BOOK REVIEW: JOSKE’S LAW AND PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS IN AUSTRALIA, 11th Edition

Reviewer: John Kalokerinos, ACT Racing Appeals Tribunal

Joske’s Law and Procedure at Meetings in Australia is one of the leading textbooks on the law of meetings in Australia. It has application to meetings of members and directors of companies, associations and other bodies such as cooperatives and trade unions.

Joske’s has a rich history, with the first edition written by Sir Percy Joske in 1938. Sir Percy was later appointed a judge of the Commonwealth Industrial Court and the ACT Supreme Court, where he directly influenced the law in this sphere by handing down a range of significant meetings law-related decisions. He continued to write editions of the book until he passed away in 1981. The more recent editions of Joske’s have been prepared by UNE academic Eilis Magner.

There have been few significant relevant legislative changes since the corporate law reforms of 2001, so this eleventh edition, published in 2012, does not cover any significant legislative changes in the statute law applying to companies or incorporated associations. It does, however, include the important 2012 High Court decision of ASIC v Hellicar, significant for meetings law in its useful treatment of minutes of meetings.

A unique feature of this book is the inclusion of an entire part on meetings of common property schemes (bodies corporate). This includes detailed consideration of the various state and territory legislative schemes, and the meetings of the proprietors and the executive council. Body corporate proprietors and advisors should find this material useful.

Joske’s remains an indispensable manual for those involved in chairing, organising or advising on meetings.

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