Recent legislation update: Strategic land cropping

The recently enacted Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 commenced operation on 30 January 2012. The Act had the potential to significantly affect and prevent development on strategic cropping land (SCL), particularly mining and coal seam gas activities. This session explores:
• developments impacted
• identifying SCL and the criteria to be satisfied
• protection and management areas
• restrictions which may be imposed on developments
• alternative means of mitigation for permanently affected land
• SCL protection conditions.

Speaker: Richard Brockett, Senior Associate, Ashurst

2.50 - 3.30pm
ASIC update for commercial litigators

This session provides current issues and updates for commercial litigators.

Speaker: Brett Bassett, Regional Commissioner - Queensland, ASIC

Chair: Clive Scott, Solicitor, Connolly Suthers Lawyers

3.30 - 3.50pm
Afternoon Tea

3.50 - 4.15pm Stream 3A – Employment Law

A closer look at current employment trends affecting regional practice

2012 has been yet another busy year in employment and labour law. The QANTAS dispute and its aftermath: the review of the Fair Work Act; and the moves for revisions to the Trade Union (Registered Organisations) Act have all been headline news. This session examines the key developments in employment and labour law as relevant to regional practitioners.

Topics covered include:
• QANTAS (ie strikes and bargaining) and what it means for you
• the review of the Fair Work legislation – the key issues
• the reform of trade union accountability
• ongoing issues with the drafting of workplace policies
• likely changes to the IR landscape should there be a change in federal government.

Speaker: Dr Louise Floyd, Director - Research, James Cook University

3.50 - 5pm Stream 3B – Business Law

PPSA application to SME businesses

Presented by a member of the QLS Banking and Finance Law Committee, this session provides a summary and guidance for solicitors on Personal Properties Securities Act specifically is application to SME businesses, highlighting the essential provisions and fundamental changes. The topics covered include identifying transactions that will fall within the new regime, including:
• traditional securities over personal property (bills of sale, charges, liens, pledges)
• retention of title provisions in sale contracts, finance leases, hire purchase agreements, assignments of debt, certain leases and consignments

Attend this session to gain practical knowledge on what you need to do to assist your clients in navigating the reform and the opportunity to ask questions about the PPSA regime.

Speakers: Peter Mills, Director, M+K Lawyers; Michael Anastas, Senior Associate, Corrs Chambers Westgarth

Chair: Dr Thomas Middleton, Associate Professor, James Cook University