

AUSTRALIA

Litigation support
forensic accounting
services

Overview

With over 40 specialist forensic accountants across Australia, Sedgwick's forensic accounting services team has extensive experience in providing a broad range of independent financial analysis and forensic accounting services to legal professionals.

Our key litigation service lines are highlighted below:



Economic loss and damages

Quantification of complex losses across numerous industries and actions, with specific expertise in the following areas:

- Contractual disputes
- Construction
- Personal injury and liability
- Product recall



Class actions

Industry-leading technology solutions and experience in some of Australia's largest class action economic loss, sampling and settlement administration matters drives an entirely unique value proposition for class actions.



Business valuations

Experienced specialists provide comprehensive, accurate and independent expert business valuations for family law, shareholder or other disputes.



Fraud and crime

Objective investigations, reporting on the factual circumstances of a fraud, as well as quantifying and evidencing losses. We assist with proactive strategies regarding recovery against a perpetrator as well as reporting to police and statutory bodies.



Warranty and indemnity

Review and quantification of damages due to breach of warranties or indemnities, drawing on our expertise in business valuations and assessment of economic loss.



Subrogation and recovery

Unique industry expertise to review business interruption insurance settlements and assess losses in the context of common law claims.



Presentation of findings

Tailored, high-level calculations through to detailed expert reports and presentation of evidence as expert witness in Court.



Contact our team

To discuss how our team can assist you, please contact:

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Case examples

Construction

A claim was brought by the builder of a major road infrastructure project, against the project's designer, for additional construction and delay costs incurred due to alleged deficiencies in the design of the project.

A significant portion of the claim — which exceeded \$250 million — related to the builder's internal costs. Our review identified over \$100 million of overstatements or unsupported costs, including claims for the normal salaries of the builder's employees, duplications and claims for corporate overheads.

Subrogation

Our team was appointed to prepare an expert report on a subrogated recovery relating to the collapse of an external wall of a warehouse. The warehouse stored temperature-sensitive medical supplies which were destroyed due to the collapse.

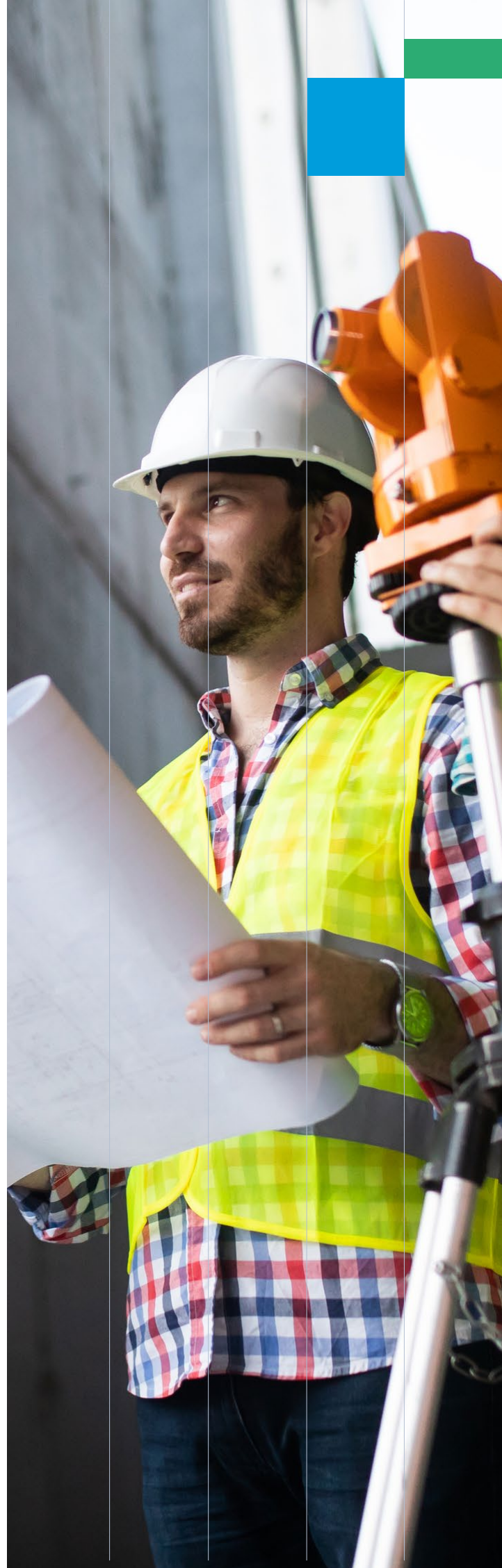
The original insurance claim had settled for \$10 million under a policy formula which over-indemnified the insured (a selling price valuation for stock). No documents had been collected in the insurance claim to support a loss calculation according to normal economic loss principles, and we were appointed more than five years after the original claim had settled.

Our team worked with the plaintiff to obtain records that would quantify and support the plaintiff's claim. Our report ultimately enabled insurers to recover a significant majority of the original settlement amount.

Fraud

A retirement village which had employed its general manager for more than 20 years identified anomalies with supplier payments. A subsequent investigation identified that, over 11 years, the general manager had systematically defrauded the company of approximately \$1.3 million dollars by concealing payments in the accounting records as legitimate payments to suppliers.

The available evidence we collated resulted in the funds being recovered under the client's insurance policy; the uninsured element (more than \$800,000) was also recovered through civil recovery proceedings.



Our team



Emma Levett

Partner and Head of Forensic Accounting Services, Australia

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Emma is the head of Sedgwick's forensic accounting services in Australia. She specialises in a range of matters including economic loss, professional indemnity, class action settlement distribution schemes, and the investigation and quantification of corporate fraud losses. Emma's experience includes providing expert reports and investigations into fraud allegations for SME, corporate and ASX-listed companies.



Domenic Quartullo

Partner

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Domenic practices across a range of subjects including business valuations, shareholder disputes, economic loss, class action settlement distribution schemes and fraud investigations. His experience includes provision of specialist forensic accounting services to corporate, legal and insurance clients in Australia and the United Kingdom.



David Gibson

Partner

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David is an expert in the field of the quantification of large loss economic damages for insurance and litigation purposes. He has worked on business interruption, stock loss and calculation of damages in a range of industries, with a particular focus on energy, resources, manufacturing and construction, both in Australia and overseas.



Nathan Mangelsdorf

Director

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Nathan is experienced in assessing damages for personal injury matters, quantifying economic loss for insurance and litigation, and business valuations for commercial disputes and family law. He has assisted plaintiff and defendant lawyers in personal injury actions, including motor vehicle accidents, medical negligence, historic abuse, dust disease and loss of dependency claims.

Our team



Amanda Hillier

Partner

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Amanda specialises in class action administration and settlement schemes, and economic losses for insurance and litigation purposes, including claims for business interruption, commercial disputes, cyber, personal injury and fatal accidents. She has specialised in forensic accounting for over 20 years, working on assignments throughout Australia and the UK.



Beth Fieldhouse

Senior Manager

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Beth assists insurers and lawyers with business interruption, commercial disputes and fraud. She has significant experience in the investigation of fraud and employee dishonesty losses and measuring economic damages and stock losses within the manufacturing and retail sectors.



Jessica Beach

Senior Manager

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Jessica is experienced in business interruption, financial investigations and economic damages quantification for insurance and litigation purposes. She critiques and prepares expert reports in respect of economic loss claims, subrogated recoveries and warranty and indemnity matters.



Vernon Sawers

Supervisor

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Vernon is experienced in product recall and business interruption. He has quantified damages resulting from major recalls and withdrawals in the food, wine, beverage and fishing industries, and the supply of defective packaging items.



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