sale to Hanson

Sellside Legal Adviser





QGold on-market takeover bid of Strategic Minerals

Bidder Legal Adviser





Lucas Drilling Pty Ltd Drilling Services Acquisitions

Legal Adviser





Impregion Australia sale to Decorative Imaging

Sellside Legal Adviser





Acquisition of Leigh Creek Copper

Buyside Legal Adviser





PNI Financial Services purchase of Clipp

Buyside Legal Adviser





Underwritten Entitlements Offer

> Offeror Legal Adviser





Why is Contract Management important?

Most contracts contain important **milestones**, **critical dates** and **obligations** that should be actively monitored.

Valuable rights won in the negotiation stage can be lost as a result of poor contract management or inadvertent omission.

Failure to properly manage these milestones, critical dates and obligations can lead to breach of contract and damages claims.

Poor contract management can also result in:

- missed deadlines & lost rights (e.g. options, claim periods & warranties)
- unexpected renewals and expirations
- overlooked penalties and saving opportunities
- a deterioration of the relationship between contracting parties



KEY POINT: Contract Management

Some critical and current contract management issues include:



1. Contract: Beware contract expiry dates and deadlines



2. PPSR: Lapsing registrations



3. Option Periods: Missing the date to exercise option



4. Auto-renewal clauses: The cost of poor contract management



5. Systems: Deficiencies in contract & document management protocols



Contract: Expiry Dates

1. Contract: Beware Contract Expiry Dates

If you do not monitor the expiry dates of contracts they may continue on the same terms.

Caselaw Update

Case: CSR Limited v Adecco (Australia) Pty Limited [2017] NSWCA 121

Issue: The Court considered whether an expired agreement continued on as an implied contract on the same terms between two parties, and whether an indemnity provision continued as part of that implied contract.

Held: It should be inferred from the parties' conduct that they intended the expired contract to continue on the same terms and conditions, including the indemnity provision.

Strategy:

- ☐ Ensure all contract expiry dates are recorded and diarised (with alerts) in a central system.
- If necessary, communicate that the contract has expired and/or seek to negotiate the terms of any proposed renewal.



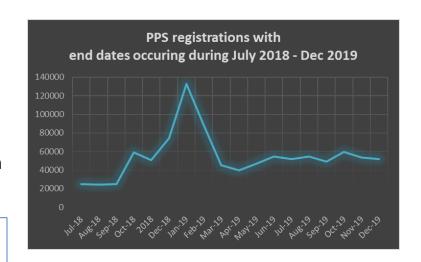
2. PPSR: Lapsing Registrations

As most PPSR registrations are registered for a period of 7 years, many registrations which were registered at commencement of the PPSR (January 2012) are due for expiry in January 2019.

Almost **1 million** registrations will automatically expire between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019 – more than *130,000* of these expire during January 2019 alone.

Note:

- The register's software automatically discharges a registration on its end date unless it is renewed before then. A secured party is **not notified before this occurs**.
- Once discharged, the registration cannot be re-enlivened and a secured party will lose its registered security interest (and any priority).



Strategy:

- ☐ Review the expiry date on all existing PPSR registrations (and renew registration, if applicable).
- ☐ Implement a central system of notifications for when PPSR registrations are due for renewal.



Leasing: Option periods

3. Lease Option Periods: Missing the date to exercise option

Remember:

An option under a lease gives rise to a binding contractual right if, and only if, the conditions set out in the option are **strictly complied with**.

Once the date for exercising an option passes, the doctrine of waiver cannot operate (i.e. the other party cannot waive the missing of the date) since there is no longer a contractual right to waive.

Accordingly, if you miss the date for when an option may been exercised, *even by one day*, the right to an option is **extinguished**.

When it comes to options "it is a cold hard world".

- Windeyer J, Burrell v Cameron (1997) 8 BPR 15, 443

Strategy:

- ☐ Review all existing leases for relevant option period exercise dates.
- ☐ Ensure all option period exercise dates are recorded and diarised (with alerts) in a central system.



4. Auto-renewal clauses: The cost of poor contract management

When entering auto-renewing contracts, such as supply or rental agreements, it is critical to ensure **reminders** are set for term expiry dates so that contracts are not rolled-over without your knowledge or without an opportunity to re-negotiate.

Caselaw Update

Case: Electric Life Pty Ltd v Unison Finance Group Pty Ltd [2015] NSWSC 170

Facts:

- Electric Life entered a hire-purchase arrangement under which electronic equipment would become its property after the expiry of a 4 year term.
- However, the agreement was drafted as a rental arrangement which would automatically roll over at the end of the initial 4 year term.
- This resulted in quarterly rental payments being deducted from Electric Life's bank account for *9* years after the expiry of the initial term, amounting to payments more than \$57,600.40.

Held: While acknowledging that the result in this case was harsh, the Court held the wording in the agreement was clear and **upheld the auto-renewal clause**.



Systems: Contract Management

5. Systems: deficiencies in document/ contract management



Common approaches:

- Documents are often stored in a disjointed manner, including:
 - o isolated networks;
 - differing software platforms; and
 - o local PCs/ laptops.
- Deadlines and key dates are often individually managed (using single-entry Outlook, excel spreadsheet etc).

Common problems:

- Documents/contracts are not coherently ordered, named and categorised. Creates difficulty, time and expense locating documents, versions, parties and key terms.
- Does not provide visibility across personnel or the organisation.
- Results in significant risk when key personnel leave, as important knowledge is lost.



mycontracts

In response to the contract management issues faced by many of our clients, Delphi Partners, in conjunction with M-Square, has taken a unique approach of developing its own cloud-based Contracts Management solution.

Designed for:

- ✓ Company Secretarial & CFOs
- ✓ Procurement & Contract Managers
- ✓ In-house legal
- ✓ Property & asset managers
- ✓ Administration support
- ✓ Human resources
- ✓ Start-ups



Upload. Search. Find. Remind.



Intuitive

Designed with easy and natural workflows in mind. We worked with our clients to design a seamless operation that requires minimal navigation.

Connective

Accessible by all users in an organisation, or by select users or clients at your choice. Instant integration with Outlook and third-party platforms.

LegalASSIST

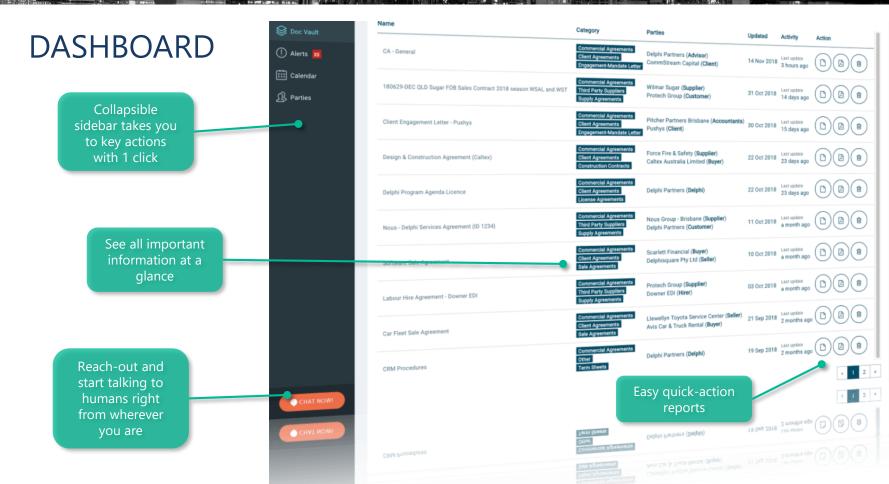
Supported by a legal helpdesk which can assist with the management, use, upload and processing of documents and data.

TRUSTED BY:











FEATURES



DEADLINES

manage key terms, dates, deadlines & time periods



ALERTS

email, text, calendar & prompts for 'action' with full Outlook / third-party software integration



WORKFLOW

delegation, access permissions and reporting



SUMMARIES

auto pro-forma summaries of documents



LegalASSIST

supported by legal helpdesk & data entry service



encrypted access and storage with audit logs



VERSIONS

keep track of all versions



SEARCH

search and find all data easily



COLLABORATION

collaborate with team members or clients



STORAGE

secure cloud storage with long term Tape storage options (+7 years)





Smart management for documents & contracts.









Who we are

Delphi Partners is an independent corporate & commercial law firm in Brisbane, Sydney & Melbourne - with a team of lawyers that bring leading national and international law firm experience



Our Experience

We act for an enviable list of <u>clients</u>, comprising SMEs, private companies, Australian & offshore listed entities, private equity, venture capital funds, advisory groups, investment banks, lead managers, stockbrokers, and NFPs



Our Industries

Our industry focus includes: Agribusiness, Education, Energy, Mining & Resources, Financial Services, Health, Hospitality, Manufacturing, Property, Technology & Intellectual Property



Why Delphi Partners?

We help our clients achieve certainty and manage risk
We keep the complex, simple and strategic
We focus on value-based outcomes & meeting our
client's objectives





Wayne Penning – Managing Principal w.penning@delphipartners.com.au

Wayne Penning is the Managing Principal of Delphi Partners and leads the firm's Corporate & Commercial group. He has worked for leading international law firms in Sydney (Minter Ellison), Brisbane (Ashurst) and Hong Kong (Clifford Chance).

He has been recognized as a 'leading and recommended lawyer' by the Australasian Legal Business review panel and has also been recognised as a 'leading lawyer' in the ALB Mergers & Acquisitions Guide.

Wayne specializes in: <u>Private Equity</u>, <u>Capital Markets</u>, <u>Mergers & Acquisitions</u> and <u>Corporate & Commercial</u>.

He is a former Non-Executive Director of Moreton Resources Limited (ASX:MRV). He is a Founding Member and Director of the Liz Ellis Foundation. He is the former Deputy Chair of Bravehearts.



Sebastian Hempel – Special Counsel s.hempel@delphipartners.com.au

Sebastian is a leading securities and corporate lawyer. He has acted for issuers as well as investment banks and has extensive practical knowledge as well as significant legal experience and expertise in the workings of the stock market and in floats/IPOs, prospectus law, employee share schemes, acquisitions and takeovers. He has broad experience in advising companies of all sizes on corporate matters, in particular in the resources sector.

Sebastian has been repeatedly listed in the Asia Pacific Legal 500 as 1 of 10 'leading individuals' in equity capital markets in Australia. He was named as a 'leading lawyer' for ECM in Chambers Global. He was listed in several editions of The Legal Media Group Guide to the World's Leading Capital Markets Lawyers (www.expertguides.com).

He is also the Chairman of Carpentaria Cattle and is a Non-executive Director of Prosperity Resources Ltd (ASX:PSP).





Andrew Williams - Senior Associate a.williams@delphipartners.com.au

Andrew has extensive experience in a broad range of commercial and corporate transactions. His areas of expertise include mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, structuring, franchising, initial public offerings, capital raisings, business/asset sales and acquisitions, shareholder/unitholder agreements, and other general commercial agreements.

Andrew also has extensive experience in advising clients on a range of property-related transactions/issues, including acquisitions and disposals of commercial and residential property, residential and commercial property subdivisions and developments, leasing, property management and maintenance agreements, and body corporate/community titles schemes issues.



Grace Brunton-Makeham - Lawyer g.brunton@delphipartners.com.au

Grace has experience in both corporate and commercial transactions, as well as in commercial litigation. Her areas of expertise include business sales and acquisitions, franchising, shareholders agreements, structuring advice, and other general commercial agreements.

Grace also has experience in property-related transactions such as commercial property sales and acquisitions, commercial leasing, and body corporate/community titles schemes issues. Grace has acted for clients in a broad range of litigation matters including construction and mining contract disputes, professional negligence claims, trademark disputes and residential building contract matters.







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