



2014 Lawtech award winners for
Knowledge Management Innovation

AN EFFICIENT, STREAMLINED DUE DILIGENCE PROCESS INFORMS STRONG LEGAL ADVICE.

The Challenge:

Advising clients on commercial transactions, legal firm HWL Ebsworth is required to complete due diligence on properties, companies and individuals, which can be tedious and slow.

The Outcome:

Encompass has enabled HWL Ebsworth to improve the efficiency and accuracy of their search and review. They can finalise due diligence quickly, provide prompt advice and minimise risk.



“Due diligence is easier with Encompass. The superior PPSR search functionality has helped our Banking and Financial Services, Property and Commercial teams to save time, streamline workflow”



Shelley Parsons
Personal Assistant
HWL Ebsworth

HWL Ebsworth needed a faster, more efficient way of conducting due diligence PPSR searches and interpreting the results – without compromising accuracy.

The Challenge

Acting for large financial institutions, HWL Ebsworth is required to complete a full suite of Personal Property Security Register (PPSR) searches as part of due diligence in commercial transactions.

Traditionally, manual PPSR searches have been slow and paper-intensive, requiring three separate searches – by name, ABN, and ACN; to ensure all the relevant documents and information is captured. Some searches can involve as many as 2000 pages of securities which need to be reviewed. Although, the three searches are still required, Encompass allows us conduct in one search.

Reviewing and managing search findings is laborious, with potential for human error and delays to advice.

The Solution

HWL Ebsworth began using Encompass to search, sort and manage information involved in the due diligence process.

By combining the three company identifiers into one search action and providing the results in an Excel spreadsheet, Encompass streamlined PPSR searches. This made it easy for HWL Ebsworth staff to identify critical details regarding the security interests registered against properties, companies and individuals.

Within minutes, the team can now search and review certificates and registration numbers electronically, downloading to Excel spreadsheets and/or PDF formatting of the search certificates and documents as required. “Encompass is time-effective, and it’s easy to learn and use.” Shelley Parsons said.

The Outcome

With Encompass now an integral part of their due diligence process, HWL Ebsworth are able to:

- Complete PPSR searches and finalise the due diligence process in an efficient and timely manner.
- Provide clients with prompt, high quality legal advice.
- Ensure accuracy and minimise the risk of human error, especially for complex transactions.
- Streamline internal workflow and free up administrative resources.
- Reduce unbillable hours spent on collating PPSR information.
- Meet challenging timeframes without compromising quality.



About HWL Ebsworth

HWL Ebsworth is an integrated, full service commercial law firm, operating in offices across Australia in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. HWL Ebsworth operates a different business model to other leading national law practices, allowing them to offer market-leading advice at rates significantly lower than those of competitors. The firm currently comprises 905 staff, including 187 Partners, 425 professional staff and 293 support staff.