



Russell Beer Partner, Commercial Team
Cairns

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Russell Beer practices in the areas of commercial, company and taxation law, and for some years has advised the firm's business and government clients on the commercial and revenue consequences of their business transactions. This work has included documenting complex transactions, advice on appropriate structuring for businesses, and the formation of various legal entities.

He also provides government owned corporations and local governments with a wide range of advice concerning complex legal and corporate issues, as well as a full range of services to those involved in commerce and the property development industry. Since the advent of Australia's GST, Russell has also been involved in advising clients and their accountants on implementing GST and the consequences for their businesses.

Areas of Practice

- Government advisory
- Commercial and company law
- Revenue law
- Banking and finance
- Property law and development

Experience

In recent times, Russell's main area of practice has involved giving advice to businesses, local authorities, statutory bodies and government owned corporations on commercial matters and revenue and business law issues.

Russell also acts as Corporate Solicitor for a range of significant North Queensland associations and institutions including the region's co-operative sugar mills, the North Queensland Co-operative Tobacco Growers Association and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cairns - one of the region's largest employers.

Russell's past experience includes acting for a government owned Electricity Corporation in relation to its merger with other regional electricity distributors, and a major North Queensland Primary Producers' Co-operative during its merger with a national co-operative.

He has acted for numerous research and development syndicates, including involvement in the preparation of syndicate financing and security documentation, obtaining approval from the R&D Board and private tax ruling from the ATO. Russell also acted for North Queensland local

authorities on the privatisation of waste collection services and in relation to the Far North Queensland Regional Waste Project.

Russell has presented numerous papers at seminars and conferences on topics ranging from GST for local authorities, to succession and estate planning for cane farmers, and Informed Consent and Powers of Attorney for the medical profession.

In addition to his legal commitments, Russell dedicates much of his time to community and voluntary work in the Cairns region and is on several boards and committees, including Chairman of Advance Cairns, Chairman of AFL Cairns, Board member of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cairns, Cairns Chapter of the Property Council of Australia and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and Member of the Marine & Tropical Science Research Facility Ministerial Advisory Council.

Qualifications & Memberships

- Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, 1992
- Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, South Australian Institute of Technology, 1982
- Bachelor of Laws, Adelaide University, 1981
- Member of the Taxation Institute of Australia
- Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Institute of Company Directors Far Northern Chapter
- Board Member, Catholic Church Development Fund
- Board Member, Cairns Chapter of the Property Council of Australia
- Board Member, of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- Member of the Marine & Tropical Science Research Facility Ministerial Advisory Council