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## The Australian and New Zealand Sports Law Association 2017 Annual General Meeting

At the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of ANZSLA, held at the Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney, on Thursday, 19 October 2017, Laura Sigal, Legal Counsel with the Australian Football League Players' Association, Deputy General Secretary of the Australian Athletes Alliance and lawyer for the Australian Basketballers' Association was elected to the ANZSLA Board as Secretary. The Board warmly welcomes Laura and is particularly delighted to have an athlete's voice and representative on the Board, ensuring ANZSLA continues to represent all areas of the industry.

Tim Holden, Head of Legal and Business Affairs, Football Federation Australia, was re-elected as (Ordinary) Director. Keith Binnie, General Counsel, NZ Rugby Union, who had previously been co-opted to the Board, was elected as (Ordinary) Director at the 2017 AGM.

The Board and ANZSLA members thanked Kendall Harris and Stuart Corbishley for their contributions to the Board, as both had decided not to re-stand this year.

### 2017 ANZSLA Annual Conference

ANZSLA's twenty-seventh annual conference was held in Sydney, New South Wales from 18 to 20 October 2017. The theme of the conference was 'Are you match ready? Key developments and emerging issues in sports law' and delegates surely were after two days of expert presentations and discussion on a range of topics.

On Thursday morning conference attendees were welcomed to Country by Gary Ella before Matt Miller, Chief Executive, NSW Office of Sport, formally opened the conference. The keynote address on 'The Russian doping scandal, its judicial follow-up and the lessons to be learned from it', was then expertly delivered by Professor Ulrich Haas, with commentary by the Hon Dr Annabelle Bennett AO SC - each of whom sat as arbitrators to hear cases brought by Russian athletes affected by the scandal.

Day 2 opened up with Associate Professor Justine Nolan, UNSW, introducing Brendan Schwab, Executive Director of the World Players Association. Brendan addressed the audience on embedding the human rights of the athletes and all involved in the delivery of world sport.

This was followed by a session on sports governance and ANZSLA and delegates were delighted to hear insights from Maria Clarke, Maria Clarke Lawyers and Chair of the IAAF Working Group for Governance and Integrity Reform.

ANZSLA announced that the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from 17 to 19 October 2018.

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