



JOANNA PAPPA

SOLICITOR

[Melbourne](#)
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Joanna is a solicitor in the Melbourne Competition, Regulation and Trade team, and has experience in successfully leading merger clearance applications and assisting clients in seeking ACCC authorisation for prohibited conduct.

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BACKGROUND

Joanna was previously a senior investigator in the Enforcement and Cartels Branches at the ACCC from 2016-2019, where she investigated breaches of the *Competition and Consumer Act* by many of Australia's major corporations and influenced the decisions made by the ACCC to pursue matters in court or to seek alternative remedies.

Joanna was also an in-house lawyer in the ACCC's Regulatory Law Unit where she advised various ACCC and AER teams on a broad range of regulatory matters.

KEY SERVICES

Competition, Regulation and Trade
Mergers & Acquisitions

KEY SECTORS

Banks and other Financial Institutions
Government and Public Sector

EXPERIENCE

Joanna advises clients on opposing merger clearance and authorisation applications sought by third parties. Further, Joanna advises on cartel risks and regulatory issues (particularly in the electricity and gas sectors), and offers guidance on general competition and compliance issues.

Joanna advises on both contentious and non-contentious competition and regulatory matters for clients across a range of sectors, including financial services, energy, infrastructure, consumer products and healthcare.

Joanna has particular experience in conducting dawn raids, cartels and merger investigations and can provide valuable insights from her time initiating these proceedings at the ACCC as well as advising clients on how best to respond to these.

Joanna's recent experience includes advising:

- AFG on its acquisition of Connective, whereby the ACCC decided not to oppose the merger after it raised preliminary competition concerns that the proposed acquisition would substantially lessen competition in the relevant market;
 - AGL Energy in responding to various electricity and gas compulsory notices issued by the ACCC;
 - a travel company who was being investigated by the ACCC for various breaches of the Australian Consumer Law, and assisting that company successfully reach a resolution with the ACCC that involved no enforcement action;
 - the State health bodies in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania on their applications for interim and final authorisation from the ACCC relating to their ability to coordinate with private healthcare facilities in each of the relevant States in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
 - a major consumer sector client in making submissions to the ACCC regarding a third party transaction.
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