



SOCIETY OF CONSTRUCTION LAW AUSTRALIA.

2021 CONFERENCE CALL FOR ABSTRACTS.

The SoCLA Conference Subcommittee is calling for papers for its 2021 National Conference, to be held at the Hobart Function and Conference Centre in Hobart on 14-16 October 2021.

Life is risky. As Leigh Sales wrote in her recent book, *Any Ordinary Day*, 'to live life, we have to take risks, most of which we will never even know we're taking'. A search of Google suggests that people make up to 35,000 decisions each day, although research by Sheena Iyengar in 2011 suggests that only 70 of those are fully conscious. Whatever the number, there is risk in every one.

The situation is no different in the construction game. There is risk in everything that we do. Upsides and downsides to every decision. However, are we managing risk well? Could we be doing it better? What are the unknown unknowns? These are just some of the questions that the SoCLA Conference Subcommittee is asking (and hopes to have answered) at this year's annual conference (deferred from 2020 as a consequence of a risk that came to bear... need we say more?).

TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS.

Abstracts Due	28 May 2021
Peer Review Process	29 May - 17 June 2021
Notification of Acceptance	18 June 2021
Speakers to Register & Pay	17 September 2021
Final Papers Due	1 October 2021

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

Abstracts and/or papers received after the advertised closing date and time may not be accepted in the SoCLA Conference Subcommittee's absolute discretion.

All abstracts submitted will be subject to a blind peer review process which will guide the committee on acceptance of abstracts for presentation. Peer reviewers will assess abstracts against the following criteria:

- Academic merit of the work.
- Originality of the work.
- Completeness of the information, including the description of results.
- Relevance to the conference theme.
- Appropriateness for presentation (eg: not a company 'advertisement').

THE SOCLA CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEE IS CALLING FOR **ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR ONE OF THE FOLLOWING STREAMS.**

Known Knowns, Unknown Unknowns and Everything in Between

Papers for this stream should be focused on methods for identifying risks. Lists and spreadsheets are good, but what other tools are being developed (or should be developed) to improve our crystal ball gazing abilities to foresee (and therefore manage) risks in construction?

Baby steps or giant leaps?

It seems to be universally recognized that, in theory, risks should be allocated to those best placed to mitigate and manage them. How does that general principle apply to major construction procurements? Are we merely taking baby steps from the last deal when we should be making giant leaps to customize the allocation of risk for each project? Papers in this stream should focus on the theory and practice of risk allocation in major construction procurements.

A material risk?

It is nearly 4 years since the Grenfell tower tragedy but the cladding problem is far from solved. Papers in this stream should focus on efforts to reduce the risks connected to the very materials and methods that are used in construction.

When opportunity knocks

Risk has a bad reputation but there is upside risk in construction as in any commercial endeavour. Papers in this stream should focus on the positive aspects of risk management in construction including the use of active risk management tools and strategies during the delivery phase to drive positive outcomes for construction projects.

The questions posed above only cover a small sample of the myriad issues the SoCLA Conference Subcommittee hope to see addressed this year. However, all abstract submittals should carefully consider and focus on the role that construction law will (or should) play as we seek answers to these questions.

While the preference is to have papers in the streams described above, the SoCLA Conference Subcommittee reserves the right to allow abstracts into the conference that are within the general scope of the conference even if they do not talk directly to one of the above streams.

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.

1. The abstract must be submitted online at <https://www.scl.org.au/conference-abstract-applications>.
2. The abstract must be **uploaded to the online submission page in an anonymised form** to enable to peer review process to be properly undertaken. There should be no way to identify the author from the abstract itself. The abstract will be separated from the details collected on the online submissions page during the peer review process and the peer reviewers will only review anonymous abstracts.
3. All abstracts and papers should comply the formatting and citation requirements of the Australian Guide to Legal Citation (4th ed).
4. The abstract (and the paper in due course) should be sent in native form (e.g. *.doc, *.docx).
 - a. the abstract should be between 500 and 750 words.
 - b. the paper should be between 3,500 and 5,500 words.
5. Word limits will not be strictly enforced but abstracts and/or papers that fall outside the word limits may be rejected. That is the case even if an abstract has been accepted.
6. The title of the abstract and paper must clearly characterise the issue to be presented.
7. The paper should identify (and be relevant to) the theme of the conference and a stream of discussion identified above.
8. The paper must be an original work, not having been published elsewhere. Although the committee reserves the right to accept previously published work where it is relevant and of exceptional quality.
9. 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.
10. The paper must contain sufficient information so that if published it will be a complete report independent of the presentation to be given at the conference.
11. Papers containing brochures or advertising material will be rejected. However, authors may associate themselves with a firm / company / university or other brand in the paper and during the presentation.
13. Where the abstract is accepted:
 - a. All of the author(s) who intend to present the paper at the conference must register (and pay) to attend the conference by the date stated in the call for abstract. Failure to register (and pay) to attend the conference may result in the acceptance being withdrawn and the presentation spot being offered to another author(s).
 - b. The author(s) must submit a fully developed paper in accordance with these rules and any accompanying presentation to the conference committee by the date stated in the call for abstracts or such further date as may be agreed.
 - c. The paper must be presented at the conference by the presenter authorised by the committee. Replacements or proxies are not permitted without the permission of the committee (which will not be unreasonably withheld where there are extenuating circumstances such as illness or other unforeseeable circumstances).
 - d. The author(s) authorises the conference committee to publish the paper and any accompanying presentation to the conference attendees and on the www.scl.org.au website and/or on the conference USB.
 - e. The presenters will be responsible for their own accommodation, transportation and other fees or costs associated with attending the conference.
 - f. The first author named in the abstract submission will be the point of contact with the committee.
 - g. The committee will allocate the presentation time in the committee's absolute discretion.
 - h. The author(s) acknowledge that the conference committee may arrange for the presentation of the abstract to be recorded (video and audio). The author(s) give SoCLA permission to publish the recording on the www.scl.org.au website or such other website as SoCLA decides in its absolute discretion. [If you do not agree to this clause you should note that clearly in the 'other comments' section of the online submission page.]

Signature:

Name:

Date: