

The Australian Institute of Administrative law VIC Chapter

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Administrative Law and Public-Private Partnerships

Speakers: Dr Santanu Sabhapandit, Deakin Law School and Owen Hayford, founder and partner of Infralegal

Chair: Professor Matthew Groves, Deakin Law School

Synopsis

In this timely webinar, Santanu Sabhapandit will present some of the findings of his recently-published book on Administrative Law and Public-Private Partnerships. He will examine the public-private distinction in England and India and will focus on the potential impact of the distinction on subjecting PPPs to judicial review and freedom of information laws. Owen Hayford, the founding partner of Infralegal – a law firm specifically focused on providing strategic legal and commercial advice on infrastructure projects - will offer some observations on Santanu's presentation based on his extensive Australian experience in administrative law and PPPs.

Bios

Santanu Sabhapandit is a lecturer in the Deakin Law School. Santanu's research is focused on issues at the intersection of public law and private law. His recent book, published by Routledge, compares the public - private divide in English and Indian administrative law and examines its implications for Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the provision of public infrastructure: [Administrative Law and Public-Private Partnerships \(Routledge 2026\)](#). Santanu completed his doctoral research in Monash University. Prior to joining academia, Santanu worked as a legal practitioner in India for over 8 years in the area of corporate commercial transactions, including insurance.

Matthew Groves is the Distinguished Deakin Professor of Law. He works in public law, including administrative law, human rights, comparative public law and military justice. Matthew is a member of the Commonwealth Administrative Review Council, which is established under the federal *Administrative Review Tribunal Act 2024* and has a mandate to advise government on the operation of our federal administrative law and governance framework. Matthew is also co-author of the leading student casebook (Creyke, Groves, McMillan and Smyth, *Control of Government Action - Cases, Text and Commentary*, 7th ed, 2025, Lexis Nexis) and the leading scholarly book (Aronson, Groves and Weeks, *Judicial Review of Administrative Action and Government Liability*, 7th ed Thomson Reuters, 2022).

Owen Hayford is the founding principal of Infralegal, a law firm specialising in strategic legal and commercial advice for infrastructure projects. Owen has advised on many of Australia's most significant Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) including Sydney Metro Northwest, the Waratah Train, numerous toll roads in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne, the Northern Gas Pipeline, the Adelaide to Darwin railway project and various water projects. Owen is also an acknowledged thought leader on privately financed PPPs and the infrastructure sector. He is a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne where he teaches a subject on PPPs as part of the Melbourne Law Masters program. He chairs the Law Council of Australia's Infrastructure and Construction Committee and is a Board Member of the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation, ANZ Region and the Australian Chapter of the International Project Finance Association.

Date: Thursday 16 July 2026

Venue: via Zoom

Time: 5.30pm to 6.30pm (AEST)

Cost: Admission is free

Please book via the Humanitix link below

<https://events.humanitix.com/aial-vic-chapter-administrative-law-and-public-private-partnerships?>

Note: Except in WA, CPD points apply.

WA Practitioners attending should note that this event is not covered by the AIAL WA Chapter's QA Provide accreditation and CPD points will not be accredited by AIAL.

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