

Law Council committed to a national legal profession

The Law Council is looking forward to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) considering the proposal put forward by its National Legal Profession Reform Taskforce and to the next stage of the legal profession reform process.

Law Council of Australia President, Mr Alexander Ward said the COAG Taskforce released a key issues paper late last year which was considered by Law Council Directors at their meeting in November.

"The Law Council Directors agreed with many of the Taskforce revised proposals as they covered matters raised by the Law Council in previous consultation rounds, but had concerns about others and they wanted to see the details of the legislative package to enable them to give further consideration to some of the proposals," Mr Ward said.

In mid-December, the Taskforce National Law and Rules were made publicly available.

"Since the release of the legislative package late last year, the Law Council and its constituent bodies have been analysing the details.

"Comments from constituent bodies in relation to the details of the legislative package are now being collated by the Law Council," Mr Ward said.

When the Law Council Directors have considered the range of concerns which legal professional bodies have with the package, these concerns will be fed into the process through the National Justice CEOs.

"We are confident that the Taskforce package can, with legal profession input, be improved.

"The legal profession remains committed to a national legal profession but as with any proposal for legislation of this nature there will always be issues of concern about its detail," Mr Ward said.

It is unknown at this stage what direction COAG will take in relation to the national legal profession reform project when it meets on 14 February 2011.

"However, the legal profession remains committed to the project and to assisting with having the best possible legislative package implemented as part of the reform project."

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