



BOWDEN McCORMACK
Lawyers + Advisers

SEAN BOWDEN, LLB (HONS) UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
Legal Practice Director

- Mining law and negotiations
- Commercial and Corporate law
- Administrative law and government relations
- Aboriginal land rights and Native title
- Major project work
- Human rights and discrimination

Background

Over his career Sean Bowden has been involved in many of the larger projects and regional development initiatives in the Northern Territory and nationally.

He has advised a range of interest groups and stakeholders including peak Aboriginal groups and representatives, major mining companies and government.

At the same time Sean has been involved at a grass-roots level on behalf of representative Indigenous organisations in the development of remote Aboriginal communities, with a particular emphasis on economic development.

Primary Practice Areas

Sean's practice focuses upon assisting clients in the following areas:-

- mining law and negotiations;
- Aboriginal land rights and Native Title, in particular concerning land access, securing of appropriate tenure and leasing;
- commercial and Corporate law, including advice upon constitutions, share transfers, sale and purchase of businesses, leasing and governance issues;
- major project work;
- administrative law and government relations;
- human rights and discrimination.

Practice Experience

Sean Bowden has been involved in numerous sensitive and high-level negotiations. All of the work involves complex legal issues, an understanding of commercial, strategic and political issues and high-level drafting expertise, which is undertaken personally.

In recent years Sean has:-

- acted as a lead negotiator in the negotiation of a mining agreement in relation to the Gove Bauxite Mine and Refinery;
- acted as a senior adviser to the Thamarrurr Regional Council in its engagement with the Commonwealth and Territory government in the Council of Australian Government co-ordination trial; as well as assisting in the establishment of the successful Thamarrurr Development Corporation Ltd.;

- advised and assisted the Thamarrurr clans in development of model lease agreements for Aboriginal land;
- advised and assisted the Gumatj clan in the incorporation of the Gumatj Corporation Ltd and the establishment of a range of economic development initiatives, including a sustainable forestry industry on Gumatj land;
- advised and assisted the Northern Land Council in the negotiation and drafting of the Wadeye to Mataranka gas pipeline;
- advised and assisted the Hannon Group in its negotiation of the first native title land development deal in Alice Springs;
- acted as a senior adviser to the Gumatj Association in its dealings with the Commonwealth government in developing a Memorandum of Understanding for a town lease at Gunyangara;
- advised and assisted Mega Redport, a multi-national mining house, in its dealings in the Northern Territory;
- advised and assisted Falconbridge Australia Pty Ltd in its dealings in the Northern Territory.

This experience means Sean has great experience in dealing with major projects and enjoys the confidence of the representatives involved, including corporate interests government representatives and public servants.

He also continues to receive briefs from organisations, companies and individuals in the Northern Territory that ensure he maintains contact with the day-to-day workings of the Territory and its stakeholders, particularly in the area of economic development and job creation.