

COMPETITION LAW CONFERENCE
SHERATON GRAND SYDNEY HYDE PARK HOTEL
IN-PERSON (Hyde Park Room) and ONLINE
SATURDAY, 24 MAY 2025

09.00	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
	Convenor	Chris Hodgekiss Former Senior Counsel, NSW Bar (retired)
09:10	SESSION 1	
	Moderator	The Honourable Justice John Halley Federal Court of Australia
09:15	Keynote Speaker	Gina Cass-Gottlieb Chair, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
	<p>Competition Law and Regulation: A Regulator’s Perspective</p> <p>The presentation by the Chair will include a discussion of the ACCC’s Final Report of the Digital Services Inquiry and other timely points competition law matters.</p>	
09:45	Commentator	Andrew Low Partner, Gilbert + Tobin
10.05	Discussion	
10:30	Break (30 minutes)	
11.00	SESSION 2	
	Moderator	(TBC)
11.05	Speaker	Brent Fisse Principal, Brent Fisse Lawyers, Sydney
	<p>Sanctions against Corporations and Individuals under the CCA & the ACL: “Deterrence” Exposed and Rescued</p> <p>➤ Discussion points to be confirmed</p>	
11.50	Commentator	Deniz Kayis Senior Lawyer, Australian Government Solicitor
12.10	Discussion	

12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break (1 hour)	
13:30	SESSION 3	
	Moderator	(TBC)
13.35	Speakers	<p>Dr Philip Williams AM Commissioner, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</p> <p>Jacqueline Downes Partner, Practice Group Leader-Competition, Consumer & Regulatory</p>
	Merger Control: at the crossroads	
	➤ Discussion points to be confirmed	
14:35	Discussion	
15:00	Break (25 minutes)	
15:25	SESSION 4	
	Moderator	(TBC)
15:30	Speaker	Andrew Christopher Partner, Webb Henderson
	<p>The substantial lessening of competition (SLC) test - a critical analysis and some observations on the new amended SLC test for mergers</p> <p>The SLC test is a central feature of Australian competition law. Early uncertainty regarding the interpretation of key elements of the SLC test has been largely resolved. The case law relating to the concept is now well developed after several decades of judicial consideration, including at the appellate level. The application of the SLC test to diverse facts and different types of conduct nonetheless continues to produce complex heuristic challenges for courts. The purpose/effect dichotomy in the SLC test compounds these challenges. The aptness of the test as the universal standard for non per se competition law prohibitions has been called into question by the recent and growing significance of digital and technology dependent markets, and prevalence of small scale or “creeping acquisitions”, and the recent amendment to the SLC test insofar as it relates to mergers and acquisitions reflects these concerns .</p>	
16:15	Commentator	Jennifer Fish Principal, Charles River Associates
16.30	Discussion	



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17:00	Close of Conference
17:00 to 18:00	Refreshments and Canapés in the Hyde Park Room Foyer

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