

AUSTLII MEDIA RELEASE



www.austlii.edu.au

Australasian Legal Information Institute

A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law

Level 14 Building 2, UTS Central, 61 Broadway, Ultimo NSW
P O Box 123 Broadway NSW 2007 Australia

Tel: +61 2 9514 4921

Fax: +61 2 9514 4908

Email: feedback@austrlii.edu.au

AUSTLII CELEBRATES 1,000 DATABASES BY PUBLISHING THE SEMINAL CASE FILES OF THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Last night the Chief Justice of Australia, the Hon. Stephen Gageler AC, launched the 1,000th Database of legal information resources to be made available on the AustLII service. This Database contains the complete case files of some of the key cases of the High Court. The current justices of the Court have chosen 37 cases that they believe to be of seminal importance to the development of jurisprudence and to the history of Australia since Federation. The launch of the database will be the first instalment of a major project to digitise and make available the complete files of these cases on AustLII. There are eight cases in the first tranche:

- Amalgamated Society of Engineers v Adelaide Steamship Co Ltd (Engineers Case) [1920] HCA 54; (1920) 28 CLR 129
- R v Wilson; Ex parte Kisch [1934] HCA 63; (1934) 52 CLR 234
- Australian Communist Party v Commonwealth [1951] HCA 5; (1951) 83 CLR 1
- Tait v The Queen [1962] HCA 57; (1962) 108 CLR 620
- Ryan v The Queen [1966] (unreported)
- Tasmania v Commonwealth (Tasmanian Dam Case) [1983] HCA 21; (1983) 158 CLR 1
- Lim v Minister for Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs [1992] HCA 64; (1992) 176 CLR 1
- Australian Capital Television Pty Ltd v Commonwealth [1992] HCA 45; (1992) 177 CLR 106

The following types of document have been digitised from the file: Affidavits with Exhibits, Transcripts, Orders/Order Sheets, Submissions, Notice of Motions, Reasons for Judgment, Statements of Claim, Subpoenas, Lists of Authorities, Chamber Summons, Bill of Costs, Maps. These case files are now available at <http://austrlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/HCASCF/>.

The launch of the 1,000th Database celebrates the long and deep relationship that AustLII has maintained with the High Court of Australia since its establishment in 1995, when a database of High Court decisions was included in the first version of the AustLII system. With the agreement of the Court we are launching a High Court Resources Digitisation Project, which will be dedicated to extending the collection of resources on AustLII pertaining to the High Court. In addition to the Seminal Case Files the Project will include:

- Unreported judgments of the High Court 1921-2008: this unique set of decisions includes all High Court judgments that have never been reported, to be added to the High Court of Australia (HCA) judgments database.
- High Court Transcripts 1943-1995: all available transcripts in the files of the High Court will be digitised and added to AustLII's High Court of Australia Transcripts (HCATrans) database.

AustLII is grateful to the High Court for allowing us to make these resources available for free access to the Australian community.

We estimate that there could be up to 500,000 pages that will need to be digitised. As this is currently unfunded, AustLII, which operates as a charity, is announcing a fundraising campaign to help us raise the funds to complete the High Court Resources Digitisation Project. We have set a target of \$500,000 that will be needed to complete this worthy project. All donations will be gratefully accepted.

Since 1995, the Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII), a joint facility of UTS and UNSW Law Faculties, has provided national legal research infrastructure that is fundamental to the operation of the legal system in Australia. AustLII provides a comprehensive and integrated national collection of legal information, enabling effective free and anonymous access to all Australian law. As a global leader in the provision of free access to legal information, AustLII also has an international role in supporting the rule of law and free access globally. AustLII has added a new database to its collection on average every 10 days since its inception in mid-1995. They include databases of: legislation and related material; case law decisions and judgments; treaties and related international instruments; journal articles and scholarship; as well as other legal and quasi-legal resources including law reform, royal commissions and boards of inquiry, coronial findings, and indigenous legal resources from Australia and New Zealand. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information.

More information: Richard Hunter, Development Manager 0409 605 974 or richard@austrlii.edu.au

Date Issued: 27 March 2024



UNSW
SYDNEY

