



HERBERT
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FREEHILLS



MATTHEW BULL

PARTNER

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Matthew specialises in competition and regulatory issues.

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BACKGROUND

Matthew holds a Masters of Law (specialising in competition law) and a Bachelor of Law. Matthew has studied US and international antitrust masters courses at the University of Columbia in New York.

Matthew is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Competition and Consumer Committee, the leading competition policy body in Australia.

KEY SERVICES

Competition, Regulation and Trade
Competition Disputes

KEY SECTORS

Mining
Energy

EXPERIENCE

Matthew has more than 20 years' experience and advises clients on all aspects of Australian competition and consumer law, including merger clearances, joint ventures and collaborations, access to infrastructure, and enforcement.

Matthew has particular experience advising clients active in energy, resources and infrastructure. He advises clients in relation to mergers and acquisitions, access to rail and port infrastructure, economic regulation, joint venture issues and dealings with regulators like the ACCC. For example, Matthew assisted Santos to obtain ACCC merger clearance for its acquisition of Quadrant Energy, advised Yancoal in relation to its acquisition of the Rio Tinto coal business and subsequent joint venture with Glencore and advised a large energy company in the ACCC's gas market inquiry.

Matthew holds a Masters of Law (specialising in competition law) and a Bachelor of Law. He is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Competition and Consumer Committee, the leading competition policy body in Australia, and the co-editor of the market definition chapter in the leading CCH textbook on Australian Competition law.

Matthew has advised:

- BHP Billiton on competition and regulatory issues relating to access to significant port and rail infrastructure
- Santos on competition and regulatory issues relating to acquisitions (including ACCC merger clearance for its acquisition of Eastern Star Gas), joint venture arrangements (including in relation to its Gladstone LNG project and obtaining ACCC authorisation for oil arrangements in the Surat Basin) and electricity supply arrangements (including for the Gladstone LNG project)
- various mining consortia involving Peabody and others on competition issues, including obtaining 7 separate authorisations from the ACCC to allow collective negotiations with owners of significant infrastructure such as dams, railways and ports
- NSW Ports consortium on competition and regulatory issues relating to its acquisition of a 99 year lease of Port Botany and Port Kembla, including liaising with the ACCC and providing advice on port access issues
- Singapore Power group: acquisition of Alinta and float of SP AusNet, as well as advising on the application of State and national electricity and gas frameworks in various situations, including in relation to price reviews and challenges to AER decisions, a Royal Commission inquiry into Victorian bushfires, smart metering, electricity outages, electricity supply to the Victorian desalination plant, access to the NSW gas distribution network and Queensland Gas Pipeline and outsourcing arrangements

