

# The Incorporated Council of Law Reporting For the State of Queensland

A Charitable Institution – Established 1907

A.B.N. 7400 9656 982

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9<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

Dear

## Price Reductions for the Queensland Reports

To ensure that all practitioners have convenient access to the *Queensland Reports*, the ICLRQ is introducing four important changes to our print and online services:

- the annual subscription rates for printed reports are being reduced by around 70%, to ensure that it remains feasible for you to continue to have access to the *Queensland Reports* in both printed and online formats.
- our remaining warehouse stocks of printed reports are being made available to subscribers at a heavily discounted rate, to assist you and your colleagues to complete any gaps which may exist in your sets of the *Queensland Reports*.
- a major project to digitize a full set of the *Queensland Reports* (including its predecessor reports from 1859) is now almost complete, with this set expected to be available online in January 2015.
- this set is expected to be available in two online services. It will be available as an integrated component of the subscription-based website operated by LexisNexis. It will also be available on a separate website of Queensland case law which is being developed by the ICLRQ in conjunction with the Supreme Court of Queensland Library. For as long as it is feasible to do so, this new website will be available to all users free of charge.

Further detail of these changes is outlined below.

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### **Reduction in Subscription Price**

The current subscription prices for the *Queensland Reports* in printed format are:

- \$460 (inc. GST and postage) for two bound volumes per year;
- \$526 (inc. GST and postage) for 12 monthly loose parts per year;
- \$726 (inc. GST and postage) for the bound volumes and loose parts for the year.

As the ICLRQ operates on a charitable basis, these prices are already amongst the lowest for printed law reports in Australia.

However, the ICLRQ has decided that these prices do not fairly reflect the emerging role of printed law reports as a supplementary service to online customers.

As the supplementary cost of publishing reports in a printed format is quite low, the ICLRQ proposes to base future pricing of printed law reports at this lower level.

This change in policy will result in a very substantial reduction in subscription prices from 2015 - with the price of bound volumes being reduced by about 70% from \$230 to \$66 per volume.

On this basis, the 2015 annual subscription prices for the *Queensland Reports* will be:

- \$132 (inc. GST and postage) for two bound volumes;
- \$132 (inc. GST and postage) for 12 monthly loose parts;
- \$264 (inc GST and postage) for both bound volumes and loose parts.

We hope that you will welcome this change in pricing policy.

### **Back Volumes**

A significant cost for the ICLRQ relates to the storage of our warehouse stocks of back volumes of the *Queensland Reports*. These stocks comprise a limited number of complete sets of the *Queensland Reports* and a substantial number of individual back volumes.

The ICLRQ's preference would be to see these stocks put to good use by our subscribers.

Accordingly, during the remainder of 2014, the ICLRQ will be offering to our subscribers the opportunity to either:

- acquire a complete set of the *Queensland Reports* (including its predecessor reports from 1859) at a price of \$3300 (inc GST and local delivery in Brisbane) – being an effective price of about \$25 per volume; or
- seek to complete their partial sets of *Queensland Reports*, by acquiring missing segments or odd volumes at a similarly low price.

It is important that subscribers appreciate that this is likely to be their only opportunity to complete their set of *Queensland Reports* from ICLRQ stocks. Once all apparent customer demand for back volumes has been satisfied, the ICLRQ is planning to discard its remaining stocks of individual back volumes. After that has occurred, missing volumes will only be available to customers through a print-on-demand service – at the prevailing market price for that service.

If you are aware of colleagues with partial sets of the *Queensland Reports* who may wish to take advantage of this opportunity, we would be grateful if you could draw this offer to their attention.

### ***Queensland Reports Online***

The ICLRQ has been concerned at the limited availability of the *Queensland Reports* online.

The only volumes which are presently available commence from 1974 – and they can be accessed only through the LexisNexis subscription-based website, under licence from the ICLRQ.

In 2015, the ICLRQ will be seeking to improve online accessibility in two important respects.

*First*, the ICLRQ has undertaken a major digitisation project, with a view to capturing an entire set of the *Queensland Reports* (including its predecessor reports from 1859) in high-quality images and data. As a result, we expect that a full set of this case law will be available online from January 2015.

*Secondly*, and more significantly, the ICLRQ has been seeking to develop a better model for the online publishing of authorised reports.

Under the present model, authorised reports of modern Australian judgments are available only on premium quality websites operated by commercial publishers. These services helpfully incorporate the authorised reports into a fully integrated collection of law reports, journals, case citators and legal commentary. However, these services are available only to subscribers.

Under the model which we favour, these premium services would be complemented by a more basic online collection of authorised reports, to be published directly by the courts or their associated councils of law reporting, at the lowest sustainable price.

The main object of this model is to ensure that all practitioners and litigants – regardless of their resources – have ready access to the core legal materials which are required for use in court.

In the longer term, it is also hoped that this model will enhance the general functionality of online legal research websites, by ensuring that all online citations of case law can be readily linked to the full text of the authorised reports of those judgments.

In January 2015, the ICLRQ is hoping to bring this model into operation in Queensland.

In conjunction with the Supreme Court of Queensland Library, the ICLRQ is developing a new website which is intended to provide low-cost public access to a basic set of all Queensland case law - including a full set of the *Queensland Reports*. For as long as it is feasible for us to do so, it is proposed that this website will be available to all users free of charge.

Further information about this new website will be provided as development proceeds.

### ***Our Thanks***

May I conclude by thanking you for your support for the work of the ICLRQ.

As you probably know, the ICLRQ operates largely through the voluntary efforts of members of the Queensland judiciary and legal profession. All support from the wider legal community is greatly appreciated.

All enquiries about subscriptions to the *Queensland Reports* or purchasing back volumes should be directed to the Secretary of the ICLRQ, Mr Jason Rogers, at [Jason.rogers@queenslandreports.com.au](mailto:Jason.rogers@queenslandreports.com.au).

Kind regards,

**John McKenna QC,**  
**Chairman.**