

BE A MEMBER; PLAY A ROLE

The Sections are composed of individual members, like you and me, who are individual members of the Law Council. Each Section is an assembly of individual lawyers who are committed to the objectives of that Section - namely, the development of understanding, the spread of information, and the furnishing of advice. The Sections depend upon individual membership by people who are prepared to make that commitment. And in turn, the Law Council, if it is to discharge the wider functions that were envisaged for it at the recent Retreat at Lillianfels, must depend not solely on the Constituent Bodies, but also upon the Sections. The Sections do provide a forum for individual lawyers from all parts of this country to express their views and to play a role in the evolution of policy - a role which the community at large is entitled to expect from a profession such as ours.

This message therefore is an appeal to individual lawyers throughout Australia - support the Sections that are relevant to your interests and practice; play a role in the work of those Sections; and insist on the right of individual membership of the Law Council, on which the audibility of your opinion depends.

What is at stake is not merely the right to hold those three opinions, but the existence of the Law Council as the appropriate forum through which you can express them.

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION

REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING, 26 September 1993

Section Executive

David Allan, AM	Chairman
Tony Scotford	Deputy Chairman
Peter Lundy	Treasurer
David Bailey	
Paul Baker	
Chris Creswell	
Geoff Harley	
Ross Long	
Derek Luxford	

The Section will hold its Annual General Meeting during the 20th International Trade Law Conference on Friday 12 November 1993.

The two branches of the International Trade and Business Committee, Sydney and Melbourne are very active and meet regularly each month. They are involved at present in organising the 20th International Trade Law Conference which is a joint venture of the

Section and the Attorney-General's Department. The Conference is to be held in Canberra on 11-13 November and promises to be an even greater success than last year.

The 1993 Conference program reflects the diverse and dynamic nature of international trade law in the 1990s and has been designed with the needs of the business community and their legal advisers in mind. A range of legal, commercial and regulatory issues currently facing those engaged in international trade and business will be presented in a practical as well as an informative way. There will be a number of workshops and opportunities for discussion, led by leading practitioners and government representatives with experience in the individual subject areas and in several economies in the region (Japan, China and South Korea) selected for particular attention.

The Committee has held successful seminars in both Sydney and Melbourne on The Business Opportunities in Eastern Europe. The key speaker was Mr John Taylor, Deputy General Counsel of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The seminars generated considerable interest from not only practitioners, but from people in the banking, commercial and diplomatic areas.

Another successful seminar was held in Sydney on the implications of the Maastricht Treaty. Sir Laurence Street opened the seminar and welcomed Lord Slynn of Hadley, of the English House of Lords and formerly of the European Court of Justice.

The Committee has two more seminars scheduled for later this year on the Role of the Law in Rebuilding Indo-China and on Electronic Data Interchange. These have already received a great deal of interest.

Proof of Foreign Law is another project that is nearing finalisation. A register of experts on foreign law will be established and the register will be maintained. A substantial research paper analysing reported and unreported cases involving proof of foreign law is being prepared and a discussion paper which further develops alternative strategies for proving foreign law is scheduled for completion within the next month.

The International Legal Practice Committee has been busy drafting a response to the Attorney-General Department's request for comments on its draft paper on proposed uniform legislation to regulate the practice of foreign law in Australia. The Committee is also responsible for the publication of the Australian Legal Services Directory. The 1993-94 copy has just been distributed by AUSTRADE to its overseas offices.

The Public International Law Committee has completed a report on new environmental laws. The report will be published in International Law News.

After the successful establishment of the Perth Sub-Committee the Section has now been asked to look at establishing a South Australian Branch.