

Media Release

HWL EBSWORTH AND BELLANHOUSE TO COMBINE FORCES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

30 August 2019

Australia's largest legal partnership HWL Ebsworth Lawyers and premier independent Western Australian law firm Bellanhouse Lawyers have announced they will combine their operations from November 2019.

Bellanhouse is a boutique Western Australian corporate law firm specialising in Capital Markets and Mergers & Acquisitions. Since its establishment in 2013, Bellanhouse has had significant success by concentrating on domestic and international clients requiring corporate & commercial expertise, particularly within the energy & resources sector.

HWL Ebsworth first entered the Western Australian market in July 2013 following a merger with Downings Legal. Since then, the firm's Perth office has grown rapidly via a combination of lateral recruitment and the development of the firm's internal resources. The local offering now consists of 19 Partners and 59 non-partner legal staff members covering areas including Corporate & Commercial, Property, Planning & Environment, Construction & Infrastructure, Workplace Relations & Safety, Litigation, Banking & Finance and Insurance.

Bellanhouse's five partners, Bryn Hardcastle, Shaun Hardcastle, Michael Boyce, Dave Filov and Deanna Carpenter, along with its legal team will join HWL Ebsworth's Perth office on 4 November 2019.

Juan Martinez, HWL Ebsworth's Managing Partner, said "*I have been tremendously impressed by the quality and commitment of the Bellanhouse team. At every stage of our discussions, it has been clear that their dedication to their clients and their desire to join a firm that shares their approach to doing business was a crucial element of their decision making process.*"

"Given the size of the Bellanhouse team, their success to date has been extraordinary. As reported in a recent Global Capital Markets review, Bellanhouse was recorded as having advised on more equity capital market deals in the first half of 2019 than any other law firm in Australia. I am delighted they identified HWL Ebsworth as the best option for their clients and team, and their addition will strengthen our offering in areas that will be important for us and our clients in the years to come. This combination is yet another demonstration of our ongoing eagerness to pursue opportunities to enhance our offering to our national and international client base." added Juan.

Bryn Hardcastle, Bellanhouse's Managing Partner, said *"Since launching Bellanhouse, we have differentiated ourselves from traditional law firms through our partner-led approach and personalised service. To continue our rapid progression, it became apparent that we needed to be able to offer our clients a broader range of expertise and the benefits of a national platform. Having considered a number of options, it became evident very quickly that combining our operations with HWL Ebsworth would allow us to be part of a full service commercial law firm without requiring us to change the way in which we service our clients."*

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For further information, please contact:

Russell Mailler, HWL Ebsworth's National Marketing Manager, on 0400 019 323 or rmailler@hwle.com.au