

GREG BOOTH – CURRICULUM VITAE

GREG BOOTH holds the degree of Master of Laws with Honours from the University of Sydney. He is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and practitioner of the High Court of Australia. He was appointed a notary public in 2006 and received national accreditation as a mediator three years later.

Before going into practice on his own account, Mr Booth had a long and successful career in the public sector extending back to 1971. Senior positions held include Assistant Crown Solicitor, Advising and Constitutional Law (1991 – 1997), General Manager, Driver and Vehicle Policy, Roads and Traffic Authority (1997 – 2003) and Manager, Legal Services, NSW Ministry of Transport (2003 – 2005). He has in that time gained extensive experience in litigation, commercial transactions, legal advice and policy formulation at a high level.

Some major achievements in his professional career include:

- extensive experience in High Court litigation on Commonwealth/State relations
- the review of complex documentation leading to the first casino licence to be issued in NSW
- attending Governors and Ministers for the provision of confidential advice on sensitive topics
- advice to and representation of the presiding officers and Clerks of both Houses of the NSW Parliament on issues of privilege
- preparation of many hundreds of opinions on virtually every area of administrative and commercial law, governmental transactions and powers, legal duties and liabilities, disciplinary proceedings, property interests, trusts and electoral law
- representation and advocacy in civil and criminal litigation - Federal Court, Supreme Court, Land and Environment Court, Industrial Court, District Court, Local Courts
- representation before administrative tribunals and authorities - Privacy Commissioner, Ombudsman, Police Integrity Commission, Auditor General, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Anti-Discrimination Board, Administrative Decisions Tribunal and the National Road Transport Commission
- representation of the Roads and Traffic Authority on the National Motor Vehicle Anti-Theft Task Force
- determinations under the *Freedom of Information Act*
- the negotiation of much of the road transport law now in place nationally, preparation of Cabinet Minutes and instructions to Parliamentary Counsel for the drafting of Bills and Regulations
- Legal Counsel to the task force charged with the negotiation of the long-term lease to the Australian Rail Track Corporation of key rail infrastructure in New South Wales
- Representation of the Rail Regulator in the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Waterfall train derailment.

In his own practice, Mr Booth specialises in legal advice, statutory interpretation and the development of outcome-focused policy options. Some major consultancies on which he has been engaged include:

- Review of drink driving laws around Australia
- Review of Australia's treaty obligations in respect of motor traffic
- Regulatory impact Statement for the *Road Transport (General) Regulation*
- Preparation of Issues Paper on the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme
- Membership as legal adviser of the Ministerial Working Group on Driver Fatigue Reforms
- Review of transport accident trends in NSW
- Representation of Independent Transport Safety & Reliability Regulator in Sydney Ferries inquiry
- Survey of international regulator practice in the mining, transport and nuclear industries
- Issues Paper on Alternative Dispute Resolution in the NSW public sector.

In private life, Mr Booth has been heavily involved in church affairs. For around ten years he was involved with a church property trust and finance provider, the Stewards' Foundation of Christian Brethren. For the greater part of that period, he served on its Board and was for many years its Chairman. Stewards' Foundation was then a company limited by guarantee but Mr Booth guided its transition to a statutory corporation and was the principal architect of the NSW legislation achieving its new status. He has also been a delegate and legal adviser to the Fellowship of Congregational Churches and has considerable experience in issues involving church discipline, property and procedure. He has presented many papers on both Christian faith and topics affecting the temporal affairs of churches.

CAPABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO FEDERAL COURT'S LIST OF MEDIATORS IN RESPECT OF THE RESOLUTION OF NATIVE TITLE CASES

Capabilities

Mr Booth brings an enthusiasm and incisive thought process to bear on challenging issues. While the solutions may be innovative, Mr Booth's long and successful career means that his optimism is tempered with a knowing sense of what is realistically achievable. His qualities of diplomacy, compassion, fairness and objectivity, combined with his personal warmth, sense of humour, energy and attention to detail have often been found to facilitate the resolution of conflict in a variety of situations.

Experience

As Assistant Crown Solicitor, Mr Booth developed his awareness of cross cultural legal issues through a variety of matters involving discrimination, aboriginal land rights, native title, aboriginal land councils and indigenous sensitivities respecting sacred sites, religious beliefs and traditions. He has prepared numerous legal opinions and appeared in litigation presenting such issues and has supervised practitioners instructing in High Court litigation establishing the constitutional basis of native title and those representing parties to native title mediation.

As a highly experienced solicitor, Mr Booth has well developed negotiation and dispute resolution skills. These have been enhanced by managerial and policy experience in the Roads and Traffic Authority, where the special needs of indigenous applicants for driver licences

required the development of new approaches because of the alienation sometimes inhibiting attendance at motor registries.

The Ministry of Transport presented new issues of cross cultural accommodation in terms of programs providing transport for the disadvantaged.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

1973 – Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney

1974 – admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of NSW

1976 – Master of Laws with Honours, University of Sydney

1980 – registered as practitioner, High Court of Australia and all federal courts

2006 – appointed a notary public

2007 – Mediation Workshop, LEADR, 7 – 10 November

2008 – Mediation under the Franchising Code of Conduct, Accord Group, 3 December

2009 – Skills Practice & Development Intensive, LEADR, 11 November

2009 – Accredited under the National Mediator Accreditation System

2010 – Practitioner Member, LEADR Accredited Mediator