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ARTICLES

Consultation: One aspect of procedural propriety in administrative decisionmaking – Hon Justice Brian J Preston

Consultation by an administrative decision-maker with the public generally or with particular persons can be utilised to allow participation, and an opportunity to be heard, in the decision-making process. This article provides an overview of recent cases, especially in the United Kingdom, on the ways in which a duty to consult might arise and, when it does, the content of the duty to consult. 185

Freedom of information implications of information sharing networks for critical infrastructure protection – *Bill Lane, Stephen Corones, Susan Hedge* and *Dale Clapperton*

Protection of "critical infrastructure" has become a major issue for governments worldwide. Yet in Australia, as in many other countries, including the United States, an estimated 90% of critical infrastructure is privately owned or operated commercially – in other words, critical infrastructure protection is not the exclusive domain of government. As a result, information sharing between government and the private sector has become a vitally important component of effective risk management. However, establishing effective arrangements of this kind between the public and private sector needs to take account of existing regimes of access and public disclosure which relate to government-held documents; in particular, that which is established by freedom of information (FOI) legislation. This article examines the extent to which the current Commonwealth FOI regime is likely to act as an impediment to the private sector operators of critical infrastructure participating in government-operated information sharing arrangements. By

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examining developments in other jurisdictions, principally the United States, the article considers whether amendments to the current Australian FOI regime are necessary to ensure effective participation, consistent with the underlying object and purpose of FOI.

Sexual and gender-based persecution and tribunal decision making: Challenges for decision-makers when social and cultural mores intersect with administrative review – *Udara Jayasinghe* and *Rea Hearn-Mackinnon*

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