

## Robert William Taylor

### Short *curriculum vitae*.

Victoria Police – 1980 – 1992 – Prosecutor – 1987 – 1992. Law lecture Police Prosecutors' Training Course 1989 – 1992.

LL.B Monash University 1994.

Articles – The Victorian Government Solicitor – Mr Ron Beazley 1995.

The Victorian Bar – 1995 to date.

### **Selected Inquests and Enquiries:**

- Coronial Inquest into the conduct and management of **High Speed Police Pursuits** – represented various police officers (multiple fatalities) drivers of pursuing vehicles and radio operators.
- Coronial Inquests into deaths in police custody – represented various police officers and the **Chief Commissioner of Police** (multiple fatalities).
- Coronial Inquests into police shootings – represented various **police officers**.
- Coronial Inquest into the death of a **Police Special Operations Group trainee in the Victoria Police Academy Pool**. Represented the **Chief Commission of Police**.
- Coronial Inquest into a death in the maximum security unit at Port Philip Prison. Represented **Group Four Security**.
- Coronial Inquest into multiple fatalities involving All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs or Quad Bikes) – Represented **Honda Australia Motor Cycle and Power Equipment** (multiple fatalities). Inquests conducted in Victoria and Tasmania over 4 years. The case went to the Supreme Court.
- Coronial Inquest into the Rider Fatality at the Motor Cycle Grand Prix, Phillip Island – Represented **Honda Australia Motor Cycle and Power Equipment**.
- Coronial Inquest into Logging Fatality – Strzelecki Ranges – Represented the Logging Company – **Mountain Logging**.
- Retained for **Austrim Nylex** – the Coronial Inquest into the Collapse of the Riverside Golf Club, Adelaide, South Australia (double fatality).

- Retained for the City of Whittlesea in a Coronial Inquest into a death resulting from a structure collapse.
- Counsel assisting a long running international investigation for an Australian Regulator over three years. The inquiry involved interview of witnesses and other investigations in Amsterdam, Holland; Reno, Nevada; Las Vegas, Nevada; Memphis, Tennessee and various locations in the Eastern United States. Significant interaction with European and North American Regulators, Law Enforcement Agencies and North American and European Lawyers was required. Travelled with the Inquiry Investigators.
- The **Royal Commission into the Oil for Food Affair – the AWB (or Cole) Inquiry**. Appeared for a member of the profession (external senior solicitor for the AWB).
- Retained for **VicRoads (the Roads Corporation)** in all level crossing fatalities in Victoria including the multiple fatality **Kerang Rail Crash**.
- Retained for a state regulator in the Coronial Inquest into the death of Chase and Tyler Robinson as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in their home.
- Retained for **Motorola Technologies Pty Ltd** in an inquest resulting from a police pursuit in which it was alleged that **Motorola** had produced tracking data that was inaccurate. The Coroner reject police accounts of the incident and accepted the **Motorola** evidence. Highly technical and complex evidence lead.
- The **Royal Commission into the Black Saturday Bushfires**. Retained as counsel for the Victorian Building Commission (external advice not part of the State Government Response, specific advice to the then commissioner).
- The **Commission of Inquiry into the Alcoa mine decommissioning**. Retained for Alcoa Ltd into the closure of the Anglesea Power Station and the remediation of the coal mine site. Chaired by The Honourable Bernard Teague.
- The Coronial Inquest into the Carbon Monoxide death of a public housing tenant as a result of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. Retained by the manufacturer of the gas heater concerned.

#### **Selected Cases in Addition to the Matters Above**

- ***Horsham Rural City Council*** – Concerning the application of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* 2004 to Local Government. In the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and in the Supreme Court.
- ***City of Glen Eira*** – Conducted proceedings on behalf of the City.
- ***City of Manningham*** – Conducted proceedings on behalf of the City under the *Local Government Act* and the *Building Act*.
- ***City of Maribyrnong*** – Conducted proceedings on behalf of the City under the *Local Government Act* and the *Building Act*.
- ***City of Melbourne*** – Conducted proceedings on behalf of the City under the *Planning Act*.
- ***Tenix Australia Pty Ltd*** – An incident concerning an electrical fatality on High Voltage lines in the Dandenong Ranges.
- ***R v Powercor (Australia) Ltd*** (2005) 147 IR 279; [2005] VSCA 163. An incident concerning the electrocution of three employees while installing switch wire. Represented **Powercor**.
- ***R v ACR Roofing Pty Ltd*** (2004) 11 VR 187; (2004) 142 IR 157; [2004] VSCA 215. An incident concerning an electrical fatality appeared in the Court of Appeal and in the High Court of Australia.
- ***ABC Developmental Learning Centres Pty Ltd v Wallace*** (2007) 16 VR 409; (2007) 172 A Crim R 269; [2007] VSCA 138. And in the High Court
- ***ABC Developmental Learning Centres Pty Ltd v Secretary, Dept of Human Resources*** [2007] VSC 37.
- ***Australand Constructions*** – retained as a result of a fatality arising from a Portal Frame Construction collapse at Dandenong.
- ***The Sylvan Arrow*** – Federal Prosecution of **Mobil Shipping and Transportation** for a 13.5 nautical mile long oil discharge in Bass Strait.
- ***The Star Sea Bridge*** – Federal Investigation and Prosecution of the Master and Second Officer of the *Star Sea Bridge* consequent upon a fatal collision at sea 10 nautical miles off Evans Head, NSW.
- ***The Aurora Australis*** – Federal Prosecution of **P & O Maritime Services Pty Ltd** consequent upon a serious injury involving discharge of oily water aboard the Polar Supply Ship *Aurora Australis*. Hearings conducted in Hobart.

- *The ANL Pioneer* – **Federal Prosecution of German Nationals.** The case involved significant issues of international process and the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. It concerned substantial discharges of oil into Australian waters.
- *ABD Constructions* – Jury Trial as Lead Counsel, prosecution in respect of a fall from height case.
- *Downer EDI Pty Ltd* – Jury Trial as Lead Counsel, prosecution in respect of a fatality at a road construction site.
- *L.U.Simon Pty Ltd* – OHS prosecutions at committal, in both cases discharged. Retained in respect of the Lacrosse Building Fire.
- *Action Master Builders* – the Huntingdale site collapse. All charges against the company and its director withdrawn after committal. Currently acting in the Victorian Building Authority for the director.
- *Veolia Waste Management (Australia) Pty Ltd* – acted for Veolia as lead counsel in a jury trial involving a pedestrian fatality concerning the collection of waste from a Hungry Jacks site.
- **Numerous OHS trials and inquests throughout my career.**
- **Miscellaneous clients in addition include:**
  - *YMCA* – fatality investigation;
  - *Ritchies Supermarkets Pty Ltd* – guarding prosecution;
  - *Toll Holdings* – a number of cases including two fatalities;
  - *Hamilton Marino Builders Pty Ltd* – OHS prosecution into electrocution on a construction site;
  - *Melbourne Wholesale Markets Authority* – traffic management investigation and prosecution;
  - *Metro Transport Management* – prosecution into fatality at Stonnington Railway Station;
  - *Powercorp Pty Ltd* – prosecution in respect of approximately 200 charges by Victorian Regulator;
  - *Wagstaff Piling Pty Ltd* – investigation into a fatality connected to the cross city (westgate) tunnel project;

## Advice Matters

- ***Banyule City Council*** – Advised re matters under the Building Act.
- On going advice to the **Department of Justice** on a range of enforcement issues.
- Advice to the **Victorian WorkCover Authority** on a range of prosecution and investigation policy issues.
- Advice to the **Roads Corporation (VicRoads)** concerning a range of issues. In particular matters concerning liability under the *Road Management Act*.
- Advice to the **Municipal Association of Victoria**.
- Advice to the **Salvation Army**.
- Advice to **City West Water** in respect of matters under the *Water Act* and the *Water Industry Act*.
- ***Department of Infrastructure*** – Advice re regulatory and enforcement matters.
- ***Department of Education and Early Childhood Development*** – Advice re issues of liability.