The Australian Takeovers Panel Two Years on.

Nigel Morris - Director

History of the Panel

- 1969 Eggleston Committee 2nd Interim Report
- 1981 CASA NCSC section 60 power
- 1991 Corporations Law
 - Panel power to declare unacceptable conduct or acquisition
- 2000 CLERP
 - section 659B Dispute resolution role

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Volume

- NCSC 11 s60 declarations 1981-1990
- ASC 4 applications to the Panel 1991-2000
- Post CLERP
 - -2000 22
 - 2001 30
 - 2002 5

Comparison with court volume?

Philosophy of the Panel

What?

- "the main forum for resolving disputes about a takeover until the bid period has ended" (s 659AA)
- Commercial resolution of disputes
- Finding out what's wrong and fixing it
- Getting a takeover back on track
 - in real time

Philosophy of the Panel

Why?

- Flexibility, speed & certainty
- Avoid tactical litigation and legalism
- Reduce costs

And

- Raise standards of documentation & behaviour generally
- Ensure clarity and equality of information as between shareholders and in the marketplace

– Encourage equal treatment of shareholders

Philosophy of the Panel

How?

- Primary body dealing with takeover matters during a bid (s659B)
- Court proceedings can only be initiated by ASIC or Government during a bid (s659B)
- Court can stay its proceedings during a takeover bid (s659B(2))
- Only money damages awarded after Panel declines application (s659C)

– Review ASIC decisions (s656A)

Powers of the Panel The Panel can make

- a declaration of unacceptable circumstances (s657A)
- a wide range of orders (s657D & s657E)
- rules to clarify or supplement Chapter 6 (s658C)
- procedural rules for its proceedings (s195 ASIC Act)
- decisions on ASIC modifications

Unacceptable Circumstances (s657A)

The circumstances must

- relate to the "affairs of the company"
- be unacceptable
 - having regard to their effect on
 - the control, or potential control, of that company or another company or
 - an acquisition of a substantial interest in that company or another company; or
 - because they constitute or give rise to a contravention of Chapter 6, 6A, 6B or 6C

Unacceptable Circumstances (s657A)

- Focus is first upon circumstances not first on conduct
 - Panel will look to the effects of the circumstances and may later look at the intention or conduct of the person who caused the circumstances to arise
- Focus is not primarily on legality
- Focus on Eggleston Principles
- Panel must consider the public interest

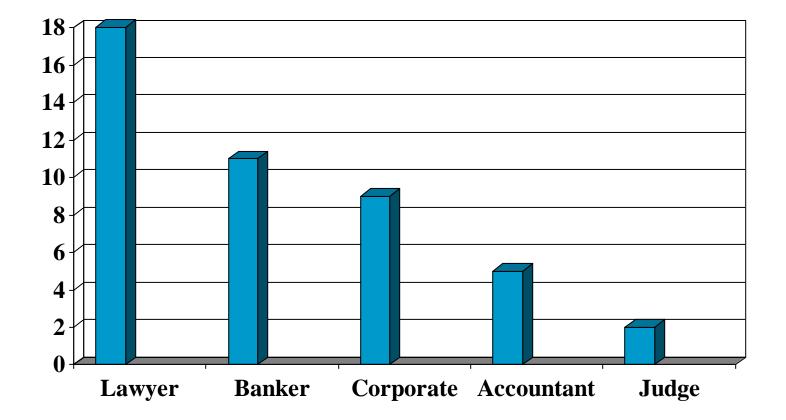


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Who can apply?

Previously only ASIC	4
Now, any interested person	
– Bidder	24
– Rival Bidder	11
– Target	16
 Shareholders 	3
– ASIC	3
– Other	1

Current Members Jan 2002 (45)





Executive

- Director
- Counsel
- Legal Secondees
- Office Manager
- Support, Policy, Liaison, Preparation
- Not delegates
- Lvl 47, 80 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

Panel Matters 2000 - (22)

- Infratil/AIF Nos. 1&2
- Email/Smorgon Nos 1-3
- IAMA/Futuris
- Pinnacle No 1
 - Brickworks/GPG Nos 1&2
- QCT/Metcoal

- Advance/Mirvac
- St Barbara/Taipan
- Ashton/De Beers
- Taipan 1 6
- Pinnacle 2
- Realestate.com.au

Taipan 7

Panel Matters 2001 - (30)

- Pinnacle 03
- Taipan 8
- Taipan 9
- Taipan 10
- Vincorp
- Pinnacle 04
- Namakwa 01
- Pinnacle 05
- Namakwa 02
- Taipan11
- Pinnacle 06

- Pinnacle 07
- Alpha
- Namakwa 03 & 04
- Pinnacle 08
- ALG
- Bigshop 01, 02, 03
- Pinnacle 09 & 09(b)
- Pinnacle 10 & 11
- Normandy 1 6
- Broncos 01 & 2



Panel Matters 2002 - (6)

- Broncos 03
- Normandy 07
- Focus Technologies
- Broncos 04
- Pasminco
- Precious Metals Australia
- Ballarat Goldfields

Analysis - Type of Applications

Review of ASIC Decisions 6

 Affirmed 3 - Overturned 2 - Current 1

 Unacceptable Circumstances 41
 Review of Panel Decisions 9

 Affirmed 6 - Varied 3

 ASIC Referral 2

Grounds for Unacceptable Circumstance Applications

- efficient competitive informed market 24
- identity of acquirer
 1
- reasonable time to consider
- adequate information in documents 26
- equality of opportunity
 - Other 10

6

Analysis - Outcomes

• No. Applications 57 3 Bids =28 of 57 • Multiple applics Av = 1 Day 7 Conferences 6 Declarations 5 Refusal to commence • Orders 6 Settlement 8 cases (all in 2001) 3 Costs Orders

Process

- Application
- Convene three members
 - conflicts, availability, experience, etc
- Review Reg 20 threshold
- Brief Panel defines the landscape
- Submissions & Rebuttals Parties
- Further questions from Panel
 - Conference, Supplementary brief
- Decision Reasons
- Orders
- Post Mortem



Policy

Published

- 1 Unacceptable Circumstances
- 2 Review of Decisions
- 3 Making Rules
- 4 Remedies and Enforcement
- 5 Restraining Documents
- 6 Break Fees
 - Procedural Rules
- Current Work
 - Forecasts
 - Costs
- Frustrating Action

- Conflicts
- Rulings
 - Funding Arrangements



Panel Initiatives

- Web page containing
 - policies
 - procedures
 - decisions

- Post mortems after matters to get feedback
- Panel workshops and discussions to ensure consistency
- Liaison with practitioners

Implications of Panel for Takeovers

- Eggleston focus
 - if strictly legal focus you just don't get it
- No strategic delay
- More negotiating with bidder/target
- Commercial resolutions
- Will require better disclosure
- No draconian penalties
- Perhaps more schemes of arrangement

Future challenges for the Panel

Consistency

- Panel days, three members, post mortems
- Workload
- Constitutional challenge
- Jurisdictional interrelation with courts
 - chipping away
- Power
- Scope



Conclusion

To be fully effective the Panel must enjoy the support of the whole business community - Senator Chapman 12/5/99

The Panel will be a test of the goodwill of the business community in Australia in taking some responsibility for its own actions - Mr Joe Hockey MP 3/6/99

Members

- Name
- Mr Simon McKeon, (President)
- Ms Robyn Ahern
- Ms Ilana Atlas
- Ms Eliz. Alexander AM
- Justice Bob Austin
- Dr Annabelle Bennett SC Sydney B
- Mr Michael Burgess
- Mr Tony Burgess
- Ms Carol Buys
- Mr Denis Byrne
- Mr Peter Cameron
- Ms Luise Elsing
- Ms Kathleen Farrell
- Mr David Gonski

	Organisation
	Macquarie Bank Limited
	Company Director
	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd
Λ	PricewaterhouseCoopers
	Supreme Court of NSW
SC	Sydney Bar
	University of South Australia
	Deutsche Bank
	AMP Consulting P/L
	Denis Byrne & AssociatesP/L
	Credit Suisse First Boston
	Australian Stock Exchange
	Freehills
	Morgan Stanley Dean Witter

Location Melbourne

Perth Sydney Melbourne Sydney Sydney Adelaide Melbourne Sydney Brisbane Sydney Sydney Sydney Sydney

Members

- Ms Teresa Handicott
- Mr Brett Heading
- Ms Meredith Hellicar
- Mr Braddon Jolley
- Mr John King
- Dr Tro Kortian
- Ms Alison Lansley
- Ms Irene Lee
- Mr Kevin McCann
- Ms Alice McCleary
- Ms Marie McDonald
- Ms Maria Manning
- Ms Louise McBride
- Ms Marian Micalizzi
- Mr Simon Mordant
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Corrs Chambers Westgarth McCullough Robertson **Company Director** Freehills NZ Takeovers Panel University of Sydney Mallesons Stephen Jaques Company director Allens Arthur Robinson Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Blake Dawson Waldron Queensland Cotton Delloitte Touche Tohmatsu **Company Director** Caliburn Partnership P/L

Brisbane Brisbane Sydney Sydney Auckland Sydney Melbourne Sydney Sydney Adelaide Melbourne Brisbane Sydney Brisbane Sydney

Members

- Ms Robyn Pak-Poy
- Mr Chris Photakis
- Prof Ian Ramsay
- Mr Scott Reid
- Ms Maxine Rich
- Ms Fiona Roche
- Mr Trevor Rowe
- Justice Kim Santow
- Mr Jeremy Schultz
- Ms Jennifer Seabrook
- Ms Celia Searle
- Mr Leslie Taylor
- Mr Michael Tilley
- Mrs Nerolie Withnall
- Ms Karen Wood
- Mr Peter Young02/05/02

Minter Ellison Adelaide Sydney KPMG Corporate Finance P/L The University of Melbourne Melbourne JPMorgan Sydney Sydney Consultant Perth Estates Development Co. Sydney Salomon Smith Barney Supreme Court of NSW Sydney Adelaide Finlaysons **Gresham Partners** Perth Wickham Chambers Perth Commonwealth Bank of Aust. Sydney Merrill Lynch International Melbourne **Company Director** Brisbane **BHP** Billiton Melbourne **ABN-AMRO** Sydney