



SoCLA Conference 2018 – Call for Papers

“Best enjoyed in 2030 ... The future of the construction professions”

17 to 18 August 2018, Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley

The SoCLA Conference Subcommittee is calling for papers for its 2018 National Conference to be held at the Crowne Plaza, Hunter Valley on 17 and 18 August 2018.

Wine connoisseurs possess a superpower shared by few other mere mortals. The ability to see into the future and predict when the wine that they are sipping will be at its best.

For that reason that the Society of Construction Law Australia (**SoCLA**) is journeying deep into the premier wine region of the Hunter Valley for its 2018 conference in an attempt to channel that predictive skill and apply it to the futures of the practitioners engaged in the area of construction law.

The organising committee hope to have an stimulating (and fun) discussion about all aspects of the future for the professionals engaged in the construction industry with a particular focus on those professions engaged in the legal aspects of the industry. Like the wine connoisseurs that discussion will necessarily be rooted in the current functions and activities of those professionals.

In that vein, the organising committee is calling for papers to be submitted for one of the following streams:

- **Artificial Intelligence and other technological developments touching on the construction industry.** What role will BIM, blockchain, advanced robotic technologies or the internet of things play in the construction professions in the future?
- **Future proofing existing and planned infrastructure, both public and private.** How we can spot and avoid investing in the infrastructure equivalent of Betamax while at the same time make our infrastructure resilient and reliable over the life of the assets?
- **Trends in international construction dispute resolution.** As Australia's construction industry talent looks to distant shores how will (or should) the law respond to the (inevitable?) disputes?
- **The construction professional graduate of the future.** What environment will the construction professional of the future inherit? What should the industry be doing now to make sure that the best and brightest continue to flock to the construction professions?

Of course the questions posed above are only a small sample of the myriad issues the organizing committee hope to ask (and answer!). However, all abstract submittals should carefully consider and focus on the role the body of construction law will (or should) play as we seek answers to these questions.

Timeline for Submission of Abstracts and Papers



Submissions must be made before 5pm AEST on the due date.

Abstracts and/or papers received after the advertised closing date and time may not be accepted.

As described above abstracts received will be subjected to an independent third party peer review process.

Acceptance of an abstract is at the organising committee's discretion. In exercising that discretion the organising committee will have regard to a number of factors including:

- the results of the peer review of the abstracts received;
- whether the author has presented at other SoCLA events; and
- diversity and inclusion issues.

Rules for Abstracts and Papers

By submitting an abstract the submitted confirms his or her agreement to comply with these rules for Abstracts and Papers. A signed copy of this document should accompany any abstract. Failure to do so may result in your abstract not being considered for inclusion in the conference program.

- The abstract and the paper should be sent in native form (e.g. *.doc, *.docx).
 - The abstract must be between 500 and 750 words.
 - The paper must not exceed 5,500 words.

*The word limit relates only to the text of the abstract and **does not** include title, authors, institutions, footnotes or references.*

- All abstracts and papers must be submitted electronically to socla_callforpapers@scl.org.au and comply with the SoCLA style guidelines.
- The title must clearly characterise the issue to be presented.
- The paper must identify (and be relevant to) the theme of the conference and a stream of discussion identified above.
- The paper must be an original work, not having been published elsewhere.
- Where it is proposed to present the results of any empirical research the approach and the results must be clear from the paper. In any event the paper must draw a clear conclusion.
- The paper must contain sufficient information so that if published it will be a complete report independent of presentation.
- Papers containing brochures or advertising material will be rejected. Brand-names can be mentioned under the responsibility of the authors.
- Where the abstract is accepted:
 - The author (or at least one of them where there is more than one author) must register (and pay) to attend the conference within 14 days of receiving notice of acceptance of their abstract. Failure to register to attend the conference may result in the acceptance being withdrawn.
 - The author(s) must submit a fully developed paper in accordance with these rules and any accompanying presentation to the conference organisers by the date set out above or such further date as may be agreed.
 - The author(s) authorise the conference organisers to publish the paper and any accompanying presentation (each in PDF format or such other form as may be agreed) to the conference attendees and on the www.scl.org.au website.

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Name

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Date